

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT FAQ

WHAT IS BARD COLLEGE?

A liberal arts college founded in 1860 in Annandale-on-Hudson, NY. Today, Bard College is one of the country's most prestigious institutions of higher learning.

WHAT IS THE BARD MICROCOLLEGE AT BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY?

A local, top-quality, accredited college where students earn Bard Associate in Arts degrees by attending classes at Brooklyn's Central Library at Grand Army Plaza. Bard's individualized approach means academic advisors keep students on track toward their degrees, while tutors and BPL librarians support them along the way.

HOW MUCH DOES THIS COST?

There is no cost to students. Tuition and books are fully covered by grants and Brooklyn Public Library scholarships. Unlike student loans, grants and scholarships do not have to be paid back.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Everything liberal arts college students study at respected institutions the world over: literature, philosophy, anthropology, art, science, writing, mathematics, sociology, economics, history, and more.

WHAT ARE CLASSES LIKE?

Small seminars taught by experienced professors who are invested in student learning and potential—no big lectures, no teaching assistants. Standards and expectations are high.

WHO IS THIS FOR?

People whose educations have been derailed by financial challenges, work, family responsibilities, or life in general. Age doesn't matter. Brooklynites and those whose household finances qualify them for Pell and TAP grants will be given priority.

WHAT DO I NEED TO GET IN?

A high-school diploma or its equivalent (GED/HSE/TASC). Curiosity, ambition, a willingness to work hard, and an open mind.

WHEN WILL CLASSES BE HELD?

Classes follow a standard academic calendar. Daytime classes will be scheduled between 9am and 4pm, Monday through Friday.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A BARD ASSOCIATE IN ARTS DEGREE?

Continue on for a bachelor's degree, and from there a graduate degree. Qualify for a job that requires critical thinking and communication skills. Gain a broader, deeper perspective on our world, culture, history, and political environment. Redefine what success can mean.

ADMISSION

The admission process happens entirely in person at Brooklyn Public Library. There are no standardized tests or placement exams.

Dates for the next admission cycle and semester are available at microcollege.bard.edu

STEP 1: SIGN UP

Anyone interested in applying should start by signing up online at microcollege.bard.edu. Basic contact information is all that is required. This will enable applicants to reserve a place in an in-person application session. Walk-ins are also welcome as space permits.

STEP 2: APPLY IN PERSON

Applicants should plan to spend about 2 hours at the library for this part of the process. Everything needed to apply will be provided.

Essay

Applicants will be given three or four short passages to read and asked to write an open response by hand to just one.

Applicants can write in whatever form they choose. It does not have to be a formal essay. Grammar and spelling are less important than showing how and what they think about the passage selected.

STEP 3: FAFSA APPLICATION

Once the essays are reviewed by Bard at Brooklyn Public Library, selected applicants will be scheduled to attend a FAFSA Workshop (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at Brooklyn Public Library. **Applicants should plan to spend 1 hour at the library** for this part of the process.

- Applicants will get a checklist of the information they will need in order to complete the FAFSA.
- They will have help creating an FSA ID and completing their FAFSA.

STEP 4: INTERVIEW

Selected applicants will be scheduled for an in-person interview. **Applicants should plan to spend 1 hour** at the library for this part of the process.

Each of the applicants will meet individually with two members of Bard College for a 10 to 15 minute conversation.