

Bard Transfer and Return to College Program Podcast

00:00 Josh: Welcome back everybody to the next edition of our podcast series. I am Josh Tyler, one of the assistant directors of admission. And as usual, I am joined by our director of admission, Mackie Siebens.

0:12 Mackie: Hi, Josh. Hi everyone. My name is Mackie Siebens, as Josh said, I am the director of admission, alumna of the college, graduated in 2012. And today we are going to be talking to you about opportunities for transfer and return to college program students. So, we are going to be going over application dates and deadlines and what it looks like to apply to Bard as transfer students. So, to start off with, Josh, could you talk a little bit about . . . basically giving us an overview of how a student applies to Bard, when they apply to Bard if they are a transfer student or a return to college student?

0:48 Josh: Definitely, Mackie! I was actually a transfer student to Bard myself and certainly, some things have changed over time. But we will give you a sense of what it looks like currently. So, generally, students would have to apply via the common application and there is a special transfer common app. So, make sure that when you are filling out common application, you are actually filling out the transfer application, not the first-year application. There are some significant differences between the two and it also lets us know that you are applying as a transfer. Transfer students have two options when they apply. You can apply as either a spring transfer or a fall transfer. If you are applying for the spring, our deadline is November 1st. If you are applying for the fall, our deadline is March 1st. Now, what constitutes a transfer student at Bard would be any student who has matriculated for a full semester. Generally, that would be a full-time student between 12 and 16 credits or so, for at least one semester, would be considered a transfer student. So, you would have the ability to apply as a transfer student as long as you have been matriculated for a semester. We also have interviews available in both the fall and the spring, they are not necessarily required for traditional transfer students. But they are certainly available for you to take advantage of.

2:15 Mackie: Thanks, Josh! And can you also talk a little bit, too, about how credits transfer from one institution to the other? Saying a student who is a transfer would be bringing some credits with them theoretically?

2:27 Josh: Absolutely! So, credits transfer at Bard if you have at least a C or higher in that particular class. And if that class is like one that we offer here at the college. So, if the course is not something that we offer here, for example, maybe you did a fashion design class or a business class that isn't offered in our Economics program. Those credits may not transfer, but if you say, took a music class or a biology class, those classes would transfer as long as you had a C or higher. And you can transfer with up to 64 credits in total which are actually half of the credits that are needed to complete your bachelor's degree here at Bard.

03:11 Mackie: Great! Thanks, Josh! So, maybe it might be a great time too to bring up return to college students and make the distinction, for anyone listening, who may be 24 years old or older. We have our RCP, Return to College Program, that allows students to apply through exactly the same method that Josh outlined, the transfer and our RCP students both complete the transfer student common app application. RCP students can apply to transfer by submitting their application by November 1st for the spring enrollment or March 1st for the fall enrollment. Exactly the same dates deadlines. RCP students are required to interview. So, we do have those interview slots, that Josh mentioned, open. And RCP students should sign up for one or reach out to us if they have questions registering for an interview. RCP students don't have to do anything special to indicate that they are an RCP applicant. The date of

birth will indicate to us: the age of 24 or older, so that will all be taken care of. And there are a couple of special things that are offered to RCP students. One of which is something call the Bard Baccalaureate Scholarship, which is a named scholarship for RCP students exclusively. If you want to find out more about the Bard Baccalaureate, if you are a RCP applicant interested in applying, you can go to bac.bard.edu. It's a special program that brings students in as a cohort. It offers certain selected classes in a cohort model. And of course, it offers some financial aid that's associated with that program as well. Also, it's a bit of a special program for students who are looking for a particular cohort model as they move through to finish their bachelor's degree. So, now that we are sort of on the topic of financial aid as we are speaking to that very special opportunity for our RCP students. Josh, do you want to a little bit more broadly for us about financial aid opportunities that are open to all transfer and RCP students and what those forms, dates, and deadlines look like?

5:17 Josh: Sure, absolutely! So, I think one important thing to mention is that financial aid for transfer students looks exactly the same as it does for first year students. So, the same amount of aid and types of aid that are available for transfer students as they are for first years. We have all need-based aid here at the college and you are automatically considered for the need-based aid by filling out the FASFA and CSS profiles. If you are applying for the spring, the deadline would be December 1st. If you are applying for the fall, the deadline would be March 1st. As long as you have submitted those forms on time, you would receive your financial aid package with your admission decision. Now you will automatically be considered, as I mentioned, for financial aid, based on need, by filling out those forms. But if you should know that there are a variety of scholarships on our financial aid website that are additional scholarships that can be applied for by filling out a simple form. There are various categories for these scholarships. One is specifically for science and mathematics majors, called the Distinguished Scientist Scholarship. We have one in the area of Economics which is the Levy Economics Scholarship. The President's Scholarship, one in civic engagement and community service called the Civic Engagement Scholarship. And as I mentioned, there are several that you can choose from. If any of those you feel are right for you, you are more than welcome to apply for them. Generally, they have a GPA minimum of 3.3 or higher to be considered eligible for those. But by all means, you certainly can apply for those in addition to the general Bard scholarships that we have available.

07:06 Mackie: Thanks, Josh! What I think we might want to touch on next is the living situation for students who are transfer students or RCP students. It's important for the RCP students to know that RCP students are not offered housing on campus. So, those students live off campus exclusively. Transfer students, who come in and have the standing of a first-year student or a sophomore student depending on the credits that are transferred over, must live on campus. This is the entire campus policy: so, all first year and sophomore students live on campus. And then, once students moderate and move into becoming an upperclassman, whether you are a junior or a senior, those students have the option of living off campus if they want to. But housing is guaranteed all four years. So, if you are a transfer student coming in, with a significant number of credits transferred, and you actually have junior standing, you will be able to live off campus if you want to. There are some great places to live in the area. Local towns, Tivoli and Red Hook, are very popular. Our shuttle goes to those all day long so it's very easy to commute from those towns to campus and back, even if you don't have a car. So those are some popular places for students to live. And sort of moving into talking a little bit about the community and being part of the community that you live with, work with, you share classroom places and extracurricular activities spaces with. It's important for us that students feel connected to the students that they are joining the Bard campus with. So, we try to think of cohort models really intentionally. And our orientation program for transfer students does just that: it brings the students together, allows students to connect with their fellow transfer and RCP students. And we do have a mandatory two-week orientation that students take, whether it's in august before the start of the fall semester, or in January before the start of the spring semester. And the orientation pulls from themes that all first-year students actually do as well. These are the

themes of Language and Thinking and Citizen Science, which make up the arch of the first-year program. And those themes are pulled into a robust orientation for transfer and RCP students as well, again, to really help students adjust, to find community, to practice some free writing and discussion in very small classes, to think about sciences and their role as community members as well as the world of math, science, and computing. So just some things to think about. I think that brings us to a close here, Josh. Anything else to add?

09:48 Josh: No, I think that's great! I agree and I think we covered everything. And if anyone has any questions out there, certainly reach out to admission@bard.edu and we definitely will be able to answer your questions. And you know, we look forward to receiving your applications and being in touch soon! And take care!

10:10 Mackie: Thanks, everyone! Thanks, Josh!