ACADEMIC ADVISING

Barnard’s model of shared advising, where faculty and administrators advise pre-major students, is one of the hallmarks of the Barnard experience. Although the responsibility of knowing the degree requirements rests with each student, advisers offer support, guidance, and a sounding board for students, helping them set goals and priorities, select courses, and understand the curriculum. Class Deans in the Dean of the College division also offer support, especially if students encounter issues or have concerns that might extend beyond the classroom.

Class Deans and Advisers

Prior to matriculation, each entering first-year student will receive A Guide to Your First Year at Barnard from the First-Year Class Dean. The student selects courses for the autumn term.

Students can enroll in their First-Year Experience courses over the summer, and the formal finalization of courses happens in the fall, during the Orientation and the first two weeks of class. Assistance in planning courses of study is given to first-year students and sophomores by their academic advisers with whom students are expected to schedule appointments for individual advising throughout the year.

By the second semester of sophomore year, each student chooses a major field in consultation with the Sophomore Class Dean, an adviser, and the academic department. From then on, the major adviser guides advanced study for the major.

Students are responsible for completing all degree requirements and completing 122 credits (121 credits) in order to graduate. Students who have completed the requisite number of credits and all of their Foundations and major requirements are expected to graduate.

Transfer Students

Incoming transfer students are assisted by the transfer advisers and the Transfer Advising Dean in planning their courses of study and selecting majors. Advising sessions are scheduled in the summer and during Orientation, and individual appointments may be arranged throughout the academic year. Transfer students who enter with junior class standing are guided by both transfer and major advisers during their first Barnard semester.

International Students

The Office of International Student Services supports all international students from the moment they have been accepted up through graduation and beyond. In addition to providing advising support, the Office provides programming for international students, as well as all information and support pertaining to visas, I-20s, and other travel matters.

Study Leaves

Students who wish to study abroad for credit toward the Barnard degree are urged to discuss their plans and to apply for approval from the Associate Provost early in the year prior to the period of enrollment at the other institution.

Honor Code

The Honor Code, instituted at Barnard in 1912, governs all aspects of academic life and is enforced by an Honor Board that has a membership of students and faculty members, advised by the Dean of Studies Office. The Judicial Council of undergraduates, faculty, and administrators recommends disciplinary action for non-academic offenses and acts on appeals of academic disciplinary sanctions determined by the Honor Board. A more complete explanation of the system may be found online. Each student who registers at Barnard agrees to maintain the Honor Code:

Approved by the student body in 1912 and updated in 2016, the Code states:

We, the students of Barnard College, resolve to uphold the honor of the College by engaging with integrity in all of our academic pursuits. We affirm that academic integrity is the honorable creation and presentation of our own work. We acknowledge that it is our responsibility to seek clarification of proper forms of collaboration and use of academic resources in all assignments or exams. We consider academic integrity to include the proper use and care for all print, electronic, or other academic resources. We will respect the rights of others to engage in pursuit of learning in order to uphold our commitment to honor. We pledge to do all that is in our power to create a spirit of honesty and honor for its own sake.

Graduate School Advising, Combined Plan Programs, 4+1

For students interested in study beyond the undergraduate level, or for students interested in pursuing a 4+1 program with Columbia in Engineering, Public Health, School for International and Public Affairs, or other programs, should consult with Beyond Barnard and with appropriate faculty advisers.

For students interested in medical school or any other training for the health professions (vet, nursing, pharmacy, etc.), they should consult the Health Professions Adviser at Beyond Barnard. Students interested in law school should also consult with Beyond Barnard.

For students pursuing medical school, there are many courses they should be taking at Barnard to develop the core competencies necessary to success on the MCAT and in medical school. To that end, students should work with their academic advisers to plan on taking a full year of Biology, a full year of Chemistry (following Barnard’s entire Chem sequence, OR Columbia’s, but not both), a full year of Physics, requisite Calculus courses, one semester of Biochemistry, as well as one Psychology course, two writing-intensive courses in a humanities field (preferably English), and other coursework as well. For details, direct students to Beyond Barnard.

