

ADMISSIONS

Barnard students change the world and how we view it. They are bold, thoughtful, analytical, intrepid and ambitious. They love to learn and make connections from the classroom to the world around them. The admissions team seeks candidates such as these to fill our first-year and transfer classes.

The College admits students and administers its financial aid and loan programs, educational policies and programs, recreational programs, and other College programs and activities without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability. We are need-blind for first-year U.S. citizens and permanent residents and need-aware for international students and transfer applicants. Barnard meets 100% of demonstrated need and does not offer any merit-only scholarships.

Barnard seeks students from diverse educational and cultural backgrounds and from all geographic regions. However, no preconceived profile of an ideal student population limits the number of applicants accepted from any one group. Admission is highly selective and our process is holistic and contextual; no one criterion or score determines acceptance. In addition to school records (all transcripts from 9th grade on), recommendations, writing, and test scores (optional for those applying for entry in 2024), we carefully consider each applicant in terms of their personal qualities, intellectual potential, the rigor of the curriculum they have pursued, as well as their potential for achievement at Barnard. We review each applicant in the context of her school, community, and individual story.

First-Year Application Procedures

Application Deadlines

First-Year applicants can apply under an Early Decision or Regular Decision admission round.

Early Decision

Deadline: November 1st

Notification: Mid-December

The Early Decision plan is intended for students who passionately believe that Barnard is their first choice college. It is a binding decision plan, meaning that if you are admitted Early Decision, you commit to attend Barnard and must withdraw all other applications. Along with all other required and optional application materials, Early Decision applicants are required to submit an Early Decision Agreement which is signed by the applicant, their parent/guardian, and their counselor. Students applying under the Early Decision plan must apply by November 1st. Decisions will be released by mid-December.

Notification of financial aid assistance for those candidates who have demonstrated financial need will be provided at the same time as the admissions decision. Once admitted, the student must submit a nonrefundable enrollment deposit by the enrollment deadline. This deposit is applied toward tuition and fees for the first year.

If a student is denied in the Early Decision round, this is the final decision for the year. Students are welcome to apply in subsequent years as a transfer student.

The Admissions Committee may decide to defer a final decision on an Early Decision application and move them to the Regular Decision Round.

The student will then be reevaluated and receive a final decision in late March. In that event, the student is asked to submit final grades from the first half of the senior year.

Regular Decision

Deadline: January 1st

Notification: Late-March

Regular Decision is an excellent choice for applicants who would like to consider offers from various schools. The deadline for Regular Decision is January 1st. Students will be notified by late-March.

Notification of financial aid assistance for those candidates who have demonstrated financial need will be provided at the same time as the admissions decision. Once admitted, the student must submit a non-refundable enrollment deposit by the May 1st enrollment deadline. This deposit is applied toward tuition and fees for the first year.

The Barnard Application

The Barnard Application consists of two parts - the Application and the Writing Supplement. Both can be submitted via the [Common Application](#). Barnard also participates in the [Questbridge](#) program. A non-refundable fee of \$75 must accompany the application. Students may submit payment directly through the Common Application website. Students with significant financial hardship can request a fee-waiver through the applications.

Secondary School Preparation

Each candidate for admission should present a college preparatory program from an accredited secondary school or an equivalent education representing a four-year course of study. Our most competitive applicants have taken four years of each of the five core subject areas: English, math, science, foreign language, and social science, during their high school years. They have also pursued advanced, honors, or AP or IB where available. We do understand that curriculums at schools vary; we are seeking students who have challenged themselves academically and pursued a program that provides them with good breadth. Students should discuss all their options with their guidance counselor to ensure they are making rigorous choices within the context of their curriculum and course offerings. A secondary school diploma or equivalent is a requirement for enrollment at the College.

First-Year Entrance Tests

For the 2024 entering class, Barnard is SAT/ACT test-optional. Barnard recognizes the challenges that students have faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic and, in response, Barnard adopted a 4-year SAT and ACT test-optional admission policy. This decision was made in consultation with the President and the Board of Trustees and is not intended as an admissions policy shift, but rather as a temporary measure driven by the circumstances. Students may apply without submitting standardized test scores from the SAT or ACT exam during the 2024 application year and no other materials will be requested in lieu of test scores.

