

Brooklyn College  
**Honors Academy**



# Brooklyn College Honors Academy

Intellectual discovery is the heart of the Brooklyn College Honors Academy. Students are introduced to the challenges and satisfactions of research and scholarship. Their teachers are recognized as leading scholars in fields as diverse as medieval history and medical ethics.

Honors Academy students learn to pose meaningful questions and find answers by engaging in research independently and collaboratively with their peers. Students are encouraged to explore the cultural, philosophical, and scientific dimensions of issues and to reach conclusions by analyzing and synthesizing information from several academic disciplines.

The academy, with more than four hundred students, functions as a small liberal arts school within Brooklyn College. Students enjoy close working relationships with faculty mentors who guide their undergraduate programs and help them plan for graduate study.

At the same time, the academy draws on the resources of one of the nation's leading urban colleges. Brooklyn College offers more than seventy undergraduate programs. The College's laboratories support pioneering research



in aquaculture, child development, artificial intelligence, and new materials creation. The College's facilities for the fine arts and performing arts support a diverse and rich arts program.

Honors Academy students take full advantage of the alliance between the Honors Academy and the College's Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities. The Wolfe Institute presents one of New York City's most stimulating series of public seminars, conferences, lectures, and discussions.

Within the academy, students meet frequently in seminars and colloquia to share the results of their studies and their research with other students. They have a genuine interest in learning from each other, and they take pride in one another's accomplishments. Their Honors Academy peers are often their best friends.

"I'm a sociology major," said one student, "but through the academy, I've come to know students majoring in the sciences. I've learned a lot by being exposed to the best students in other academic disciplines."

The cultural and social diversity of the academy's students is an important part of their educational experience.

While they gain an appreciation for each other's experiences and perspectives, they learn to probe complicated topics, evaluate the ideas of others, and argue their own points of view. The result is an intellectual adventure that places responsibility for learning on the students themselves. "Honors Academy students construct their own knowledge," a faculty mentor said about this collaborative learning process. "It is the best kind of education because it fosters both social and intellectual maturity."

Honors Academy students enrich the academic life of the entire College. They serve as role models for other students. They bring their knowledge and diverse experiences to classroom discussions beyond the academy. And many work as peer tutors in the Brooklyn College Learning Center, helping other students master course material and develop a clear and persuasive writing style.

"It is a thrill for me to work with academy students," said one faculty mentor. "The level of their discussion, their commitment to learning, and their support for classmates throughout the campus make them special people."

Honors Academy alumni have gone on to study at prestigious graduate and professional schools. Graduates have been accepted into doctoral programs at Yale, Oxford, Princeton, Notre Dame, and the University of California at Berkeley, among other universities. Graduates have gained admission to Columbia-Presbyterian, Cornell, and other medical schools, and they have attended law schools across the country.

"The academy put me over the top," said one senior who has been accepted into Stanford University's Ph.D. program in English. "It has given me the confidence to succeed."

The Honors Academy at Brooklyn College comprises nine highly selective programs: the CUNY Honors College at Brooklyn College, the Brooklyn Scholars Program, the Coordinated B.A.-M.D. Program, the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, the Minority Access to Research Careers Program, the Engineering Honors Program, the Special Baccalaureate Degree Program, the Dean's List Honors Research Program, and the Honors Academy Research Colloquium.

Students may join more than one Brooklyn College Honors Academy program. Members of the academy have access to all Honors Academy facilities, including a student commons room, computers, study space, and faculty offices. Entering freshmen may apply to enter four Honors Academy programs. The **CUNY Honors College at Brooklyn College** is the City University of New York's cross-campus liberal arts program for University Scholars. The **Brooklyn Scholars Program** is the Honors Academy's signature interdisciplinary liberal arts program in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences. Successful members of the **Coordinated B.A.-M.D. Program**, a premier program of premedical preparation, are accepted by the State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn. The curriculum of the **Engineering Honors Program** is coordinated with Polytechnic University. After completing about 75 credits of basic engineering and Core Studies, Students in the Engineering Honors Program transfer to Polytechnic University, City College, the College of Staten Island, or other engineering institutes.

