



**QUESTIONS?**

# ENROLLMENT AND DEFERRAL

## **Is it still possible for admitted students to enroll at Bard?**

Yes! Please reach out to us at [admission@bard.edu](mailto:admission@bard.edu) and we can walk you through the process.

## **Is it too late to ask for an extension on the enrollment deposit?**

It's not—we're happy to be in touch with you about this. Just reach out to [admission@bard.edu](mailto:admission@bard.edu).

## **Can enrolled students request deferral for this academic year?**

Yes, through the month of June we will allow all enrolled students the opportunity to defer admission until fall 2021.

## **How long after a deferral is requested will you let us know?**

We try to respond to all requests as quickly as possible. Students typically receive a response to their requests within 48 hours.

## **Will all deferral requests be granted?**

Yes, provided we receive your deferral request before the end of June, it will be granted. Beginning in July, we will be approving requests on a case-by-case basis.

## **Is it possible for a student to defer enrollment to the spring semester, or will I need to defer for the full academic year?**

Students may certainly choose to defer matriculation for a year. Deferral until the spring is challenging to facilitate because of the comprehensive, full-year nature of Bard's first-year program. We are exploring options for spring arrival for students who will have experienced a virtual fall semester.

## **Are incoming students who have already taken a gap year or students who are considering a one-year deferral required to pay a second enrollment deposit?**

They are not. Students pay the enrollment deposit only once.

## **Could an Early Decision student defer admission until fall 2021?**

Yes, students are permitted to request a deferral regardless of their application round.

## **Can the enrollment deposit be waived?**

Please do check in with [admission@bard.edu](mailto:admission@bard.edu) about this. Since Bard enrollment deposits are ultimately applied to the first tuition bill, and serve to reduce costs/payments overall, we generally do not offer waivers, but we may be able to negotiate the deadline or to facilitate payment in installments.

# FINANCIAL AID AND BILLING

## **How should students ask for reconsideration of their financial aid package or request additional funding in light of a COVID-related change in financial circumstances?**

We can certainly reconsider financial aid packages in light of changes in circumstances. We ask that students send a letter of appeal detailing any updates to our Financial Aid Office at [finaid@bard.edu](mailto:finaid@bard.edu). The Financial Aid Review Committee has been communicating weekly, and students are typically informed of the results the following business day.

## **Will Bard provide more financial aid this year or next year to help students who may be struggling financially due to COVID-19?**

We understand that some families might be seriously affected by COVID-19 and we want to do whatever we can to adjust financial aid support accordingly. Please contact [finaid@bard.edu](mailto:finaid@bard.edu) if your circumstances have changed.

## **If the Financial Aid Office initially denied an appeal that a student submitted because of COVID-19 financial concerns, may another appeal still be resubmitted?**

Yes, students can appeal again. Please let us know of any changes or updates not previously shared.

## **If students are required to take classes online, will Bard offer a discount for room and board and fees associated with campus living?**

Students who are not in residence on campus will not be charged for room and board.

## **If classes are held virtually, will there be a change in tuition?**

We have not determined the answer to this, but will share more once we reach a conclusion about the learning structure for the fall semester.

## **If classes do not start in person in the fall and a student decides to defer, will the financial aid package remain the same?**

Because our financial aid is need based, a student's financial aid package would remain the same the following year, barring a significant change in financial circumstances. We do require that students/families resubmit the FAFSA and CSS Profile each year to verify eligibility.

## **When is fall tuition due and will families get a request for payment in the mail?**

The first tuition bill should arrive in early June. The Office of Student Accounts typically sends the first billing statement virtually and via mail. However, with the disruptions in the U.S. Postal Service, we're encouraging all students/families to manage billing online. If you have any further questions, please reach out to [sao@bard.edu](mailto:sao@bard.edu).

## **If first-year attendance is remote, will a corresponding reduction in scholarship awards be expected?**

Our financial aid is typically prorated if tuition is reduced (e.g., in the case of part-time students) and is also likely to be prorated should costs be reduced in the fall. We aim to do whatever we can to meet financial need, and we intend to do the same regardless of changes in cost. Please note that there is no tuition increase for the upcoming academic year.