Applicants may still submit self-reported SAT or ACT scores for consideration if they are able to do so. If a student is admitted and plans to enroll, she must submit official scores. It is the student's responsibility to direct the College Board or ACT Program to send official test scores to the Office of Admissions. The SAT tests code number for Barnard is 2038. The ACT code number for Barnard is 2718.

For students whose primary language is not English or who have not studied at a secondary school for four or more years where the primary language of instruction is English should submit scores from the [Test of English as a Foreign Language \(TOEFL\)](#), the [International English Language Testing System \(IELTS\)](#), the [Duolingo English Test](#) or other [accepted](#) testing agencies.

Recommendation Letters

Another important part of the first-year application is the submission of three recommendations, one from the high school counselor and two from academic teachers. We require two teacher recommendations in core subjects - english, math, science, social sciences, or foreign language courses. While we recommend that these teachers be from your last two years of high school, we will accept recommendation letters from 10th grade teachers. These recommendations give the Admissions Committee additional information about the candidate's interests, character, skills, and contributions to the classroom.

In addition we require a letter of recommendation from your college counselor. Due to large student caseloads, we understand if your counselor is unable to send a recommendation for you. Please contact us if this is the case. If your counselor is not able to submit a recommendation, we would encourage you to send an additional teacher letter of recommendation.

For transfer students, we require a Dean or advisor recommendation and one college academic recommendation.

Deferring Enrollment (Gap Year)

Admitted students who wish to defer enrollment in Barnard for up to one year must obtain permission by completing a deferral request form once admitted, explaining the reasons for the deferral request. Such a request is normally granted for purposes of work, travel, or pursuit of a special interest. Students are not allowed to matriculate at another institution during that year and should relinquish their space on any wait lists for other institutions. Deferral requests must be received by February 1 for students admitted Early Decision and April 25 for students admitted Regular Decision. Transfer students and students admitted from a waiting list are not permitted to defer admission. Deferral requests do not factor into evaluations or committee decisions. Students can generally only defer for up to one year.

International Students

We broadly define international students to be 1) a citizen of a country other than the United States who has been educated abroad; 2) a U.S. citizen educated abroad; or 3) a Foreign National educated in the U.S..

International applicants follow the same application procedure and presenting the same credentials, or the regional equivalent, as domestic candidates. Please submit materials as described under the [Application Requirements for First-Years](#) or [Transfers](#) (no separate International Student application is required). In some cases, additional credentials may be required, as described below.

In addition to any SAT/ACT requirements (see above), students whose primary language is not English or who have not studied at a secondary school for four or more years where the primary language of instruction is English should submit scores from the [Test of English as a Foreign Language \(TOEFL\)](#), the [International English Language Testing System \(IELTS\)](#), the [Duolingo English Test](#) or other [accepted](#) testing agencies.

VISP: The Visiting International Students Program

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The [Visiting International Students Program \(VISP\)](#) brings students from across the globe to Barnard for one spring semester in residence at our campus in New York City. Through a limited number of collaborative relationships with international universities, our partners send cohorts of 3-15 undergraduate students to Barnard to spend the spring semester as full-time visiting students. VISP students are fully integrated into the Barnard College academic and co-curricular community, gaining a broad understanding of how liberal arts institutions in the United States function, exploring the American model of undergraduate education, and studying and researching with Barnard and Columbia University's world-class faculty, while also contributing to the internationalization of the student body.