Students may apply to the CUNY Honors College and the B.A.-M.D. Program *only* as entering freshmen. Students may apply to the Brooklyn Scholars Program as matriculated and transfer students if they have completed no more than 45 credits and to the Engineering Honors Program if they have completed no more than 30 credits.

*Entering students applying to multiple programs should contact the Office of Admissions for further information.*

Matriculated and transfer students may also apply to two Honors Academy upper-division programs after they have completed 45 credits. The **Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship** supports eligible students headed for graduate study in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences. The **Minority Access to Research Careers Fellowships** is Brooklyn College's program for minority honor students interested in pursuing research careers in the biomedical sciences.

In the **Dean's List Honors Research Program** and the **Honors Academy Research Colloquium**, upper-division students research topics in their major discipline or an interdisciplinary program.

The **Special Baccalaureate Degree Program** is designed for exceptional students returning to college as adults. Special Bacc students may become members of the Honors Academy after their first year at Brooklyn College.



# CUNY Honors College

The CUNY Honors College offers a liberal arts education in a context of cross-campus collegiality within the City University of New York. It accepts students who seem likely to flourish in meeting the challenges of learning and leadership in a global environment and provides them with access to CUNY's many accomplished, internationally renowned faculty members.

Students who join the CUNY Honors College at Brooklyn College take most of their courses on the Brooklyn College campus. They frequently have contact with CUNY Honors College students from other campuses and attend cultural and scientific institutions and events in New York City. Faculty advisers help students choose their courses and a major, plan internships and study abroad, arrange to study with appropriate faculty members on other CUNY campuses, and look ahead to careers or graduate school.

During their first two years in college, students take four Honors College interdisciplinary seminars. The seminars focus on New York

City's arts, history, scientific and technical initiatives, and economic life. For example, the first seminar, "The Arts in New York City," focuses on currently available literary, performing, and visual arts. Students meet with arts professionals and examine events from the perspectives of scholarship, production, and creativity. The second seminar, "The Peopling of New York," investigates the role of immigration and migration in shaping New York City's identity, focusing on the influence of gender, ethnicity, race, and religion; neighborhood and community formation; and the impact of newcomers on urban culture and politics. Students engage in a team research project on a current city planning or policy issue. Cultural Passports provide free or discounted access to many New York City cultural events. The CUNY Honors College summer orientation program prepares students for the cross-campus aspects of the program.

During their last two years, students undertake honors work in the department of their major. At Brooklyn College, CUNY Honors



College students remain members of the Honors Academy. They may also be selected to join the Honors Academy's capstone program, the Honors Academy Research Colloquium.

Students may apply to the CUNY Honors College only as entering freshmen (deadline for early decision, November 1; for regular decision, December 15), using the CUNY Honors Application Form available from high school college advisers and the Brooklyn College Office of

Admissions. The CUNY Honors College welcomes applications from students of diverse cultural, ethnic, racial, and religious backgrounds.

*Students applying to multiple programs should contact the Office of Admissions for further information.*

# Brooklyn Scholars Program

Initiated in 1959 with support from the Ford Foundation, the Brooklyn Scholars Program at Brooklyn College was among the first honors programs established at an American college. It quickly became a model for similar programs elsewhere.

Interdisciplinary study is the program's guiding concept. Students explore relationships among fields of study that encompass the humanities, sciences, and social sciences.

In recent years, for example, students have studied the conflicts that occur between the native plants and trees of Staten Island woodlands and those imported from other continents; the sociopolitical issues raised by large demographic changes in a Brooklyn neighborhood; and the cultural significance of male and female characters as portrayed in Disney films.