## **I'd like to commit to Bard. However, given the situation, if travel to Bard becomes impossible, would I be able to get a refund?**

Full refunds for tuition and room and board payments can be provided until the day before scheduled student arrival to students who decide to defer for one year. If students are required to participate online due to travel restrictions, students will not be charged room and board for the fall semester and will be offered refunds for room and board costs.

## **Are tuition costs the same for study abroad programs as they are in Annandale?**

This can vary depending on the program. We do try to keep costs and financial aid very similar at all Bard network campuses and Bard exchange partner programs.

# LANGUAGE AND THINKING PROGRAM AND FIRST-YEAR ARRIVAL

## **What day does the Language and Thinking Program (L&T) officially begin?**

First-year arrival is scheduled for August 7, 2020, and L&T seminars begin on August 10. Please note that very important, mandatory orientation programming is scheduled to take place August 7-9.

## **If students arrive on August 7 for L&T, as planned, should parents depart the campus that day, or can family stay for the weekend?**

Normally, parents head out the evening of August 7, as there is no programming scheduled for parents/families beyond the evening of arrival day and students are kept busy during the first few days on campus. Some may prefer to stay locally through the weekend as an opportunity to experience the beauty of the Hudson Valley. Once we are able to open our campus to the community, families are more than welcome to visit their students for performances, athletic competitions, Family Weekend, and other events.

## **Can you recommend places where families can stay overnight?**

Here are some resources on the Bard Family Network website:  
[bard.edu/admission/families/resources/](http://bard.edu/admission/families/resources/)

## **Will L&T be held in person or online?**

We hope to begin in person on August 7. If we cannot begin in person, we have already been working to translate L&T into an online version. The L&T director is particularly adept at online approaches and runs one of the most successful Ivy League MOOCs through the University of Pennsylvania.

## **Is online work for L&T the same as it would be in person?**

We hope for L&T to happen in person. If it is not, the online adaptation will share the same values and methods.

## **Will students be able to move into residence halls in August if L&T is not held in person?**

Our plan is to bring people here for L&T, and any student who is delayed would move into the residence hall upon arrival.

## **If a first-year student needs to begin online, would Bard offer the opportunity to take part in on-campus L&T the following year?**

Any student who wishes to participate in some part of the first-year program would definitely be eligible to do so the following year.

## **Are L&T workshops graded?**

Because part of the aim is to give students an opportunity to acclimate academically to Bard, the L&T Program is pass/fail.

## **What is the latest point at which a decision will be made about online or in-person L&T?**

We have yet to determine a cut-off date.

## **Do first-year students stay in the same residence halls that they stay in during L&T?**

Yes!

# TRANSFER STUDENTS AND TRANSFER CREDITS

## **How are arrival and orientation set up for transfer students? Do transfer students participate in the Language and Thinking Program?**

Transfer students have their own orientation program in late summer (scheduled for August 25, 2020) and are not required to arrive early, though some transfer students, including many from the Bard Early Colleges, do choose to participate in L&T. If you have questions about individual possibilities, please don't hesitate to reach out to [admission@bard.edu](mailto:admission@bard.edu).

## **If a first-year student defers admission for a year and takes online courses at a community college, would Bard accept those credits?**

### **Would the student have to reapply?**

Please do keep in touch with us about your plans by contacting [admission@bard.edu](mailto:admission@bard.edu). We can provide more assistance concerning the credits that might transfer, and any limitations about numbers of credits, to determine whether a student would maintain first-year status or shift to becoming a transfer student.

# ONLINE LEARNING STRATEGIES AND THE BARD NETWORK

## **Will learning be online in the upcoming academic year? If so, what would that look like?**

We are building our most resilient curriculum for entering students, capable of supporting in-person as well as remote learning (as we recognize that some students may be delayed in their arrival or have special circumstances that need to be accommodated). L&T, First-Year Seminar, and the Common Courses are designed to support any and all of these scenarios.

## **If the academic year begins online, are there plans to shift campus activities and social life online as well?**

Yes! The Student Activities Office and Center for Civic Engagement are already working on online versions of their offerings and programs, and have been up and running with online activities since mid-spring.

