BARNARD COLLEGE:
HISTORY & INTRODUCTION

For over a century, Barnard College has been known for its distinctive academic culture. Founded in 1889 and named for Frederick A.P. Barnard, the tenth president of Columbia University and a strong proponent for women's rights, Barnard began as the only college in New York City where women could receive the same rigorous instruction as men. Today, Barnard continues to be at the forefront of education, enabling students to find new ways to think about themselves, their world and their roles in changing it.

Barnard enrolls approximately 2,400 undergraduates from nearly 50 states and more than 40 countries. Nearly ten percent of Barnard students have been educated abroad. Across the globe, Barnard alumnae are renowned for their ambition, sophistication, and intelligence in whatever fields they pursue. In fact, Barnard alumnae have collectively written over 3,000 books and earned seven Pulitzer Prizes. Some notable alumnae include authors Anna Quindlen, Erica Jong and Jhumpa Lahiri; dancer and choreographer Twyla Tharp; NPR host Maria Hinojosa; actresses Cynthia Nixon and Lauren Graham; epidemiologist Helene Gayle; Chief Judge of the State of NY Judith Kaye; and President of the American Museum of Natural History Ellen Futter.

A unique partnership with Columbia University provides Barnard students with unparalleled access to the wealth of resources of an Ivy League university, while maintaining a small, close-knit community. Through this partnership, a vibrant intellectual climate and active social life flows both ways across Broadway. Barnard and Columbia students share open registration for undergraduate courses on each other's campuses and participate in joint clubs and organizations. Barnard students actively engage with New York City, drawing on its boundless opportunities through internships, cultural and social events, research and more.

You are welcome to enter and explore any open-access building throughout our campus. Please note that the Residential Halls are secure, and you may only visit the floors on an official tour or if accompanied by a resident.
First-year students reside in doubles, triples, or quads and live and participate within First-Year Village (FYV), Barnard’s residential orientation. Throughout the year, FYV offers programs that introduce students to Barnard, Columbia, and New York City. A dynamic staff of Associate Directors of FYV, Student Assistants (SA), and Student Associates (SA) is available to guide first-year students through their educational journey. FYV also facilitates academic and social programming, and first-year students are encouraged to participate in at least one FYV event.

Second-year students have the option of moving into the Diana Center, a residence hall located on the north end of campus. The Diana Center offers extensive social and academic programming for students, with an emphasis on leadership development. The Diana Center is also home to Barnard College’s Center for Academic Success and the Center for Career Development.

Third-year students may choose to live in the Barnard Center for Research on Women (BCRW), a residence hall located on the south end of campus. The BCRW is home to the Barnard Center for Research on Women, the Center for Gender and Sexuality Studies, and the Center for Women and Gender Studies. The BCRW offers extensive social and academic programming for students, with an emphasis on leadership development. The BCRW is also home to Barnard College’s Center for Academic Success and the Center for Career Development.

Fourth-year students may choose to live in the Barnard Center for Research on Women (BCRW), a residence hall located on the north end of campus. The BCRW is home to the Barnard Center for Research on Women, the Center for Gender and Sexuality Studies, and the Center for Women and Gender Studies. The BCRW offers extensive social and academic programming for students, with an emphasis on leadership development. The BCRW is also home to Barnard College’s Center for Academic Success and the Center for Career Development.

The Quad is a central location for students, staff, and visitors. The Quad houses the offices of Academic Advising, Career Development, and Student Affairs, as well as the College’s main administrative offices, including the President’s and Provost’s Offices, Admissions, Finance, and Student Affairs. The Quad is also home to the College’s main athletic facilities, including the Field House and the Riverview Center. The Quad is used for a variety of events, including lectures, concerts, and athletic games.

The Diana Center is the gateway to Barnard, housing everything from dance studios and event spaces to classrooms and academic departments. The Diana Center is the first building on Barnard’s campus and originally contained the Brown Family Library. The library was later moved to Milbank Hall. The Diana Center is home to the College’s main administrative offices, including the President’s and Provost’s Offices, Admissions, Finance, and Student Affairs. The Diana Center is also home to the College’s main athletic facilities, including the Field House and the Riverview Center. The Diana Center is used for a variety of events, including lectures, concerts, and athletic games.

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