Bard Good Things to Know Before Arriving at Bard

Hello and Welcome to Bard College!

Congratulations on your decision to attend Bard College. Bard is truly a dynamic and special place, and we here at the Dean of Student Affairs Office are excited that you will be joining us this August. In preparation for your arrival we have compiled answers to some of the most commonly asked questions we receive from students and their families. If you have any remaining questions, do not hesitate to give us a call at 845-758-7454. We can also be reached via e-mail at firstyear@bard.edu.

Every year, incoming students mail the College a postcard from home. It can be store-bought or homemade—we encourage you to get creative! We ask that you write a message to your fellow incoming first-year students. If you are somewhere that you can't mail internationally, e-mail a photo and message to us at firstyear@bard.edu, and we'll make a postcard! Otherwise, please send your postcard to:

Bard College Center for Student Life and Advising PO Box 5000 Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504-5000

The postcards will be on display at the Campus Center beginning August 10. We hope to hear from each and every one of you!

Looking forward to meeting you in August, Mary Ann Krisa Assistant Dean of Students Director of the First-Year Experience

Traveling and Arrival

Students are expected to arrive on **Saturday, August 10, between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.** Information about where to go once you arrive on campus will be e-mailed to you via your Bard e-mail account in late July. Through the years we have discovered that many GPS systems have a hard time finding the campus. Since we don't want you to end up in the Hudson River, we suggest that you use the following address: I North Ravine Road, Red Hook, NY, 12571.

What's the best way to get to Bard if I'm not driving?

Flying:

Albany International Airport (www.albanyairport.com)

Located 60 miles north of Bard, Albany International Airport is the most convenient airport for travel to the College. You may rent a car at the airport or you can take an Amtrak train from Albany to Rhinecliff. From the station it's a 10-minute taxi ride to campus.

Stewart International Airport (www.panynj.gov/airports/stewart.html)

Stewart is 50 miles south of campus in Newburgh, New York, but there is no train connection and the number of carriers is limited.

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JFK, LaGuardia, Newark

The major New York City airports all have public transportation into New York City (bus, taxi, and subway for JFK) and to both train stations: Grand Central Terminal (Metro-North Railroad) and Penn Station (Amtrak). The following websites may be helpful when making your travel arrangements:

John F. Kennedy International Airport: www.panynj.gov/airports/jfk.html

LaGuardia Airport: www.panynj.gov/airports/laguardia.html

Newark Liberty International Airport: www.panynj.gov/airports/newark-liberty.html

NYC Bus System: http://mta.info/nyct/bus NYC Subway: www.mta.info/maps/submap.html Grand Central Station: www.grandcentralterminal.com

Train:

Amtrak (www.amtrak.com)

Amtrak runs directly from Penn Station. The closest stop to Bard is Rhinecliff, which is 10 minutes away. Amtrak is more expensive than Metro-North but the Rhinecliff station is much closer to campus than Metro-North's nearest stop.

Metro-North (http://new.mta.info/mnr)

Metro-North stops at Poughkeepsie, which is 45 minutes south of the campus. What you save in train costs, you lose on the cost of the longer taxi ride. Bard will be running regular shuttles from the Poughkeepsie and Rhinecliff train stations on August 10. You do not need to make a reservation for the shuttle service.

For additional information regarding travel to campus please visit our website: www.bard.edu/admission/discover/visiting

Mailing Address

Each student is given a unique mailbox number upon arrival. Student mail should be addressed as follows:

Student Name

Bard College

PO Box 5000 – MSC (insert box number here)

Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504-5000

Packages received before the arrival date will be stored. Our shipping department will be open on August 10 for people to pick up their packages. Please mail packages so that they arrive no earlier than July 25, 2013. Packages can be sent to the following address:

Student Name – "Incoming First-Year Student" Bard College 30 Campus Road Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504-5000

Phones

We do not have phones in individual residence hall rooms. All residence halls have phones in the hallway for emergency use, local calls, or calling-card calls. Calling cards can be purchased in the campus bookstore.

Most students have cell phones. Check with your cellular provider to find out about availability of service in the Hudson Valley. On campus, many students use Verizon or AT&T, which have offices in nearby Kingston. AT&T also offers a special discount to Bard students.

Verizon Wireless 1200 Ulster Ave., Kingston, NY 12401, 845-853-7351

AT&T 1137 Ulster Ave., Kingston, NY 12401, 845-336-0710, college code: 2529324

Banking

During the Language and Thinking Program (and throughout the semester) there will be shuttles to Red Hook, where you can open a local bank account if you want. There is an ATM on campus, owned by Key Bank, which is located in the Bertelmann Campus Center. It charges a service fee for all other banks.

Bank of America 1343 Ulster Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401 and 239 Main Street, Saugerties, NY 12477, 866-797-8464 Key Bank Campus Center ATM and 28 West Market St., Red Hook, NY 12571, 845-758-2311 M&T Bank, 7280 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571, 845-758-8811 Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, 7472 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571, 845-758-2751

Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, 7472 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571, 845-758-2751 Rhinebeck Bank, 7350 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571, 845-758-1500 Ulster Savings Bank, 7296 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571, 845-758-4020

Renters' Insurance

All students are encouraged to obtain renters' insurance if they live on campus. While the College does not endorse any specific company, many students have utilized National Student Services: www.nssi.com.

Meal Plan

All students living on campus are required to be on one of six meal plan options. For incoming first-year students, the meal plan is set at 19 meals a week (breakfast, lunch, and dinner, Monday through Friday; brunch and dinner, Saturday and Sunday). After the first semester, students are eligible to change their meal plan. All meal plans cost the same amount.