## **What would online school look like?**

Though we hope and plan to meet in person for the fall semester, our online engagement is extremely student focused. Our small classes allow us to do connected learning well. Most of our classes are fewer than 20 students (with many fewer than 15), which means we are still able to offer a highly individualized education.

## **What online modalities/programs is Bard using for online teaching?**

We are using multiple, overlapping programs, from Google Classroom/Moodle to Zoom. We use programs like Padlet for writing and are likely to supplement with Brightspace this summer as we plan a series of new Common Courses.

## **Also, can prospective students be allowed to "sit in" virtually on one of your online classes that use GC/Moodle/Padlet/Brightspace now?**

We are offering a series of L&T classes for students to explore during the month of May. These were publicized in an email at the beginning of May.

**Does the fact that Bard is small mean it might be able to resume in person sooner than some larger schools?**

We certainly have more flexibility than other places. We have small class sizes and many small residence halls.

**Will an option be available to take classes remotely from within the United States if a student is uncomfortable coming to campus in the fall but wishes to start college and not defer?**

Yes. We are making a plan for that contingency. We know that some students will not feel comfortable traveling in the fall or will not be able to come to campus.

**In the event of continued lockdown orders, would the time frame for classes be adjusted to better accommodate different time zones?**

Absolutely. That is a core part of our planning.

**Can a student start a Bard education at a partner institution in the Bard network?**

We are exploring all possibilities. Students interested in starting Bard abroad can be in touch with the Office of Admission ([admission@bard.edu](mailto:admission@bard.edu)); we will help work through the options. Bard has partner campuses in Berlin, Germany; Budapest, Hungary; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; East Jerusalem; St. Petersburg, Russia; and Vienna, Austria; as well as exchange agreements in many other countries. The Open Society University Network, of which Bard is a founding member, adds universities in many other countries to the international Bard community.

**Are current students allowed to take courses pass/fail? How are the faculty responding to individual student needs during this challenging time?**

All students were allowed to request pass/fail for their classes, though students also opted to receive letter grades if they preferred. There was no limit placed on the number of courses taken pass/fail. We are being supportive if students need to finish their work beyond the end of the semester, and faculty have been providing students individualized attention. We have made available computers and means of connectivity for students in need, and we have invited students to continue communicating with administrators and student government representatives with late-developing questions and concerns.

**Will the Bard College Conservatory of Music go virtual if needed?**

Leon Botstein, president of the College, conducts online classes for the Conservatory, as do others, and additional remote learning options will be provided for Conservatory students in the event that we are unable to host students on campus or students are unable to travel to campus due to the disruption caused by COVID-19. Please reach out to Katie Rossiter ([krossiter@bard.edu](mailto:krossiter@bard.edu)) for more information about the Conservatory's plans for remote learning and connection should we need to maintain social distancing protocols in August.

**Will online learning be extended into the spring semester for students who are not able to travel to campus or who choose online learning?**

We don't know yet. We will need to see where things are in about six months before those decisions are made. We excel at in-person learning and engagement, so we want to make sure we're doing that for as many people as we can!

## **BARD'S ACADEMICS AND LEARNING SUPPORT**

**Is there support for students with individualized education programs (IEPs) or diagnosed learning differences?**

We have a Disability Services Office that works with any of our students who are registered with it to make sure that individual plans are followed and students are supported in their learning as needed. The registration process is part of the students' enrollment checklist. Students and families interested in learning more can reach out to [disabilityservices@bard.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@bard.edu).

**Will policy changes occur in Bard's acceptance of advanced placement/international baccalaureate (AP/IB) credits, given the changes in exams?**

As of now, we do not expect any changes in our policies regarding AP credits.

## **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

**Is a plan in place for international students who cannot get visas before August?**

Yes. Should we begin classes in person in August, we have plans in development for virtual learning options for students who may not be able to obtain visas in time, and for students who learn virtually in the fall to arrive in the spring.