Brooklyn Scholars take an honors writing course, a sophomore seminar, a senior colloquium, and honors sections of five Core Studies courses: Core 1, *The Classical Origins of Western Culture*; Core 3, *People, Power, and Politics*; Core 4, *The Shaping of the Modern World*; Core 6, *Landmarks of*

*Literature*; and Core 10, *Knowledge, Existence, and Values*.

Brooklyn Scholars are encouraged to earn honors credit for regular courses by undertaking independent research. Students consult faculty mentors, but they select their own topics and take responsibility for the direction of their study. In the final year, each Brooklyn Scholar must write a senior thesis based on a yearlong research project of the student's choosing.

Some students in the program broaden their educational experience by studying abroad or at another college during their junior year. Others elect to complete an off-campus internship.

**Professor of English  
Kenneth A. Bruffee,  
director of the Brooklyn  
Scholars Program and  
the Honors Academy,  
uses collaborative  
learning to stimulate  
classroom discussion.**



# Brooklyn Scholars Program

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## Entrance requirements

Admission to the Brooklyn Scholars Program is competitive. It is based on an applicant's SAT scores, grade point average, personal essay, graded academic essay, and letters of recommendation. Successful applicants have at least a 90 average in academic subjects and a minimum combined SAT score of 1200 that in most cases includes a verbal score of 660 or better.

Candidates for the Brooklyn Scholars Program are selected from students applying for full-time admission to Brooklyn College in the fall semester. Matriculated students and transfer students may also apply if they have accumulated no more than 45 credits. Brooklyn Scholars may major in any academic discipline offered by the College.



Students may apply to the Brooklyn Scholars Program as entering freshmen (annual deadline December 31), using the combined Scholars Program/Engineering Honors Freshman Application and the CUNY Freshman Application available from high school college advisers, the Brooklyn College Office of Admissions, and the Honors Academy, 2231 Boylan Hall. Students who apply after December 31 must pick up application forms in the Honors Academy.

*Students applying to multiple programs should contact the Office of Admissions for further information.*

