

UNIVERSITY PARENT  
**GUIDE**



**2011**  
**2012**

# **Barnard College**

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CAMPUS RESOURCES – LOCAL INSIGHT – HELPFUL INFORMATION

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## Welcome Barnard College!



### Greetings!

I am honored to have the pleasure of introducing you to Barnard College! I trust that this resource will aid you as you journey with your daughter in her process of identifying the best college for her and as she utilizes various resources on campus throughout her college years.

The process of selecting a college, transitioning into college, and making progress towards graduation can be challenging and so rewarding all at the same time.

Valuable lessons are learned as decisions are made and knowledge increases, new opportunities present options that were never considered, and adolescents become adults seemingly overnight. While it may not always appear to be true, having a parent along for the journey is quite helpful and your input is heard even when it is not acknowledged.

Barnard College is an amazing place for those young women who choose to continue their educational career on our campus. It is my sincerest hope that your daughter's college search and college years will be some of the best years of her life. May the resources of the College broaden the path to her desired goal and nuance her life in ways that enrich her future.

Respectfully yours,

Avis E. Hinkson '84  
Dean of the College ■

# BARNARD

## ABOUT THE COLLEGE



Founded in 1889 and named for the 10th president of Columbia University, Barnard became the only college in New York City, and one of the few in the nation, where women could receive the same rigorous and challenging education available to men. Today, Barnard remains partnered with Columbia University and firmly committed to women's education, enrolling 2,390 diverse young women from more than 40 countries and nearly 50 states. Barnard offers a combination of characteristics found at no other college in the United States. Our neighborhood in Manhattan's Upper West Side of New York City is a university community that nearly 40,000 students from around the world call their home. ■

## THE BARNARD/COLUMBIA PARTNERSHIP

Barnard is located just across Broadway from Columbia University's main campus and, under the University umbrella, is one of four undergraduate schools (the others are Columbia College, Columbia Engineering, and the School of General Studies). In an arrangement unique in American higher education, Barnard also remains independent, maintaining its own campus, faculty, administration, trustees, student services, operating budget and endowment, while Barnard students earn the degree of the University. Since 1900, Barnard's inter-corporate agreement with Columbia has allowed both campuses to grow together, each with its own distinct approach to the study of the liberal arts, campus culture, and community in addition to sharing nearly unlimited resources, course options, and extra- and co-curricular opportunities. ■



## Our Setting (Campus/University/Neighborhood/City)

While the life of the College is closely tied to the energy and opportunities of New York City and the resources of Columbia, Barnard guards its unique identity closely: a tightly knit sisterhood of women who live and study in an atmosphere of openness, with an affinity for bold ideas and exploration.

Barnard women are bright, motivated, and focused in pursuit of their passions. From Barnard's president to its first-year students, the college community takes an active role in shaping and supporting activities that reflect the remarkably diverse interests of its students and foster a campus climate where individuals from wide-ranging backgrounds interact on multiple issues.

Barnard's compact four-acre campus is a key ingredient to its unique culture, providing a haven from the intensity of the city and an anchor from which Barnard women venture forth to the Columbia campus, explore Morningside Heights, and discover all of Manhattan. The physical



space of Barnard's campus connects our community and encourages a sense of belonging. It is a place of beauty and calm, with its many beaux arts and modern buildings and underground tunnels conveniently connecting the north and south ends of campus.

Just outside Barnard's gates, students will find the 116th Street subway stop and MTA bus lines. A MetroCard and a student's Barnard ID grant unlimited access to museums, theatre, dining, historic sites, neighborhoods, galleries, and events which all contribute to the learning experience, cultural understanding, and social development of Barnard students. ■

## A Diverse and Active Community



A college that celebrates all kinds of voices and opinions, Barnard enrolls a highly talented and diverse student body. More than ten percent of Barnard students were educated abroad and more than thirty percent self-identify as Black, Latina, or Asian. Our students represent a kaleidoscope of identities, with each member's race, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic background, sexual orientation, citizenship, and culture representing an arbitrary and beautiful arrangement of colors and patterns. More than this, though, each voice represents many perspectives. And, it is in sharing those perspectives Barnard students learn from one another, each expanding her appreciation of diverse

cultures and people, shaping her own lens from which she views the world.