**When will you send international students information to apply for a visa?**

Information usually gets sent in May. Our international student adviser will be in touch, starting in mid-May and through June, with all first-year students who decide to attend Bard.

## **ON-CAMPUS AND LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH POLICIES AND SUPPORT**

**Have you had any confirmed cases of COVID-19 on campus?**

Thus far we have had no confirmed cases on campus.

**Will you be providing flu shots to all students?**

We are in discussion with local hospital networks about a number of health care procedures, including flu shots, and will be able to determine protocols at a later date when we know more about our learning environment for the fall semester.

**How much COVID-19 testing do you anticipate conducting, should the semester begin online?**

We haven't yet determined what the system will be for on-site testing, but are working closely with local health professionals to determine our options. COVID-19 testing will be an important aspect of our strategy for resuming in-person learning.

**How are current students eating in the dining hall in accordance with social distancing guidelines?**

All of our food is prepackaged or served, not available cafeteria-style. The seating area is closed. Students come during designated time slots, get their food, and head back to their residence hall—similar to restaurants offering takeout but not allowing people to eat in.

**Are all students who are still living on campus practicing social distancing guidelines?**

Absolutely; we are following all local and state recommendations. Students must wear masks when they can't guarantee safe distance of at least six feet. We had masks made and sent to campus. All students were offered free masks; we also held many online tutorials about how to make your own.

**Are students remaining on campus still housed with their roommates?**

Yes, roommates are allowed to stay together if they want to. We moved them if they didn't wish to room together. We have about 280 students left on campus, which is just under 20 percent of our usual number of on-campus students.

**If a student has immunocompromised family members and is concerned about how on-campus living might impact the family, what steps can be taken?**

This is a really important set of considerations, and it might be best to speak directly with our health services director to help understand your family's needs and see how we can help you to think about this next step. Our Student Health Service can be reached at [healthservice@bard.edu](mailto:healthservice@bard.edu) or 845-758-7433.

**How will Bard address social distancing in the fall?**

We will take our lead from state and local regulations and health officials, as we are currently doing for all students and members of the Bard community still living and working on campus.

**Are people on campus being tested?**

Yes, if they fit the criteria for testing. We are in negotiations with a local hospital to assure ready availability of testing and quick results.

**If an occupancy regulation is in force and only 50 percent of students can move onto campus, how will you decide who remains off campus?**

We don't know yet, but we are contacting local landlords and hotels to inquire about the possibility of housing people locally.

**Do you plan to increase the number of Bard shuttles if more students are living off campus?**

Yes, we would review the need for additional shuttles to specific places, and adjust the shuttle schedules accordingly.

**What is the incidence of COVID-19 in the Annandale area?**

For the most up-to-date information, go to: [dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.htm](http://dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.htm)

**What is the closest local hospital?**

Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck, New York, is about 10 minutes from the Annandale campus.

## HOUSING AND OTHER ENROLLMENT STEPS

**How and where do I sign up for student housing?**

The Housing Profile is an item on all students' enrollment checklists in their applicant portals. The Office of Residence Life and Housing uses this profile to assign students to residence halls and allocate roommates. We emphasize that students' assignments are made very carefully by a dedicated staff who read all the details of every housing profile.

**How and when do I sign up for a meal plan?**

All first-year students living on campus are placed on the same meal plan for their first semester. After the first semester, students may switch to a different meal plan if they choose. More information about our meal plan options can be found at: [new.dineoncampus.com/bard/meal-plan-faqs](http://new.dineoncampus.com/bard/meal-plan-faqs)

**Is creating a Facebook account an efficient way to meet with other first-year students and perhaps even find a roommate?**

The assignments made by the Office of Residence Life and Housing are actually much more successful (over 95 percent) than students who choose to room together after meeting over social media. It's just important to be honest and open on your Housing Profile.

**Can first-year students request a roommate?**

The Housing Profile allows students to request a specific person as a roommate if they choose.

**When do students find out about their housing assignments?**

This typically happens in early to mid-July.