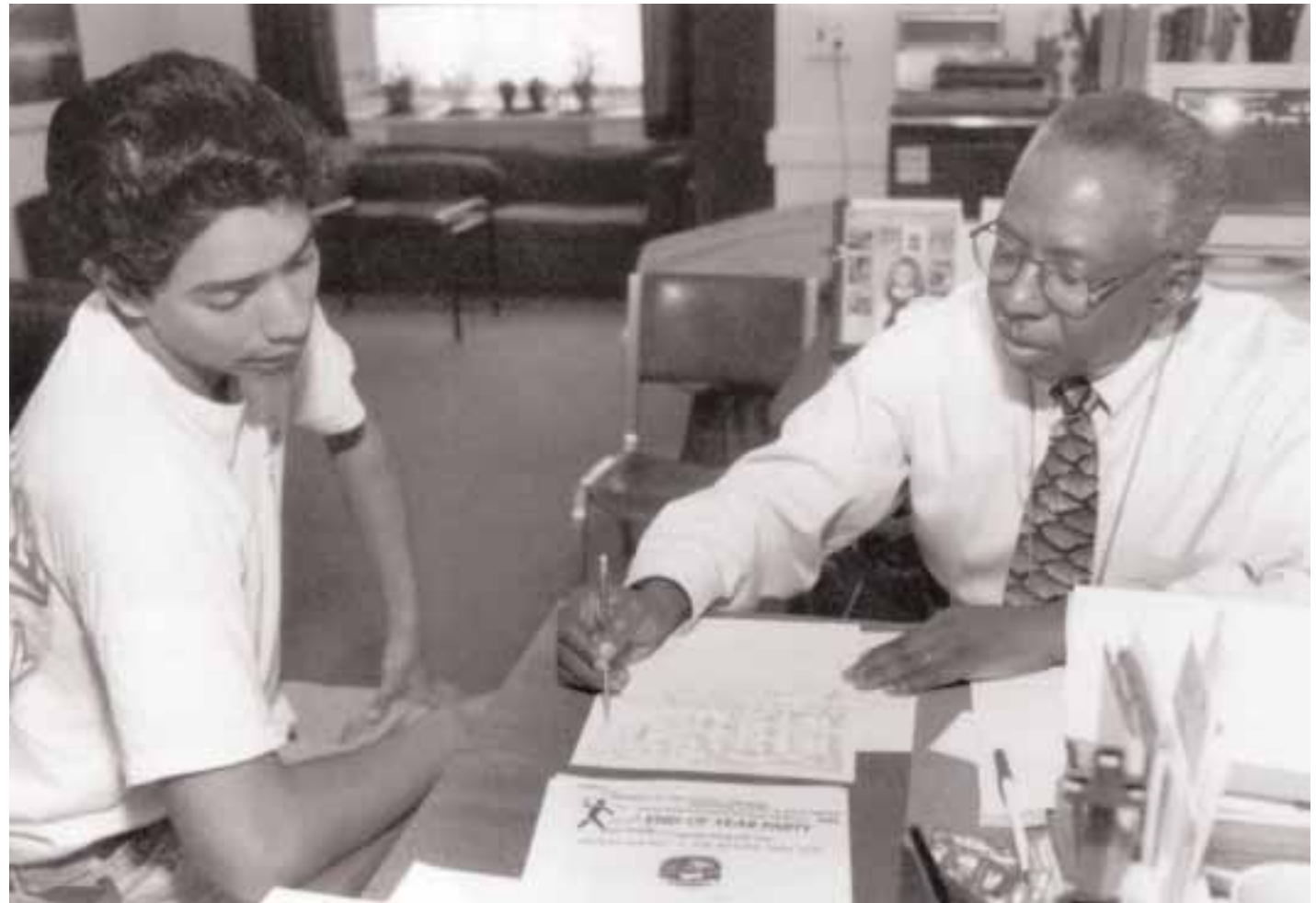
The Brooklyn Scholars Program welcomes applications from students of diverse cultural, ethnic, racial, and religious backgrounds.

# Coordinated B.A.-M.D. Program

**T**he relationship between physician and patient is a profoundly human experience. The Coordinated B.A.-M.D. Program, which is offered jointly with the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center at Brooklyn, introduces students to the human dimensions of medicine early in their undergraduate careers. The program produces physicians who are concerned and knowledgeable about the caring, as well as the curing, dimensions of medicine.

Students are encouraged to major in philosophy, English, sociology, or other disciplines in the humanities or social sciences. Students who major in the sciences are required to complete a nonscience minor. All students take honors sections of three Core Studies courses: Core 1, *The Classical Origins of Western Culture*; Core 3, *People, Power, and Politics*; and Core 10, *Knowledge, Existence, and Values*. They may also take an honors section of Core 4, *The Shaping of the Modern World*, and Core 6, *Landmarks of Literature*.

B.A.-M.D. students participate in an eight-week clinical internship, typically during the summer between



their freshman and sophomore years.

All B.A.-M.D. students take a senior seminar, titled “Health Care in the Inner City,” which has a community

medicine perspective. It is taught jointly by a faculty member from Brooklyn College and from SUNY Downstate Medical Center at Brooklyn.

**Robert Scott,**  
coordinator of the  
Honors Academy, offers  
additional support and  
counseling to students.

# Coordinated B.A.-M.D. Program

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Through the seminar, students reflect on such issues as disease categories, the distribution of disease, physicians' differing practice styles, medical ethics, and other topics. The course is geared to providing students with insights into social, psychological, and philosophical factors, as well as the biological dimensions of disease and medical care.

All students must maintain a 3.50 overall grade point average with a 3.50 average in the science courses required by SUNY Downstate Medical Center at Brooklyn. Students must also take the MCAT and achieve a minimum score of nine on each of its three sections.