Honors

The following awards, administered according to the provisions of their respective donors, were established to honor students who have shown exceptional distinction in their studies. Students do not apply for these awards; rather, recipients are selected by appropriate Faculty departments and committees.

Fellowships

Alpha Zeta Club Graduate Scholarship (1936)

For graduating seniors who show promise of distinction or to outstanding recent Barnard graduates who are candidates for higher degrees.
Associate Alumnae of Barnard College Graduate Fellowship (1963)
For a graduating senior or graduate who shows exceptional promise in her chosen field of work. Information and applications may be obtained in the Alumnae Office.

Anne Davidson Fellowship (1971)
For graduating seniors who will pursue graduate study in conservation at a university of approved standing.

George Welwood Murray Graduate Fellowship (1930)
For graduating seniors who show promise of distinction in the humanities and/or the social sciences and who will pursue graduate study at a university or college of approved standing.

Josephine Paddock Fellowship (1976)
For graduating seniors who show promise of distinction in such fields of graduate study in art as the faculty shall determine. Holders are to pursue studies, preferably abroad, at a college or university of approved standing.

Grace Potter Rice Fellowship (1935)
For graduating seniors who show promise of distinction in the natural sciences or mathematics and who will pursue graduate study at a university or college of approved standing.

General

Estelle M. Allison Prize (1937)
For excellence in literature.

Mary E. Allison Prize (1937)
For general excellence in scholarship.

Annette Kar Baxter Memorial Fund Prize (1984)
For juniors who have distinguished themselves in the study of some aspect of women's experience.

Frank Gilbert Bryson Prize (1931)
For a senior who, in the opinion of the class, has given conspicuous evidence of unselfishness and who has made the greatest contribution to Barnard during the college years.

Eleanor Thomas Elliott Prizes (1973)
Two prizes to juniors chosen by the Honors Committee from among the five most academically outstanding students in the class based upon overall academic record, integrity, and good citizenship in the College.

Katherine Reeve Girard Prize (1964)
For a student whose interests are in the international aspects of a major.

Ann Barrow Hamilton Memorial Prize in Journalism (1978)
For a graduating senior who will pursue a career in journalism.

Alena Wels Hirschorn Prize (1986)
For a senior majoring in economics, with preference for a student who has a strong interest in English literature and/or in pursuing a career in journalism.

Lucyle Hook Travel Grants (1987)
To promising individuals with enriching, eclectic projects that demonstrate originality and self-direction.

Jo Green Iwabe Prize (1986)
To a student for active participation in the academic and extracurricular life of the College.

Ethel Stone LeFrak Prize (1986)
For excellence in a field of the arts.

Schwimmer Prize (1986)
For an outstanding graduating senior in the humanities.

Bernice G. Segal Summer Research Internships (1986)
One or more internships for supervised research in the sciences during the summer.

Marian Churchill White Prize (1975)
For an outstanding sophomore who has participated actively in student affairs.

Premedical

Helen R. Downes Prize (1964)
For graduating seniors who show promise of distinction in medicine or the medical sciences.

Ida and John Kauderer Prize (1973)
For premedical students majoring in chemistry.

Barbara Ann Liskin Memorial Prize (1995)
For a premedical student committed to women's issues and to a humanistic approach to patient care.

Lucy Moses Award (1975)
For a premedical student likely to provide service to the medically underserved.

Gertrude Bungur Zufall Award (1987)
For a premedical student entering her senior year.

By Academic Area

American Studies

John Demos Prize in American Studies (1995)
Awarded to a senior major for excellence in American Studies.

Architecture

Marcia Mead Design Award (1983)
For architectural design.

Art History

Nancy Hoffman Prize (1983)
For students who plan to enter museum or gallery work or art conservatorship.

Virginia B. Wright Art History Prize (1969)
For promising seniors majoring in art history.

Asian-Middle Eastern Cultures

Taraknath Das Foundation Prize (Columbia University)
To a student of Barnard College, Columbia College, or the School of General Studies, for excellence in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.

Biological Sciences

Edna Henry Bennett Memorial Grants (1927)
For summer study at a biological research station.

Hermann Botanical Prize (1892)
For an undergraduate student proficient in biology.