Activities on our campus reflect the breadth of interests among Barnard students and include theatre, dance and music groups, ethnic and cultural organizations, community service clubs, student government, publications and more. Barnard women also join and lead many Columbia-sponsored organizations, from the Spectator, the nation's second-oldest student daily, to spearheading

events through Community Impact, an umbrella volunteer action group housed on Columbia's campus. Barnard women also compete in intercollegiate athletics through the Columbia/Barnard Athletic Consortium at the NCAA Division I level in 16 sports within the Ivy League, in addition to club sports and intramurals. The Office of Student Life supports students in organizing events, provides leadership training, and offers opportunities for students to explore their pluralistic identities. ■

## A Residential Campus

A small campus, with distinctive architecture, green space, and a vibrant residential life, Barnard builds a sense of community while encouraging students to shape their lives through their experiences on a university campus and in New York City. These are the features that set Barnard apart as an urban and residential campus.

Once students arrive on campus, the First-Year Focus program, Barnard's extended orientation, provides a full year of academic and co-curricular activities to help first-year students get acquainted with their new surroundings. In addition to the FYF, Residential Life and Housing provides a multitude of opportunities

to participate in programs on campus; including the First Year Focus, Transfer Time, Senior Experience, Special Interest Housing, and Eco Reps programs. The Office of Residential Life and Housing works collaboratively with a cross section of departments to provide a residential experience that compliments Barnard's mission of teaching, research and public service. Activities focus on enhancing personal growth and social development.

Housing is guaranteed for first-year students for all four years and nearly 95% of students choose to live on campus in one of Barnard's twelve residence halls. Options include traditional doubles, singles, some triples, suites, and apartments. ■



## Small Classes and Faculty Advising

Barnard is known for its distinctive academic culture. At once challenging and nurturing, Barnard's academic approach enables students to find new ways to think about themselves, the world, and their roles in changing it. All classes are taught by faculty and are generally small in size: 72% of Barnard's courses enroll 19 students or fewer, half of Barnard's classes enroll between 10 and 19 students, and only 2% enroll more than 100 students. Barnard students credit their small class sizes and resulting relationships with faculty for the depth of their engagement, their confidence in expressing ideas, and their satisfaction with their Barnard education.

Central to the Barnard academic experience is a strong support system. Barnard students are matched with a faculty adviser during the summer prior to their first year. Faculty who choose to advise first-years work with small groups, facilitating individualized advice on program planning, course selection, and providing guidance on how to satisfy the degree requirements and access research and internship



opportunities. Class deans provide additional support to students, communicate with faculty and administrators, and are a valuable additional resource for academic and general questions. ■

## Flexible and Interdisciplinary

The Barnard education provides all students with a foundation in language and literature, social and historical analysis, mathematics and the natural sciences, and the arts and the humanities through The Nine Ways of Knowing, a set of course requirements that encourage competence in a variety of subjects. By virtue of their interdisciplinary approach, these requirements heighten a Barnard student's ability to frame questions around diverse perspectives. Each student shapes her academic experience according to her interests. Barnard's approach is flexible, with choices available for each requirement, and critical, independent thinking is

encouraged by supportive faculty. Students complete the following requirements for the degree: First-Year English and Seminar, physical education, and courses that expose students to the following nine areas: Ethics and Value, Social Analysis, Historical Studies, Cultures in Comparison, Laboratory Science, Quantitative and Deductive Reasoning, Language (proficiency), Literature, and Visual and Performing Arts. Course options which satisfy the above requirements typically number between 40 and 100 titles, and include Barnard and intra-University course options. In addition, students complete a major and 122 credits for the degree. ■

## Majors and Programs of Study

Barnard offers a bachelor's degree in more than 50 fields of the arts, humanities, and the social, natural and physical sciences. Though some students enter Barnard with focused interests, many select their major after taking classes they have never studied before. Some students will double major or study a combined major, but many prefer the option of selecting a primary major, a possible minor, leaving lots of room to sample different subjects. Multiple opportunities exist for advanced and double degrees, lesson exchanges, and more through our partnership with Columbia and relationships with the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Manhattan School of Music, and the Juilliard School.