Transfer Students

Barnard welcomes transfer students in the fall and spring term of each year. Applications for admission will be reviewed according to the following schedule:

Deadline	Notification	Enroll
March 1	mid-May	Fall
November 1	early December	Spring

Each candidate must submit the [Common Application for Transfer Admission](#) and the following credentials: the Barnard Supplement for Transfer Students; an official secondary school transcript; the results of the SAT or ACT (if applying for Spring 2024 or Fall 2024 students may apply under the temporary test-optional policy), and, if appropriate, the TOEFL/IELTS/Duolingo Language Exams; the official transcripts of all college work and a copy of the college catalogue in which the courses taken are clearly marked. Two recommendations are also required: one each from a college faculty member and a college dean or adviser. Transfer applicants may also submit a recommendation from the high school counselor (optional).

The most successful transfer students have both high school and college transcripts with strong outcomes in a rigorous liberal arts curriculum. Courses completed at other accredited colleges and universities, which are similar in content and depth to Barnard courses, may be submitted for transfer credit. Credit for approved work at another institution is applied to Barnard's 121-point graduation requirement for transfers with a maximum of [60 external credits](#) that can be transferred toward a degree at Barnard College. The number of transfer credits accepted by Barnard is determined by the Office of the Registrar; students are notified of their credit status at the time of admission. Credit cannot be granted for courses with grades lower than C-. Online classes taken in spring 2020 and subsequent semesters will be considered for transfer credit if taken prior to a student's matriculation at Barnard. Specific criteria for online courses to be considered for transfer credit can be found on the Registrar's [webpage](#). Students may not earn transfer credit for online classes taken at other colleges or universities after matriculating at Barnard. Pre-evaluations of transfer credit are not conducted by the College. However, admitted transfer students will receive a transfer credit evaluation indicating transferable credits and satisfied Foundations requirements. Generally, if courses taken at another institution are in alignment with courses offered at Barnard, credit is likely to be awarded

but not guaranteed. Barnard College reserves the right to accept or decline transfer of credits based on its specific academic expectations.

After acceptance, academic and general guidance is provided by the advisers to transfer students in the Dean's Office for Advising and Support. For information on financial aid, students should consult with [The Office of Financial Aid](#).

Visiting Students

Undergraduate students who are degree candidates at other colleges may apply for admission as visiting students for one or two semesters. Students must submit the same credentials as transfer applicants, with the exception of standardized test scores and course descriptions.

Other Degree Credit

The following policies apply to students entering Barnard in Fall 2019 and later.

Advanced Placement exams: Credit limit is 16 credits. Students who earned an upper-level score on an AP exam may receive college credit. (For the specific scores required, please [click here](#) for information for your entering class year.) AP exams cannot satisfy any General education requirements. Incoming students should have ETS send their official scores to the Barnard Registrar's Office.

International Baccalaureate diploma: Students who earned an International Baccalaureate diploma may receive credit for the number of points indicated on the diploma, up to 16 credits. For students who did not complete the full IB diploma, credit may be granted for individual Higher Level scores only. (No credit for Subsidiary Level.) IB exams cannot satisfy any General education requirements. Incoming students should have their official diploma or exam scores sent to the Barnard Registrar's Office by the examiner of record.

Select National Examinations and Diplomas: Students who complete the French Baccalaureate, the German Abitur or the Italian Maturità may receive college credit, up to the maximum AP/IB credit limit for their entering class year. We may grant similar credit for the Israeli Bagrut. Each GCE A-level or A2-level grade is individually evaluated for college credit. No credit is given for O-level or AS-level examinations. Credit for other national exams or diplomas will be evaluated for college credit on a case-by-case basis.

Prior to Barnard Credit: Students who have satisfactorily completed college courses before entering Barnard as first-year students may [apply for a maximum of 15 points of degree credit](#). The courses must be intended primarily for college students and taught at the college by members of its faculty and must be in excess of the courses required for the high school diploma. With the exception of Advanced Placement courses overseen by the College Board and International Baccalaureate work, courses taught in high school (whether by specially trained high school teachers or college instructors) will not be credited towards the Barnard degree.

Resumed Education

Former Barnard students who wish to return to the College after an absence of five years or more in order to complete their degree may obtain information from the Office of the Dean of Studies. They can return to campus on a part-time or full-time basis to complete their remaining credits or requirements and earn their degree.