Although the program is designed to introduce students to the rigors and rewards of practicing medicine in an urban environment, it does not restrict the location of their practice, nor does it restrict the field of medicine that students may enter.

## Entrance requirements

Candidates for the B.A.-M.D. Program are admitted as freshmen in the fall semester only. Admission to the program is competitive. Most successful applicants have at least a 90 average in

academic subjects and a minimum combined SAT score of 1200.

Applications are reviewed and selected applicants are interviewed by faculty members. In addition to grade point averages and test scores, admission committee members consider a student's extracurricular activities, career objectives, letters of recommendation, and health-related volunteer experience.

Students may apply to the B.A.-M.D. Program only as entering freshmen (annual deadline December 31), using the CUNY freshman application and the Brooklyn College B.A.-M.D. supplemental application, which are available from high school college advisers and the Brooklyn College Office of Admissions.

The B.A.-M.D. Program welcomes applications from students of diverse cultural, ethnic, racial, and religious backgrounds.

*Students applying to multiple programs should contact the Office of Admissions for further information.*

# Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship

**F**unded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship encourages undergraduate students to become scholars in the humanities, anthropology, and selected physical sciences, including mathematics, physics, geology, and the earth sciences.

Mellon Fellows receive financial assistance, which covers most of the cost of tuition for their last two years of college. Fellows may also receive two summer research stipends of up to \$3,000 each. The Mellon Foundation assists graduates of the program by repaying part of their undergraduate loans while they pursue Ph.D. degrees in approved fields.

Through a range of experiences, Mellon Fellows gain the confidence to pursue advanced degrees and to begin building careers as college or university professors. Faculty mentors play an important role in nurturing the young scholars in the program, providing advice on topics that range from conducting research and preparing publications to developing a college-level course and gaining admission to graduate programs.

Mellon Fellows learn to teach by serving as peer tutors in the Brooklyn College Learning Center and by helping faculty mentors develop courses.

Fellows meet regularly for discussion and to hear reports on each other's summer research and independent research projects. Fellows have used their summer research stipends to participate in archaeological digs, study foreign languages, and conduct cultural research on other continents, among other learning experiences. During their senior year, Mellon Fellows enroll in the senior thesis research colloquium with Scholars Program students.

Each year, the program invites an eminent scholar to deliver the Mellon Lecture. The purpose of the lecture is to focus on new scholarship in the humanities.

## Entrance requirements

Typically, students apply for the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship in the spring semester of their sophomore year. Some students, however, apply earlier and begin their studies in their sophomore year.



Candidates for Mellon fellowships are minorities and others interested in working toward a Ph.D. degree in the humanities or in selected physical sciences and in pursuing a career as a scholar in their area of interest. To be considered for the program, applicants must demonstrate solid academic achievement and submit a personal essay and faculty recommendations. Because being a Mellon Fellow requires a significant time commitment during the academic year and

summers, students should not hold outside jobs. Application forms are available in the Honors Academy.

**Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures Margarite Fernández Olmos, director of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship.**

# Engineering Honors Program

**T**he Brooklyn College Engineering Honors Program prepares students for careers in such fields as computer design, communications, robotics, aerospace, industrial chemistry, environmental protection, and materials science.

During their two years in the Engineering Honors Program, students follow a course of study of about 75 credits in engineering and the liberal arts that provides a solid foundation for making a smooth transition as juniors to major engineering schools. Course work includes physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics, and computer science as well as liberal arts courses in Brooklyn College's nationally recognized Core Studies program. Students also take courses in such subjects as engineering mechanics, electrical circuit analysis, data structures, and computer organization. These courses are equivalent to courses required during the first two years of study at most engineering schools.

