



Center for Accessibility Resources & Disability Services

BARNARD COLLEGE

Modification of the Barnard Language Requirement

Students who have disability-related concerns about meeting the Barnard Language Requirement should meet with the Center for Accessibility Resources & Disability Services (CARDS). Most students, including those with disabilities who anticipate difficulty in satisfying the Barnard language requirement, are expected to attempt elementary courses in language during their first year at Barnard. However, in some cases, students with an extensive documented history of unsuccessful language learning may be exempt from this requirement. Students should work closely with instructors and keep them, their advisers, and CARDS fully informed of difficulties in mastering course material.

Students with diagnosed disabilities who experience severe problems in language learning may choose to petition the faculty Committee on Programs and Academic Standing for a possible modification of the requirement. Students should discuss their specific situations with their advisers and the staff of CARDS and then meet with the Dean of Studies. The petitioning process can be lengthy and involved; careful planning, communication, and attention to detail are essential.

Petition forms are available from the Registrar's Office in 107 Milbank and should be accompanied by:

1. the student's written statement briefly summarizing their comprehensive academic record of language study in high school and college;
2. a letter from Director of Disability Services re: the student's disability related needs and their utilization of support services in attempting to meet the requirement;
3. a written statement from each of the student's language instructors commenting on their learning experience in language classrooms and assessing the student's ability to complete successfully the qualifying course for the requirement; (if appropriate given the student's situation)
4. a psychoeducational evaluation by a certified psychologist or recognized clinic which meets CARDS documentation guidelines.

The Committee carefully considers each petition and, if an exception is warranted, determines the specific modification appropriate to that individual student.