

# Bard Transfer Podcast

0:00 Josh: Well hi! Welcome to another edition of our podcast series. Today, we're really going to focus on transfer applications to Bard, and I am Josh Tyler, I'm one of the Assistant Directors of Admission. I'm here with Greg, who is a Senior Associate Director of Admission, and also the Director of Transfer Admissions. So, hi Greg!

0:22 Greg: Hey, it's great to be here.

0:23 Josh: Well thanks for talking to us a bit. My first question is, what really qualifies a person to be a transfer applicant?

0:32 Greg: Well, they have to have applied to and been admitted to another college. They've earned credits there, and then they have decided, gee, this is not the fit for me, or, my interests have changed, or, their life could have shifted in some way, and they now want to apply to another college. So, if you are a transfer applicant, as I say, you've actually been enrolled and have earned some credits, there is a distinction here, if you go off to your school, to your college, and in that first semester you realize that this is not the right fit, or whatever changes might occur, that you then leave the college and not earn any credits, then you actually could apply to Bard as a first-year applicant. It would come up in your application that you had applied and been accepted at another college, but since you didn't earn any credits, it's sort of like a do-over.

1:40 Josh: Right. So you mentioned, Greg, that sometimes, you know, if someone wants to change the school that they're in because they're unhappy or life circumstances change. Is it common for two year institutions, for students to transfer from, say a community college?

1:54 Greg: Absolutely. In fact, we have seven or eight Bard High School Early Colleges, where students complete their high school and an Associate's Degree, then apply to other colleges, and they apply here as well. So we are quite used to seeing students coming in with Associate's Degrees. It's not necessary, you can come in with a maximum of 64 transferrable credits, and not have completed the Associate's Degree, but still would be considered a junior coming into Bard. So, you have some choices there. But if you get your Associate's Degree, and want to come to Bard, you certainly can apply to do so.

4:39 Josh: So someone can transfer with up to 64 credits. Is there a restriction on what credits will transfer? Or can any credits transfer?

2:51 Greg: Well, like most schools, Bard in most cases, does not take all of the credits that you might have earned at another institution. The rule here is, if we teach a similar class, and you have a C or higher grade in that class, then the credits will transfer. So, we can estimate for students who are looking to see just how many credits might transfer. I do that on a regular basis, students email me their transcripts and I can take a look at them and determine how many credits would come over. Now, if a student has earned more than 64 credits, it's not like those other credits disappear, it's that we can only count 64 of them toward the Bard degree. So, they would end up graduating from Bard with more than the 128 required to graduate from Bard. The other half of this is that you have to earn a minimum of 64 credits here at the Annandale campus. So, you know, that's something that might be difficult if you're transferring because you want to then study abroad, and you come in as a junior. Just realize that you have to spend four semesters here in Annandale. It could mean that you take five semesters to finish the degree, because you want to be in France for that fifth semester. But that's the way the credits work, and one more thing about transference of credits - if you have less than 28 transferable credits to begin with, then you need to apply for the fall semester. We don't take first year, mid-year transfer students spring term. So if you've earned less than 28 transferable credits, you need to apply for fall, and not for spring term.

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4:44 Josh: That's great, because that will segue nicely into my next question, which is how would one apply as a transfer student?

4:50 Greg: Okay, the Common Application now has two separate applications: a transfer one, and a first year application. So you would use the transfer Common Application. You would submit a transcript of your college work. If you will not have earned an Associate's Degree, or completed two years of college at another institution at the time that you would enroll at Bard, then we would also need a high school transcript. We don't need a secondary school report from your old high school, but we do need something called the College Report, which is not a recommendation, it's a check on your status and standing at your current or most recent institution. So the College Report is something that you print out from Common App, take to the registrar's office, in most cases, at the college that you are leaving, and they will fill that out. They'll either send that to us or hand it back to you to send to us. Then, in addition two letters of recommendation, we would prefer that they come from college professors, but sometimes a student is transferring because the classes are so big, and they haven't gotten to know their college professors. So, in that case, they could submit high school recommendations, but we would prefer them from senior year. So, the most recent recommendations you can get, are the best. And then of course the application itself. There are some deadlines here, we don't have rolling admission, so if you are applying for spring term and are eligible to do so, November 1st is the application deadline and we will let you know the first of December what our admission decision is. And if you're applying for fall, then March 1st is the deadline, and we will let you know by mid-April what the admission decision is.