Barnard students have access to more courses, resources, and opportunities than most liberal arts colleges can offer. A main component of our partnership with Columbia is an open cross-registration policy which benefits both Barnard and Columbia students, and provides Barnard

students with access to more than 3000 classes. Furthermore, Barnard runs the departments for architecture, dance, theatre, urban studies, and education for all University undergraduates, extending our expertise well beyond the gates of our campus. And, as a small college, students are readily identified by faculty for additional opportunities.

A Barnard education often reaches beyond the traditional classroom. As a small, liberal arts and sciences college, all of our opportunities for research are open only to undergraduates, and our students engage in research with faculty in a variety of fields. Many will also add independent research, conferences, symposia, and committee work to their academic experience, opportunities normally reserved for graduate students at larger schools. Additionally, students regularly utilize the historical, empirical, and cultural resources readily available to them in New York City. ■



## Career Advice and Practical Training



Barnard's Office of Career Development is unique in that it not only focuses on preparing young women to develop a career that is meaningful, it is also the one-stop resource for internships (more than 2500 each year), part-time and campus jobs, and service opportunities through the New York City Civic Engagement Program. Career Development helps students translate their liberal arts background into the language of the workplace. Staff and peer counselors help students understand and articulate the value of the transferable skills they acquire, regardless of major, and they work with the Pre-professional Advisers on graduate school planning. Additionally, Career Development handles all aspects of on-campus student employment, including the Federal Work Study Program, and advises the student-run Barnard Babysitting and Barnard Bartending Agencies. Supportive alumnae participate in a variety of career information sessions available to all students. They are available to coach and mentor undergrads and many contribute to Sponsored Internship Grants, enabling select Barnard students to cover living expenses while gaining experience in a variety of industries.

Following are words of advice for parents directly from Career Development:

- ▶ Encourage your daughter to visit our office and register for online resources. Career staff and peer interns meet with students every weekday during drop-in hours for general career assistance and resume and cover letter review.
- ▶ Encourage your daughter to explore career interests and develop her skills outside the classroom. We can assist your daughter in obtaining internships, employment, and service opportunities in a wide variety of fields. Talk to your daughter about the importance of informational interviewing and networking.
- ▶ Encourage her to connect with the many Barnard alumnae who participate in the Alumnae Mentor Database. Help her connect with friends, neighbors, business associates and community contacts for additional informational interviews and career exploration.
- ▶ Listen to your daughter as she talks about her academic coursework and experiences in the workplace. Initiate conversations about the transferable skills your daughter will acquire during her years at Barnard, regardless of her major. ■



## Religious Life

Though Barnard is nondenominational, our students value the opportunity to practice their faith, explore intercultural exchange, and engage in service to the community. The main hub for religious life is Earl Hall, a center that fosters learning through spiritual, ethical, religious and cultural exchange and promotes service opportunities. The mission of the Earl Hall Center is to build community within the University and with its neighbors, while providing students with an opportunity to explore the relationship between faith and learning. Earl Hall includes the Office of the University Chaplain, Community Impact and the United Campus Ministries.

The Office of the University Chaplain promotes interfaith and intercultural understanding and sponsoring programs concerning justice, faith and spirituality. The Center is home to more than 80 student groups that represent a variety of spiritual, political, and ethnic interests. Additionally, United Campus Ministries, which includes denominations of Christian, Jewish, Islamic, and Eastern practices, provides students with individual counseling, religious and nonreligious group support, referrals, and personal assistance.