Upon completion of the program, students are guaranteed admission as juniors at City College School of Engineering, the College of Staten Island Department of Applied

Sciences, or Polytechnic University. The financial aid afforded our students by Polytechnic University is substantial. Students may also apply for admission to any other engineering school. Brooklyn College engineering students have been admitted to such schools as Cooper Union, the University of Wisconsin, the University of Michigan, the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

For members of Engineering Honors who decide not to pursue engineering, the program's requirements enable students to continue in one of the more than seventy undergraduate majors available at Brooklyn College.

## Entrance requirements

Engineering Honors at Brooklyn College requires students to maintain a 3.50 overall grade point average and a 3.20 average in science and engineering subjects. Students who do not meet the admission requirements for Engineering Honors may still join the Coordinated Engineering Program, which, on satisfactory completion, guarantees them transfer as juniors to City College School of

Engineering, the College of Staten Island Department of Applied Sciences, or Polytechnic University.

Students may apply to the Engineering Honors Program as entering freshmen (annual deadline December 31), using the combined Scholars Program/Engineering Honors Freshman Application available from high school college advisers, the Brooklyn College Office of Admissions, and the Honors Academy, 2231 Boylan Hall. Students who apply after December 31 must pick up application forms in the Honors

Academy. Students may also apply to the Engineering Honors Program as matriculated and transfer students if they have completed no more than 30 credits.

*Students applying to multiple programs should contact the Office of Admissions for further information.*



## The Special Baccalaureate Degree Program

**F**or more than fifty years, Brooklyn College, through the Special Baccalaureate Degree Program (SBDP), has given adults the opportunity to earn a college degree, go on to graduate school, or create a new lifestyle.

The SBDP is for academically strong adults. Students enter the program in the fall semester and take three yearlong interdisciplinary seminars—Communication and Humanities, Social Sciences, and Science—that satisfy Brooklyn College’s Core Studies requirement. After the first year, students usually begin taking courses in their major.

SBDP students may apply for up to 32 life-experience credits if they can document mastery of the theoretical and practical content of specific Brooklyn College courses. After completing the first year, SBDP students who maintain a 3.50 grade point average are designated members of the Honors Academy’s Dean’s List Honors Research Program and the Honors Academy Research Colloquium.

Students have access to academic counselors who specialize in working

with adults. The counseling they receive enables them to achieve their academic goals in a timely manner.

### Entrance requirements

Adult students gain acceptance into the program based on an application, a personal interview, and an SBDP admission test. Candidates may take the admission test once they have passed the CUNY assessment tests. Students apply to the SBDP as freshmen (0–12 credits), but occasionally students with more credits may apply.

## Minority Access to Research Careers

**T**he Minority Access to Research Careers Fellowships (MARC) program, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, is Brooklyn College’s program for African American, Hispanic, Pacific Islander, and Native American honors students who are interested in pursuing research careers in the biomedical sciences, including biochemistry, experimental psychology, neuroscience, biology, and health-related research. The program offers annual fellowships, tuition support, and funds for travel to professional meetings.

Students in the MARC program devote a significant amount of time to independent research with a faculty mentor and participate in a wide range of activities that familiarize them with research methodology and potential research careers and prepare them for graduate school. To be eligible, students must be U.S. citizens or hold resident alien status. They should apply in the spring semester of the sophomore year or the first semester of the junior year. Information and application forms are available from the program director, 4311 James Hall.



**Professor of English Robert Viscusi, director of the Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities, offers insights into academic life and scholarship.**

# Dean's List Honors Research Program

## Honors Academy Research Colloquium

Dean's List students and members of Honors Academy federated programs may apply to join the Dean's List Honors Research Program after completing 45, but no more than 90, credits.

### Entrance requirements

The Dean's List Honors Research Program accepts students from all disciplines. To apply, students must be candidates for honors in their major department or in an accredited interdisciplinary program. The application form requires that students design a plan for honors-level study, which must be approved by the department chairperson or program director. It must be accompanied by a personal statement, a writing sample, and two letters of recommendation from faculty members. Students who are members of the Chase Smart Start Internship Program, the CUNY Pipeline Program, or The On-Course Advantage (TOCA) Program may also apply.

