

COVID-19 FAQ for Admitted Students

1. Will courses be in-person this fall?

We have had a very positive experience this spring with on-campus living and learning and, as such, the College is focused on a path where there will be a full opportunity for in-person living and learning in the fall. This will include adherence to established safety protocols and a community safety pledge around shared responsibility.

2. What are the options for on-campus housing?

For Fall 2021, the College plans to return to increased occupancy across campus. We expect to be able to house all **first-year students** who apply for campus housing. Information about the housing application process and fees will be sent to enrolling students in May.

While Barnard always hopes to provide housing to as many students as possible, we cannot guarantee housing for **transfer students**. We also encourage transfers to explore options for off-campus housing. The Residential Life Office provides helpful [links](#) for students seeking off-campus accommodations.

3. What will courses look like this fall?

Beginning in the 2021 spring semester, classes were taught in a variety of formats, ranging from completely virtual to a HyFlex format that included in-person teaching. Almost all classes, even those taught in-person, offered a remote-only option that allowed students to continue to pursue their studies remotely if they chose to do so. We fully expect to be on-campus in the fall with in-person learning with some continuation of courses taught in HyFlex online teaching modality.

4. What is a HyFlex teaching method?

The hybrid flexible (HyFlex) course format is an instructional model that offers students the option to participate synchronously in the course, either in person or remotely. This approach is intended to offer students more flexibility while maintaining the same quality of instruction for all students, whether they are joining the course in-person or remotely. Instructors interact and engage with both in-person and remote students at the same time.

5. Will students be able to conduct research on campus?

Many students are currently conducting research on Barnard's campus and we are excited to open up research for a wider number of students beginning this summer with our [Summer Research Institute](#). We expect research opportunities to be operational on campus in the fall.

6. How has Barnard kept students/faculty/administrators safe during the COVID-19 pandemic?

The health and safety of our community has been our top priority this past year. Our Feel Well, Do Well Health & Safety plan emphasizes good hygiene and a requirement that community members wear face masks and maintain physical distancing. It also includes a comprehensive on-campus testing, self-screening, and contact tracing program. Finally, all community members are required to adhere to a Community Pledge that indicates the responsibility of every member of the community in helping to maintain a safe campus environment by complying with all federal, state, and local requirements and Barnard COVID-19 policies.

7. What is Barnard's COVID-19 testing plan?

Barnard has been running a comprehensive and independent COVID-19 testing program since Fall 2020 to monitor and manage the health of our campus and for members of our community utilizing Columbia's campus. The main provider of Barnard's tests is the [Safe for School program](#) operated by Clinical Research Sequencing Platform (CRSP) and the Broad Institute. The program includes regular testing of all members of the community, including faculty, students, and staff. Currently, students are being tested twice a week. Adjustments to the frequency of our testing for Summer 2021 and Fall 2021 will be based on considerations such as the infection rate both at Barnard and in New York City and federal, state, and local requirements.

The results of our community testing as aggregate information are available on the [College's COVID-19 Dashboard](#), including the number of tests weekly and the percentage of positive test results.

8. Will Barnard require vaccinations?

We strongly encourage our faculty, staff, and students to get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as they are eligible. We will be in touch with enrolling students as soon as we have more information.