6:50 Josh: Greg, are there any special requirements or restrictions or special steps that a transfer student may have to take that a first year student would not?

6:59 Greg: In most cases, no. If you are applying to the Conservatory of Music for example, as a transfer student, then you would have to submit a pre-screening recording and fill out a separate Conservatory application, which is separate from the Common Application. The only other exception to that would be if you are transferring to study photography at Bard, and that specifically does require you submit a portfolio of prints, there is a format for the portfolio, which you can access right online under the transfer web page, in the admission portion of the Bard website, but it is a series of prints and not electronic, so you can see the format at our website. But even if you're not planning to major in photography, you can share your work with us through the portfolio tab on your Bard Applicant Portal, and it will accept any format, so video, audio, text, whatever you'd like to share with the Admission Office, which may or may not be the subject area you want to major in when you get to Bard.

8:18 Josh: Great, now, Greg, in terms of interviews, is that something that is encouraged or required, or do we even have interviews for transfer students?

8:26 Greg: We do have interviews for transfer students! We would prefer that they be on campus rather than Skype interviews or coming out to different areas, because it's really important for a transfer candidate to go to the school they might be transferring into. In fact, one of the reasons they may be transferring, is they might not have visited the school that they ended up going to and now they want to leave. So we really encourage transfer candidates to come and visit Bard, and then if they would like to interview, they can set that up, schedule that online on our Admission website. It's not required, it is optional, and the interview is more than just learning about the transfer student, him or herself, but discussing things like the number of credits that would transfer and whether or not they would be required to do our first year program, for example. But with 28 transferable credits coming in, students are exempt from First Year Seminar, and the two three-week workshops, Language and Thinking, and Citizen Science. And whether or not they can immediately moderate into their area of study. These are questions that counselors here can answer for the transfer candidate that might not be as clear on the website. It's more than just finding out about the candidate, it's more informational as well. Especially if the candidate might have been to two different colleges, or they're radically changing their major, or how many semesters will it take if they decide to do the Conservatory program, which is five years for those who start here at Bard, how many semesters does that add to their total. So a lot of questions can be wrapped up in an interview, and we do suggest it, though it's not required.

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10:28 Josh: Great Greg, and you mentioned majoring, and certainly students who would be transferring are much closer to that process. Many students will be coming in as juniors or second semester sophomores. At Bard, we have a process called moderation, which would be how one would declare their major, how would that process work for somebody who's transferring in to Bard?

10:50 Greg: Transfers have two semesters in which to complete their moderation. So if they come in as juniors, say they have an Associate's Degree, they come in as juniors, they would have then that first year here at Bard in order to complete their moderation where they formally declare and are accepted into the area of study in which they will complete a Senior Project. Most transfers, I'd say the majority of transfers, come in as sophomores, a few less would be juniors, we do have some, technically they're first year transfers, they've completed one semester at another school, earn credits, but they take a leave of absence in the spring, for example, and then apply to come in the fall. They would be required to do the first year program, First Year Seminar, and they start out as first year students. They have two years then, as all of our first year students at Bard do, to complete their moderation at the end of their sophomore year. We really discourage students from coming in after completing three years at another college, in other words, transferring as seniors, because right off the bat, they're required to do two years at Bard, so essentially their junior year they have to redo. So we would discourage those who are thinking about transferring in as seniors.

12:18 Josh: Thanks Greg, that's very helpful. One last question: is there an age limit on how old one could be to apply as a transfer?

12:28 Greg: Not to apply as a transfer. If you are twenty-four years or older, and have twenty-eight transferable credits, then we would automatically put you in this category called "returning to college program", so RCP. Students are twenty-four years or older, they have at least one year's worth of credits, twenty-eight transferable credits, and they could be of any age. We don't take incoming first-year students who are older than twenty-four years old. So yes, you can be any age, just so long as you have a year's worth of college credits already.

13:11 Josh: Great! Well, thanks Greg, this was really helpful. Thank you for taking the time out of your schedule to talk with us a bit here in your office. You may have heard some office noises during the podcast, but we're really grateful that Greg is able to talk with us. Definitely stay tuned for future podcasts, and take care. Thank you!