Herbert Maule Richards Grants (1933)
For botanical or general biological research.
Donald and Nancy Ritchie Grants (1979)
For biological study or research.

Spiera Family Prize (1986)
For promise of excellence by a student majoring in biological sciences.

Constance Von Wahl Prize (1915)
For advanced work in biology.

Chemistry
American Chemical Society’s Division of Analytical Chemistry Award
For outstanding work in analytical chemistry.

American Chemical Society’s Division of Polymer Chemistry Award
For outstanding work in organic chemistry.

American Institute of Chemists, New York Chapter Prize
For an outstanding student of chemistry.

CRC Press First-Year Chemistry Achievement Award
For outstanding achievement in first-year chemistry.

Marie Reimer Scholarship Fund Prize (1953)
Awarded at the end of the junior year to an outstanding major in chemistry.

Economics
Alena Wels Hirschorn Prizes (1986)
To a junior and a senior for the best essay on a subject of domestic or international economics.

Beth Niemi Memorial Prize (1981)
For an outstanding senior majoring in economics.

Katharine E. Provost Memorial Prize (1949)
For superior work by an undergraduate major in economics.

Sylvia Kopald Seleman Prize (1960)
For the first-year student who is doing the best work in introductory economics.

Education
Susan Riemer Sacks Prize
For the Barnard student teacher who has made the most noteworthy contribution to secondary school classrooms.

Stephanie Kossoff Prize (1972)
For the student who has made the most noteworthy contribution or meaningful endeavor in childhood education.

English
Academy of American Poets Prize (Columbia University)
For the best poem or group of poems by a student.

Lenore Marshall Barnard Prizes (1975)
For both poetry and prose of distinction.

Saint Agatha-Muriel Bowden Memorial Prize (1971)
For superior proficiency in the study of Chaucer and medieval literature.

Bunner Award (Columbia University)
To the candidate for a Columbia degree who shall present the best essay on any topic dealing with American literature.

Doris E. Fleischman Prize (1992)
For the Barnard student judged to have written the best short piece, fiction or nonfiction.

W. Cabell Greet Prize (1974)
For excellence in English.

William Haller Prize (1987)
For excellence in the study of English literature.

Amy Loveman Memorial Prize (1956)
For the best original poem by an undergraduate.

Sidney Miner Poetry Prize (1962)
For the senior major who has shown distinction in the reading, writing, and study of poetry.

Peter S. Prescott Prize for Prose Writing (1992)
For a work of prose fiction which gives the greatest evidence of creative imagination and sustained ability.

Helen Prince Memorial Prize (1921)
For excellence in dramatic composition.

Helene Searcy Puls Prize (1984)
For the best poem in an annual student competition.

Stains-Berle Memorial Prize in Anglo-Saxon (1968)
For excellence in Anglo-Saxon language and literature.

Howard M. Teichmann Writing Prize (1986)
To a graduating senior for a written work or body of work that is distinguished in its originality and excellent in its execution.

Van Rensselaer Prize (Columbia University)
To the candidate for a Columbia degree who is the author of the best example of English lyric verse.

George Edward Woodberry Prize (Columbia University)
To an outstanding student of the University for the best original poem.

Environmental Science
Lillian Berle Dare Prize (1974)
For the most proficient Barnard senior who will continue to study in geography or a related field.

Henry Sharp Prize (1970)
For an outstanding student majoring in environmental science.

French
Helen Marie Carlson French Prize (1965)
For the best composition in fourth-term French.

Isabelle de Wyzewa Prize (1972)
For the best composition in the French course Major French Texts.

Frederic G. Hoffherr French Prize (1961)
To a student in intermediate French for excellence in oral French.

Eleanor Keller Prizes (1968)
For juniors in French literature and seniors in French culture.

Rosemary Thomas Prize in French (1966)
For evidence of a special sensitivity and awareness in the study of French poetic literature.

German
Dean Prize in German (1952)
For the senior who has throughout college done the best work in German language and literature.
German Scholarship Fund Prize (1950)
Awarded at the end of the junior year to an outstanding major in German.

Louise Stabenau Prize in German (1988)
Awarded to a junior or senior major for excellence in oral German.