Students involved in Jewish life at Barnard often join the Columbia/Barnard Hillel, housed in The Kraft Center, and home to a wide range of social, cultural, religious and educational activities. The Columbia/Barnard Hillel is one of the most vibrant Jewish communities not only at Barnard, but on any campus in the United States, with hundreds of programs and 40 student groups, open to all Barnard and Columbia students. Kosher dining is also provided through Barnard for the undergraduate population at Columbia. ■



## Health and Wellness

Several departments on Barnard's campus offer services related to health and wellness. These offices include: Health Services, the Counseling Center, Well Woman, Alcohol and Substance Awareness Program, Disability Services, and the Rape Crisis/Anti Violence Support Center. Each provides support, information, and workshops with a "holistic" approach to wellness, recognizing that many factors—medical, emotional, social, and academic—contribute to overall student development. Staff members also collaborate closely and continuously with other on-campus departments such as Safety and Security and Residential Life and Housing to streamline the Barnard student experience. ■

## Managing Finances

The Office of Financial Aid seeks to help each Barnard family make the best financial choices. To the extent possible, Barnard's need-based aid assists families using a combination of grants, loans, and work and by providing advice on financing a Barnard education. The College is committed to making enrollment a realistic option, regardless of financial circumstances, and to ensuring that qualified applicants will not be denied a Barnard education simply because they cannot afford it.

Once enrolled, Barnard's Financial Fluency Program continues to educate Barnard women on issues relating to personal finance so that they have the proper tools to make responsible financial decisions both during their years at Barnard and beyond. The program covers topics such as budgeting, credit card management, insurance, savings and investments and much more. ■

For Tuition and Payment Options, [www.barnard.edu/bursar](http://www.barnard.edu/bursar). For the Office of Financial Aid, [www.barnard.edu/finaid](http://www.barnard.edu/finaid). For Financial Fluency, [www.barnard.edu/alum](http://www.barnard.edu/alum)



## Safety and Security

The Office of Public Safety at Barnard focuses proactively on the prevention of crimes and on the practical collaboration with other safety offices in our neighboring schools, the New York Police Department, and residents. Barnard is proud of its Morningside Heights location, a neighborhood rated one of the safest by the NYPD.

The Office of Public Safety, located in 104 Barnard Hall, near the main campus gate, is available 24 hours a day to provide security services for everyone in the Barnard community. Guards are posted at varying times in the vicinity of the residence halls, as well as throughout the main campus. Other services include fire safety, escort service, information service, presentations, and support resources. A sampling of services and contact information is listed here.

### Emergency Call Boxes

Call boxes, connected directly to Campus Safety, are located on and around campus. Blue lights, above each call box, add an extra level of visibility. When the alarm is pressed, a message is automatically sent giving location, and guards respond instantaneously as that message is broadcast over their radios.

### Columbia University Public Safety

(212) 854-42796  
Columbia University security guards are posted throughout the campus, extending

from Morningside Drive to Riverside Drive, between 112th and 123rd Streets.

### Morningside Heights Area Alliance Patrol

(212) 280-4524  
Uniformed staff members patrol the area by car and foot and collaborate closely with the Public Safety and Security offices of all area campuses.

### New York Police Department 26th Precinct

(212) 678-1311  
The NYPD 26th Precinct is located on 126th Street. A cooperative relationship exists between Barnard Security and the 26th Precinct when a situation arises which cannot be handled within the College.

### University Escort Service

(212) 854-7233  
The University Escort Service operates seven nights a week from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. in the Columbia University area.

### Columbia Shuttle Service

(212) 854-2796  
A 15-passenger van runs from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. The van stops between 108th and 125th Streets. Fare is free. A valid college ID must be presented.

### Volunteer Ambulance (CAVA)

x99 (from any on campus phone)  
Students who are Emergency Medical Technicians operate an ambulance service 24 hours per day. This service is for medical emergencies only. ■

# Campus Map



# Additional Resources

Calendars (Academic, [www.barnard.edu/registrar/acalendar.htm](http://www.barnard.edu/registrar/acalendar.htm), Events, [www.barnard.edu/calendar](http://www.barnard.edu/calendar))

Campus Map [www.barnard.edu/admiss/docs/campus-cu.pdf](http://www.barnard.edu/admiss/docs/campus-cu.pdf)

Neighborhood Map [www.barnard.edu/admiss/docs/MorningsideHeightsMap.pdf](http://www.barnard.edu/admiss/docs/MorningsideHeightsMap.pdf)

Campus Contact Information  
[www.barnard.edu/admiss/connect/campuscontacts.php](http://www.barnard.edu/admiss/connect/campuscontacts.php)

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