**Where do incoming students find their enrollment checklist?**

Your enrollment checklist will appear in your applicant portal once your enrollment deposit is processed and we send you information about your [bard.edu](http://bard.edu) email address. This process can sometimes take a couple of days. If you're having trouble accessing your portal, please email [admission@bard.edu](mailto:admission@bard.edu) and we can help troubleshoot.

**Do gap-year students coming in this summer need to fill out the housing profile again?**

Yes. Since preferences may have changed over the last year, the Office of Residence Life and Housing prefers that students complete the new housing form using the enrollment checklist on your portal. Reslife staffers work hard to match students with residence halls and roommates based on the preferences listed on their housing forms.

**Do first-year students usually have roommates?**

Yes, all first-years typically have at least one roommate (we have a few triple rooms on campus, but most are double rooms).

**What is the percentage of students who live off campus, and in what year do they move off campus?**

First- and second-year students must live on campus. Students may live off campus starting in their junior year if they choose to. About 40 percent of juniors and seniors typically live off campus.

# GENERAL QUESTIONS

## Where is the Accepted Students webpage?

[bard.edu/admission/accepted/](http://bard.edu/admission/accepted/)

## How is Bard handling sports teams in the fall semester?

This decision will depend first and foremost on a determination made by the NCAA (Bard is in Division III), as well as state and local regulations at the time.

## Could someone post a link to the applicant portal?

It's a specific link for each student. Please email [admission@bard.edu](mailto:admission@bard.edu) and we can resend your portal link to you.

## Is there any interface where first-year students can get to know each other virtually?

[facebook.com/groups/Bard2024](https://facebook.com/groups/Bard2024)

## Where can students find recordings of Bard Admission's spring webinars?

[bard.edu/admission/accepted/](http://bard.edu/admission/accepted/)

## How do students leave campus without a car?

A free campus shuttle runs all day, every hour, across campus and to two nearby towns (Tivoli and Red Hook). This helps students live off campus, if they want to, without a car. Free shuttles also go to local train stations every week and to airports during breaks.

## What is the best way for Bard parents to stay connected?

Please visit the Bard Family Network website: [bard.edu/admission/families/resources/](http://bard.edu/admission/families/resources/)

## Can families attend games or performances that their students might be part of beyond Family Weekend?

We encourage families to support their students' events on campus. And more about Family Weekend in October can be found online here: [bard.edu/familyweekend/](http://bard.edu/familyweekend/)

## How does the first-year experience for students under the umbrella of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion differ from other students' experience?

In many ways the experience does not differ at all. That said, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Office offers additional underlying support, including a summer program ahead of L&T, as well as a network of staff support and peer mentoring, and coverage of books, supplies, and personal expenses. If you'd like to connect further about this, please feel free to reach out to the office at [beop@bard.edu](mailto:beop@bard.edu).

## Does Bard offer farm-to-table ingredients from local farms?

Yes! Almost 20,000 pounds of organic produce a year in our dining halls come from our very own Bard College Farm. Much of the rest of the food in our dining halls is sourced locally as well, such as dairy and bread, and all dining-hall food waste gets filtered back into compost for the farm.

## Can students apply for work study during L&T?

Yes! Students can begin to apply for work study jobs through the Student Employment Office as soon as they arrive on campus for Language and Thinking. Support for jobs is also available from the Career Development Office.

## What is safety and security like on campus?

The Bard campus and local area are generally very safe, but many resources are in place to support community safety. This includes our full-time, 24/7 campus security office and patrol teams, our on-campus EMS squad, a campus-wide callbox system, educational initiatives via our Office of Gender Equity, and student initiatives such as the Campus Foot Patrol and Safe Rides.

## What type of counseling is offered to first-year students feeling homesick or out of place?

Many layers of support are in place for first-year students, from the first-year deans and peer counselors to the counseling center. In addition, L&T provides three weeks of acclimation to campus life and connection to student services before returning students arrive and graded coursework begins.

# Bard

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*Higglety Pigglety Pop!* (page 1) and *Full Moon in March* (page 6).  
Both operas, performed in the Fisher Center's Sosnoff Theater, were a collaboration between the Bard College Conservatory of Music's undergraduate orchestra and graduate Vocal Arts Program.  
Photos by Karl Rabe.

