

Bard Sequence

Bringing college to high school

OVERVIEW

Drawing on the success of the Bard Early Colleges, a network of public early college programs operated by Bard College, an independent, nonprofit college of the liberal arts and sciences with a strong public interest mission, the Bard Sequence is an authentic college experience in the liberal arts for high school students. Specifically, the Bard Sequence is composed of Bard's signature interdisciplinary humanities Seminar Sequence, offered across four semesters. Taught by college professors selected and trained by Bard in early college pedagogy with course materials and resources developed by Bard, the Bard Sequence will build high school students' writing, critical thinking, textual analysis, and communication skills and expose them to true college work. The Bard Sequence aims to enhance students' high school experience and increase their chances of success in postsecondary degree programs.

INSTRUCTION

Schools that are interested in implementing the Bard Sequence will have the opportunity to offer dual enrollment courses to their students in their school buildings with courses built into the school schedule. There is a cap of 20 students per course section.

Faculty are recruited, selected (with approval of the partner), and trained by Bard College. Partner schools have the option to bring faculty into their school as a full-time instructor or as a part-time adjunct professor.

All faculty are required to have a terminal degree in the humanities or social sciences. New faculty will receive early college pedagogy training from Bard to help them effectively deliver the courses to adolescents. Faculty will also receive regular support from Bard College.

THE CURRICULUM

The Bard Sequence consists of two year-long courses (totaling 12 Bard College credits) in the humanities that build upon one another, exploring themes of identity, disruption, and civilization through the exploration of canonical texts in history, literature, and philosophy.

The Freshman and Sophomore Seminar Sequence is taught at all Bard College campuses (including the Bard Early Colleges) and is the foundational course upon which Bard students develop skills necessary to succeed in college, such as critical thinking, textual analysis and interrogation, academic research, college writing, and debate.

The Bard Sequence curriculum and associated resources are developed by Bard Early College faculty and draw on experience and expertise from across Bard's 17-year-old network of early college campuses. The curricular resources include syllabi, lesson and unit plans, and sample questions and assessments.

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ADMISSIONS

Students enrolled in the Bard Sequence are chosen through a qualitative admissions process designed by Bard College. This process includes an interview and a writing assessment, modeled on the assessment used at the Bard Early College campuses. Bard will be involved in the selection of students for the pilot sites, with Partner input.

PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION

Bard is committed to forming lasting partnerships with schools offering the Bard Sequence. The Director of the Bard Sequence and the partner school's designated liaison will work together to ensure effective implementation of the courses. Bard Early College staff will support the program by providing ongoing academic support and oversight and making adjustments as needed.

The Bard Sequence costs include compensation for the instructor (either embedded as a full-time employee or paid as an adjunct), professional development (either only for the Sequence instructor or for some or all teachers at the school), and the Bard College academic oversight and support. Bard College will work with partner sites to determine a sustainable pricing model for the school.

ABOUT BARD COLLEGE AND THE BARD EARLY COLLEGES

Founded in 1860, Bard College is an independent nonprofit liberal arts college with a commitment to equity and excellence in higher education. In service of this commitment, Bard operates a network of tuition-free early colleges in partnership with public school systems in New York, Newark, Cleveland, Baltimore, New Orleans, and Washington, D.C. (as of Fall 2019). The Bard Early College model has proven effective in a range of contexts since the founding of the first campus in 2001. In the Bard High School Early College Class of 2018, 97% of students earned a high school diploma and on average 59 transferable college credits, and approximately 85% of students continued their education at four-year colleges and universities, with over 90% completing undergraduate degrees (Class of 2005-2018).