To continue in the program, students must maintain a 3.50 grade point average and complete one Honors Academy course, usually an honors

section of a Core Studies course or one of the academy's interdisciplinary seminars.

Dean's List Honors Research students (or members of any Honors Academy program with between 60 and 90 credits) may be selected to join the Honors Academy's capstone program, the Honors Academy Research Colloquium. The colloquium's two advanced seminars are designed to help students who expect to enter research professions, such as accounting, journalism, law, or the natural and social sciences, to understand what the practice of research entails. In the first seminar, students reflect on their research by studying the nature of such academic disciplines as physics and history, and professional training, such as medicine and law, and discuss the theoretical basis of disciplinary methods and conventions. Second-seminar studies focus on various kinds of research, such as biological and sociological, and the nature of institutions where research is conducted, such as governmental bureaus, law schools, libraries, research firms, medical schools, and universities.



## **About Brooklyn College**

Brooklyn College is widely regarded as one of the best public urban colleges in America. Founded in 1930, the College moved in 1937 to its present campus in Flatbush—twenty-six tree-lined acres featuring a broad Quadrangle surrounded by Georgian-style buildings.

The College offers more than ninety majors and programs in the humanities, sciences, performing arts, social sciences, business, education, and preprofessional and professional studies. It offers bachelor's and master's degrees and participates in the doctoral programs of the City University's Graduate School and University Center.

Long known for the quality of its academic programs, Brooklyn College is recognized nationally for its core curriculum, a ten-course program of study that provides each undergraduate with a solid foundation in the liberal arts and sciences.

The recently renovated and expanded Brooklyn College Library has more than 1.3 million volumes, 20,000 electronic and print subscriptions, 25,000 audiovisual

units, and several thousand electronic books. Its computers can access the Internet, electronic research databases, and a fully automated card catalog that lists all CUNY holdings.

Brooklyn College boasts a rich program of extracurricular activities. Its more than 150 student organizations include honor societies; academic, ethnic, and social clubs; and fraternities and sororities. The College competes in the NCAA's Division III. Students also participate in intramural sports and enjoy a fitness center, swimming pool, athletic field, and track.

A great strength of the College is the diversity of its students, who represent about seventy of the borough's more than one hundred ethnic groups. As one of the eleven senior Colleges of the City University of New York, the College shares in the mission of ensuring access and academic excellence for its students.

For an application to Brooklyn College and the Honors Academy, contact the Office of Admissions, 1103 James Hall, (718) 951-5001, or visit [www.brooklyn.cuny.edu](http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu).

## **Scholarships and Financial Aid**

Brooklyn College students may apply for a wide variety of scholarships, awards, and financial aid. Through the Brooklyn College Foundation, Inc., the College offers hundreds of full-tuition and partial-tuition scholarships and awards made possible through the gifts of alumni and friends.

Among the College's scholarship programs are the Brooklyn College Foundation Presidential Scholarships, which are awarded on the basis of merit. To retain eligibility for four years, students must be in continuous attendance and maintain a 3.00 grade point average. In addition, the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship extends tuition support and stipends to students enrolled in these programs.

Brooklyn College provides a single application form to assist students in applying for scholarships and awards. Forms are available from the Scholarships Office, (718) 951-4796, or at [www.brooklyn.cuny.edu](http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu).

Financial aid is available through state and federal programs. Matriculated undergraduate students who attend at least half time may be eligible for a combination of awards.

To apply for financial assistance, students must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Some programs require additional applications.

Applications, information, and deadline dates may be obtained from the Office of Financial Aid, (718) 951-5051.

The current *Brooklyn College Bulletin* contains additional information about programs, eligibility, application procedures, scholarships, awards, and financial aid.



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