

“Adviser Cheat Sheet”: Anticipated Questions from Students to Advisers for Academic Year 2020-21 and Recommended Answers

What will the fall 2020 semester look like?

Refer to the 2020-21 Planning page for the most current information and FAQs that may be shared with students: <https://alert.barnard.edu/>.

Do I have to enroll in all three semesters for AY2020-21, Fall, Spring and Summer? Will students be limited to a maximum number of credits they may take for the year?

Students do not have to enroll in all three semesters, but all students who wish to enroll for AY20-21, should enroll for the fall semester (given the leave of absence policy in place for AY20-21). If a student wants to earn credit at any point this academic year, they should plan to enroll for the fall. Per the leave of absence policy (see below), students who don't enroll in the fall 2020 semester will not be guaranteed approval to enroll for the spring 2021 or summer 2021 semesters. Similarly, students who don't enroll in the spring will not be guaranteed approval to enroll for the summer 2021 or the fall 2021 semesters. Students on F-1 visas, as well as students on medical or required academic leaves, should talk to their class dean for information specific to them related to these policies.

Students will be limited to a maximum of 19 credits in a given semester, and 45 credits spread over the full year.

Can I enroll in all three semesters if I want to? And if so, will I be charged more for tuition and housing? How will financial aid be applied?

Students may enroll in all three semesters, and will not be charged for more than two semesters' tuition. For questions about summer housing, refer students to the Residential Life and Housing Office. And to the Office of Financial Aid for questions about financial aid.

What will be considered full-time enrollment?

We strongly recommend and expect that students register for a minimum of 12 credits for the Fall 2020 semester. However, the College is mindful of the current unique circumstances, and will be flexible in allowing students to take fewer credits in the Fall, provided their academic plan includes additional courses in Summer 2021. Students will be required to meet with their adviser and Class Dean to ensure they are making satisfactory academic progress toward the degree. Students who are in on-campus housing must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits. International students must be enrolled in at least 12 credits to maintain full time status for their student visas. Students enrolled in the Spring must take a minimum of 12 credits.

Will returning students be registering for Fall A and Fall B courses during the summer registration period starting on July 27?

Students will be registering for the full Fall 2020 semester (semester-long and Fall A and Fall B courses) during the summer registration period, July 27-August 7. However, students will be

able to add and drop Fall B immersive courses during the first week of Fall B classes (week of October 26).

Students may not add an immersive course after the first week of the class.

What are the Drop, P/D/F and Withdrawal deadlines for the Fall 2020 immersive courses?

Fall A: TBD (with Columbia)

Fall B: TBD

Fall semester-long courses: TBD

When are the summer course registration periods?

First Year students: August 11-14--pre-register for FY required courses only (First Year Writing, First Year Seminar, PE, introductory science courses)

September 4-5--register for additional courses for Fall semester-long and Fall A and Fall B immersive courses

Transfer students: August 25-27 and Sept 5

Returning students: July 27-31 and August 3-7

August 25-27

Sept 5

Will there be advising over the summer for students needing to change their fall course schedule?

New students: Incoming First Years will receive regular communications from the Dean of Studies Office's First-Year Team via the First-Year Class Blog.

Incoming Transfer students will be receiving communications from Christina Kuan Tsu and through the Transfer Facebook group page throughout the summer. There will also be summer advising days with the Transfer Advising Deans (Rebecca Grabiner, Evelyn Leong, Jemima Gedeon and Christina) in early to mid-August.

All students: **Class Deans** will host group advising sessions over Zoom on **July 15, 2-3pm and July 16, 8:30-9:30am.**

Launch Week, July 20-24: academic department planning meetings for majors and prospective majors, and individual advising appointments.

All students received an email about these group advising sessions on Wednesday, July 8.

Will there be virtual options for all classes in the Fall?

Yes, all classes will have a virtual component. Some large classes will be virtual only, while others will be “Hy-flex” with both in-person and virtual options. This is to take into account students who may not be able or would prefer not to travel to New York City.

I’m an international student living in China. If all courses are online in Fall 2020, I’m worried that they will all be taught in what will be, for me, the middle of the night. How is this going to work?

All Barnard faculty have been asked to record their classes to facilitate participation of students in different time zones. Students are expected to attend classes synchronously when they can; however, if students have issues regarding attending class synchronously, they should speak with their professors to discuss alternate ways to participate in the class.

If instruction is online, what kinds of preparations are being made to make online classes engaging, substantive learning experiences?

Faculty members have participated in online pedagogy workshops sponsored by the Center for Engaged Pedagogy and the Columbia Center for Teaching and Learning over the summer to learn how to engage students more effectively in an online learning environment.

If instruction is online, what preparations are being made to accommodate the needs of students with documented disabilities?

For faculty: [Guidance for Faculty on Universal Design and the Accommodations Process](#)

For students: [CARDS Fall 2020 Information for Current Students](#)

Will students be able to propose independent studies during the block periods, or would they be limited to proposing only semester-long independent studies?