Greek and Latin
John Day Memorial Prize (1986)
For a high-ranking sophomore in the field of Greek and Latin.

Earle Prize in Classics (Columbia University)
For excellence in sight translation of passages of Greek and Latin.

Benjamin F. Romaine Prize (Columbia University)
For proficiency in Greek language and literature.

Jean Willard Tatlock Memorial Prize (1917)
For the undergraduate student most proficient in Latin.

History
Eugene H. Byrne History Prize (1960)
For superior work by a history major.

Ellen Davis Goldwater History Prize (1982)
For superior work by a history major.

Italian
Bettina Buonocore Salvo Prize (1966)
For a student of Italian.

Speranza Italian Prize (1911)
For excellence in Italian.

Mathematics
Margaret Kenney Jensen Prize (1973)
To first-year students, sophomores, and juniors for excellence in mathematics.

Kohn Mathematical Prize (1892)
To a senior for excellence in mathematics.

Music
Robert Emmett Dolan Prize (Columbia University)
To a student in any division of the University for instruction on a chosen musical instrument.

Ethel Stone LeFrak Prize (1986)
For a graduating senior whose creative writing in music shows promise of distinction.

Philosophy
William Pepperell Montague Prize (1949)
For promise of distinction in the field of philosophy.

Gertrude Braun Rich Prize (1986)
For promise of excellence by a student majoring in philosophy.

Physical Education
Margaret Holland Bowl (1974)
For excellence in leadership and participation in Barnard intramurals and recreation.

Marion R. Philips Scholar-Athlete Award (1981)
To the senior female winner of a varsity letter who has achieved the highest cumulative academic average and who has participated on a Columbia University team for at least two years.

Tina Steck Award (1980)
For the most outstanding member of the Swimming and Diving Team.

Physics
Henry A. Boorse Prize (1974)
To a graduating Barnard senior, preferably a major in the department, whose record in physics shows promise of distinction in a scientific career.

Political Science
James Gordon Bennett Prize (Columbia University)
For the best essay on some subject of contemporary interest in the domestic or foreign policy of the United States.

Political Science Quarterly Prize (2000)
To a Barnard political science major for excellence in analytical writing on public or international affairs in a paper that has been presented in a colloquium.

Phoebe Morrison Memorial Prize (1969)
For a political science major planning to attend law school.

Psychology
Hollingworth Prize (2000)
For an outstanding research project in psychology.

Ida Markewich Lawrence Prize (1982)
For the best paper in psychology, preferably child psychology, by a major.

Millennial Psychology Prize (2000)
For a student who plans to continue her scientific or professional training in psychology or a related discipline.

Religion
Samuel Dornfield Prize (1979)
To a Barnard student whose work in Old Testament or Ancient Near Eastern Studies reflects special sensitivity and academic excellence.

Caroline Phelps Stokes Prize (Columbia University)
For the best essay on any topic approved by the Stokes Prize Committee, which has been presented in course or seminar work.

Spanish
John Bornemann Prize in Spanish (1976)
For superior performance in the first- or second-year language courses.

Carolina Marcial-Dorado Fund (1953)
For a student from Spain, or to a Spanish major continuing graduate studies in the United States or abroad, or to a student who is majoring in Spanish.

Eugene Raskin Prize
For the best essay in fourth-term Spanish.

Clara Schiffrin Memorial Spanish Prize (1998)
For an outstanding student of Spanish and Latin American Cultures in courses above the level of Spanish 1204.

Spanish Prize (1959)
For a Spanish major who has done the most distinguished work in Spanish language and literature.
Ucelay Recitation Prize
For the best recitation of a poem or dramatic passage in Spanish.

Susan Huntington Vernon Prize (Seven Colleges)
For the best original essay written in Spanish by a senior whose native language is not Spanish.

Theatre
Kenneth Janes Prize in Theatre (1987)
For a Barnard junior or senior who has contributed notably to the theatre program of the Minor Latham Playhouse.

Women's Studies
Bessie Ehrlich Memorial Prize (1980)
For an oral history project concerning a female relative of a preceding generation, in conjunction with the Women's Studies Department.

Jane S. Gould Prize (1982)
For an outstanding senior essay by a Women's Studies major.