Bookstore

The campus bookstore is owned by Barnes and Noble. Declining balance accounts can be set up through our Student Accounts Office on arrival day; students can then use their school ID card to purchase items in the bookstore. Families might also choose to purchase a Barnes and Noble reloadable gift card. The bookstore accepts all major credit cards and cash.

Family Visits and Guests

Students are encouraged to invite their families to visit campus whenever they want. Students are allowed to have overnight guests as long as they have discussed it with their roommate(s). All guests need to be registered with the Safety and Security Office. Once registered, guests will receive a guest pass for the entirety of their stay. Advanced notice is not necessary; just bring your guest and their ID to the Security Office.

Save the Date! Bard hosts a Family Weekend every year that features academic and social events for the whole family. Family Weekend will be held October 25-27.

Course Registration

For their first semester, students meet an academic adviser and register for courses during Matriculation Days: Thursday, August 29, and Friday, August 30. During this time they will have the opportunity to meet with and to talk to faculty about specific courses and registration procedures. After the fall semester, students participate in online registration. Classes for the fall semester begin Monday, September 2.

Transportation

All students are allowed to bring cars to campus; however, Bard encourages biking and alternative methods of travel as part of the College's commitment to sustainability. An annual \$100 vehicle registration fee goes toward the Green Fund, which supports campus sustainability projects and scholarships. Students are allowed to park in designated student parking lots only. During the semester, there is a free shuttle that travels through Tivoli, Red Hook, and Bard's campus. There are also free shuttles that run to local grocery stores, the mall, and, on weekends, to the local train stations. During breaks and at the end of the semester, there are shuttles from campus to NYC/Albany airports for a \$30 fee. Students make their own arrangements to get to the Poughkeepsie or Rhinecliff train stations and then can take the free shuttle back to campus. For more information about shuttles, please go to: www.bard.edu/campus/transportation.

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Computers/Computer Labs

Bard has more than 250 public access computers available for use on campus. These computers are located in the Bertlemann Campus Center, library, Henderson Computer Resources Center, and Henderson Technology Laboratories. Many students choose to bring a computer to campus. All residence hall rooms have either WiFi or an Ethernet port. Given their portability, unmonitored laptops are easy targets for theft; students are encouraged to register laptops with homeowners/renters insurance, and are advised not to leave laptops unattended. The College does not recommend any one computer type or brand. Both PCs and Macs are supported. However, students interested in the Film and Electronic Arts Program tend to use Macs for their editing capability.

Intersession Use of Residence Halls

During intersession, Upper College residence halls are typically used for conferences and groups, Citizen Science faculty, and Bard student athletes and other students in need of on-campus accommodations. Generally, students will not be allowed to remain in their rooms over intersession. Students will be notified in advance of the plans for use of their rooms. First-year students will live in their own rooms during Citizen Science. Students should plan to be on campus for the start of Citizen Science, Saturday, January 4, 2014.

Pets

Fish and small caged animals are the only pets that may be approved to live in a residence hall room. A student who wishes to keep a pet must obtain written authorization from the Office of Residence Life and Housing (mail to: reslife@bard.edu) prior to bringing a pet to campus.

Laundry Facilities

Most residence halls are equipped with coin-operated washers and dryers. If there is no laundry facility in a residence, one is available within a short walking distance. Bard also has a partnership with a local dry cleaning service, Classic Cleaners. Students can pay by the pound or they may pre-pay for the semester. Classic Cleaners will be on campus August 10, and students can sign up for their service.

What to Bring (and what not to bring!)

When considering how to best equip your residence hall room, we encourage you to consider purchasing products (lighting, computers, stereos, TVs, etc.) that have earned the EPA's ENERGY STAR label. A room outfitted with these energy-efficient products can save about \$130 per year on energy costs, reduce pollution, and help protect the environment.

The following items are suggested: bedspread, blankets, standard-sized twin sheets, mattress pad, towels, toiletries, shower shoes, pillows, flashlight, clothes hangers, laundry detergent and basket, first aid kit (including insect repellent), wattage adapter (for international students), personal computer, surge protectors, wastebasket, desk lamp*, radio, bicycle, bicycle lock. If you plan to bring a laptop computer, we suggest you also bring a laptop desk lock.

The following items may be used in residence hall rooms: alarm clock, electric fan, hair dryer, computer, radio, CD player, television (rooms do not have cable access), study lamp, small refrigerator (no more than 3 cubic feet). The College works with a refrigerator rental company that will deliver and pick up for you. See the flyer in this mailing for more information.

The following items may be used in the designated kitchen areas only: coffeemaker, clothes iron, popcorn maker, toaster oven, hot pot. Only UL-approved appliances may be used.

The following items are not allowed in any residence hall: exposed coil heaters of any kind, heating pads, microwave ovens, halogen lamps**, portable heaters, subwoofers. Candles and incense are strictly prohibited. Removing, replacing, or altering furniture or equipment provided by Bard is not permitted.

Try to coordinate with your roommate(s) and share appliances when possible. Besides saving energy and money, you'll have less to move at the end of the year. Remember, simple changes made by many people can multiply into a huge difference for our environment.

- * ENERGY STAR–labeled light bulbs and lamps are available at the Bard Bookstore, so you can easily buy these products when you arrive. A compact fluorescent light bulb should last you for your four years at Bard. To find out more about purchasing ENERGY STAR products, visit the ENERGY STAR website at www.energystar.gov.
- ** Aside from being a fire hazard, halogen lamps use five times more energy than fluorescent lamps.

New-Student Website

Please also visit the new-student website for additional helpful information: www.bard.edu/newstudents/firstyear/checklist

Office of Residence Life and Housing

845-758-7455 reslife@bard.edu

Center for Student Life and Advising

845-758-7454 firstyear@bard.edu