Independent studies may be proposed for the block or semester periods, but the number of credits afforded will be determined by the [Guidance on Course Points](#). As always, students will need to consult with faculty to secure a faculty sponsor, and will need to have their requests for independent studies approved by the Committee on Programs and Academic Standing. It is strongly advised that students submit their independent study proposals early in the semester.

How will students’ performance in Fall 2020 classes be assessed?

The universal P/F policy applied to the Spring 2020 semester only. Fall 2020, Spring 2021 <https://www.college.columbia.edu/coursepoints> and Summer 2021 classes will be assessed according to standard grading policies. The Pass/D/Fail option will follow normal procedures, except that P/D/F courses will not count towards the 4-year total of 23 (22 for transfer students) elected P/D/F credits allowed. Students may not elect P/D/F for courses required for the major or minor. Students will have the option to uncover grades of P as in past semesters.

What is the deadline to submit grades for the immersive courses?

The grading deadline for the immersive courses is two weeks after submission date of the students’ final assessments.

What if I want to take a leave of absence for the fall semester?

Information about the leave of absence and return policies can be found here:

<https://barnard.edu/leaves-absence-and-returns>. A student may take a leave for a semester, year or even longer. Depending on when in the semester a student begins the LOA, the student may be eligible for a full or partial refund of tuition and/or housing costs, minus any housing cancellation fee (see [Housing Cancellation Policies](#)). Once 60% of the semester has passed, however, there is no refund.

Exception for AY20-21: Students on a voluntary LOA (not required academic LOA) for the Fall 2020 or Spring 2021 semester will not be able to transfer back any credits earned while on leave.

Students considering a leave of absence should make an appointment to meet with Dean Rebecca Grabiner, the College Case Manager: [Schedule an appointment](#).

If I take a leave of absence, will I be allowed to return whenever I want?**New for AY20-21:**

Students who take a voluntary leave (not medical or required academic leave) for the Fall 2020 semester are not guaranteed approval to return for the Spring 2021 or Summer 2021 semester; students who take a leave for the Spring 2021 semester are not guaranteed approval to return for the Summer 2021 or Fall 2021 semester.

If I am on a required academic leave for the Fall 2020 semester, do I have to be enrolled full time for the Spring 2021 and Summer 2021 semesters when I return? May I be part time for the Summer 2021 term and pay part-time tuition?

If a student returns for the Spring 2021 semester, they are expected to enroll in a minimum of 12 credits. Return for the Summer 2021 term policies have not yet been decided.

Since many colleges are going to be teaching online this year, can I get transfer credit for taking online classes at another institution (as was permitted for summer 2020)? Do the online courses need to be synchronous?

Students on voluntary leave of absence from the Fall 2020 or Spring 2021 semester (not required academic leaves) may not transfer credits back from another institution, domestic or abroad. For students who are required to complete credits as part of their required academic leaves, any online courses taken while on leave must be synchronous.

Since my Fall 2020 study abroad was cancelled, may I take a leave of absence and request return to Barnard and study abroad in Spring 2021?

The current policy is that students who return from a leave of absence may not study abroad in their first semester back at the College. This policy will remain the same for AY20-21.

Will it be possible to participate in a study abroad program for spring and summer next year? Will financial aid cover summer 2021 study abroad?

Fall 2020 study abroad has been cancelled. A decision about whether students will be permitted to study abroad for the Spring 2021 semester has not yet been made. Summer 2021 study abroad and financial aid policies have not yet been decided.

What is the process for returning to the College?

More information can be found here: <https://barnard.edu/returning-leave-absence>.

Deadlines to request return from leave of absence: for the Spring 2021 semester--November 1, 2020; for the Summer 2021 semester--March 1, 2021; for the Fall 2021 semester--June 1, 2021

If I take a leave of absence will I lose my guaranteed housing?

Regular policy: on-campus housing is not guaranteed for students returning from a leave of absence. Students returning from a medical leave of absence will receive priority consideration for on-campus housing. Students who take a voluntary leave of absence for the Fall 2020 or Spring 2021 semester will not have guaranteed housing for the semester of their return and (**exception for AY20-21**) may not have guaranteed housing at any point thereafter.

Will there be any changes to the schedule of fees for housing cancellation for students who take a leave of absence?

Cancellation fees charged to students who previously cancelled Fall 2020 housing will be automatically credited to their student account. These credits will be posted to student accounts by late July.

There will be no cancellation fees for First-years and Sophomores who cancel their housing/applications by Tuesday, July 21. Juniors and Seniors will have their applications automatically cancelled with no cancellation fee.

For students who confirm housing for the Fall (First-years, Sophomores, and Juniors/Seniors approved for exceptions), housing cancellations submitted starting Wednesday, July 22, will result in a cancellation fee. The cancellation fee policies and timetable are outlined at [Housing Cancellation Policies](#).

Is Barnard going to charge the same tuition for next year?

Yes, but there is no tuition increase for the 2020-2021 academic year, and tuition will cover all three semesters. All students will be charged the comprehensive fee regardless of whether they are on campus or not.