

# Good Things to Know Before Arriving at Bard

## Traveling and Arrival

Students should arrive on Saturday, August 11, 2012. Information about where exactly to go will be sent via Bard email in late July. We've discovered through the years that many GPS systems have a hard time finding campus... we don't want you to end up in the Hudson River! We've had success with: 1 North Ravine Road, Red Hook, NY, 12571

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

Albany International Airport is probably the most convenient airport to Bard, located 60 miles north of the campus. You may rent a car there or take an Amtrak train from Albany to Rhinecliff Station, then a 10-minute taxi ride to campus. Although Stewart-Newburgh Airport is 50 miles south of campus, there is no train connection and the number of carriers is limited. The major New York City airports (Newark, J.F.K., and LaGuardia) all have public transportation into the city (bus, taxi, subway for J.F.K. and LaGuardia) and to both train stations: Grand Central (Metro North Railroad) and Penn Station (Amtrak). We suggest that you take Amtrak to Rhinecliff Station. Although it's more expensive than Metro North, Metro North stops at Poughkeepsie (45 minutes south of the campus), so what you save in train costs, you lose to the longer taxi ride. We will be running regular shuttles from Poughkeepsie and Rhinecliff train stations on Opening Day. No need to make a reservation.

## Mailing Address

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

Student Name  
Bard College  
PO Box 5000 – MSC (insert box number here)  
Annandale on Hudson, NY 12504

Packages that arrive before Opening Day will be stored. Our shipping department will be open on August 11<sup>th</sup> for people to pick up their packages. Please mail packages so that they arrive no earlier than July 25, 2012. Packages can be sent to the following address:

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

## Phones

We do not have room phones in the residence halls. 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 use Verizon and AT&T services which have offices in Kingston. AT&T also offers a special discount for Bard students.

- **Verizon Wireless** 1300 Ulster Ave. #212, Kingston, NY 12401, (845) 336-0111
- **AT&T** 1137 Ulster Ave., Kingston, NY 12401, (845) 331-4600, college code: 2529324

## **Banking**

During the Language and Thinking Program (and throughout the semester) there will be shuttles to Red Hook, where students can choose to open a local bank account if they want. There is an ATM on campus, which is owned by Key Bank. It does have a service fee for all other banks.

- **Bank of America** 635 Broadway, Kingston, NY 12401 and 4266 Rte 9G, Germantown, NY 12526, (800) 841-4000
- **Key Bank** (Key Bank has an ATM in the Campus Center), 28 West Market St., Red Hook, NY 12571, (845) 758 2311
- **M and T Bank**, 7280 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571, (800) 724-2440
- **Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union**, 7472 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571, (800) 451-8373 x6000
- **Rhinebeck Bank**, 7350 South Broadway, Red Hook, NY 12571, (845) 758-1150
- **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. The College is not liable for any theft or damage of personal property. Bard does not endorse any specific company, but we have enclosed information from National Student Services; families are encouraged to choose a company and plan that best suits their needs.

## **Meal Plan**

All students living on campus are required to be on one of 6 meal plan options. For incoming first-year students, the meal plan is set at 19 meals a week (breakfast, lunch and dinner: Monday – 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.

## **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 so that students can use their school ID as a swipe to purchase items in the bookstore. Families might also choose to purchase a Barnes and Noble reloadable gift cards for students to use. They accept all major credit cards and cash.

## **Family Visits and Guests**

Students are encouraged to invite their families to come to campus whenever they want. Students are allowed to have guests on campus as long as they have discussed it with their roommate. All guests need to be registered and receive a guest pass from our Safety and Security Office. Advanced notice is not necessary; just bring your guest and their ID to the Security Office.

**Save the Date:** We do have a Family Weekend every year with academic and social events for the whole family. This year it will be on October 12-14, 2012.

## **Course Registration**

For their first semester, students will meet with an academic advisor and register for courses during Matriculation Days on Thursday and Friday, August 31 and September 1. They will have the opportunity to meet with and talk to faculty about courses and will register in person. After the fall semester, registration is online. Classes for the fall semester begin Monday, September 3.

## **Transportation**

All students are allowed to bring cars. Bard encourages biking and alternative methods of travel on campus, however, as part of the College's commitment to sustainability. There is a yearly \$100 vehicle registration fee. Students are allowed to park in designated student parking lots only. During the semester, there is a free shuttle that runs between Tivoli, Red Hook and on Bard's campus. We also have special free shuttles to local grocery stores, the mall, and weekends to the local train stations. During breaks and at the end of the semester, we have special shuttles to NYC/Albany airports for a \$30 fee. We do not, however, have shuttles after breaks for pick-up from airports. Students will need to plan to get to either Poughkeepie or Rhinecliff train stations and they can take the free shuttle back to campus. For more information about shuttles, please go to: <http://inside.bard.edu/transportation>.

## **Computers/Computer Labs**

There are more than 250 public access computers available for your use on campus, located in the Campus Center, Library, Henderson Computer Center, and Henderson Technology Laboratories. Many students do 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 never to leave laptops unattended.

## **Intersession use of Residence Halls**

Select upperclass residence halls will be used for conferences and groups, Citizen Science faculty, as well as Bard student athletes and other students needing on-campus accommodations during intersession. Generally, students will not be allowed to remain in their rooms over intersession and 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.

## **Pets**

Fish and small caged animals are the only pets that may be approved to live in a residence hall room. The pet must be in good health. A student who wishes to keep a pet must obtain written authorization from the Office of Residence Life **prior to bringing a pet to campus**. Contact them at [reslife@bard.edu](mailto:reslife@bard.edu) or 845-758-7455.

## **Laundry Facilities**

Most residence halls are equipped with washers and dryers. If there are no laundry facilities in a hall, they are usually available within a short walking distance. Laundry machines on campus require quarters.

Bard has a partnership with local drycleaners Classic Cleaners where students can drop off laundry for a fee. They have both pay by the pound and pre-pay for the semester. Classic Cleaners will be on campus during Opening Day.

## **What to Bring (and what not to bring!)**

Smart college students are changing our world before they even set foot in their first class, choosing to equip their residence hall rooms with lighting, computers, stereos, TVs, and other products 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:** flashlight, bedspread, blankets, standard-sized twin sheets, mattress pad, towels, toiletries, shower shoes, pillows, 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). We do have refrigerator rentals through a local company that will deliver and pick up for you. There is a 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. 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 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](http://www.energystar.gov).

\*\* Aside from being a fire hazard, halogen lamps use 5 times more energy than fluorescent lamps.

### **Office of Housing and Residence Life**

845-758-7455

[reslife@bard.edu](mailto:reslife@bard.edu)

### **Dean of Student Affairs Office**

845-758-7454

[firstyear@bard.edu](mailto:firstyear@bard.edu)