



Baccalaureate

for Unique and
Interdisciplinary Studies

Individualized Studies for Independent Minds



Information and Application

www.cunyba.cuny.edu

CUNY Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies
at The Graduate Center
The City University of New York
365 Fifth Avenue, Room 6412
New York, NY 10016-4309
Tel. 212.817.8220
admissions@cunyba.cuny.edu
www.cunyba.cuny.edu

Overview

Introduction

The colleges of The City University of New York have provided a path to personal and professional success for generations of New Yorkers. In 1971, the University established an individualized CUNY baccalaureate (then known as the CUNY Baccalaureate Program), whereby the University, not the individual CUNY colleges, would award the B.A. and B.S. degrees. Today, this exceptional program has helped over 7,500 students earn their degrees in unique and interdisciplinary courses of study.

Working with faculty mentors, CUNY Baccalaureate students tailor areas of concentration to meet their individualized academic and career goals. They may register for courses at any CUNY senior college and are thus able to take advantage of the enormous range of CUNY's academic offerings; qualified students may also take graduate courses for undergraduate credit at the CUNY senior colleges and at The Graduate Center. In addition, students are encouraged to explore a variety of learning opportunities, such as independent study, fieldwork, internships, senior projects, honors seminars, online courses, and study-abroad. CUNY Baccalaureate students can also earn credit-by-examination and for life experience.

Accreditation

CUNY Baccalaureate is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and by the Board of Regents of The University of The State of New York, under the auspices of the CUNY Graduate School and University Center.

The Degree Structure

Minimum credits required: 120

Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) credits required: A minimum of 60 for the BS; 90 for the BA. Of the 60/90 LAS credits, students must complete Pathways, the CUNY general education requirement (10 courses/30 credits), as outlined below.

Area(s) of Concentration: Corresponds to a major. Students may do one or two. See below.

Residency Requirement: A minimum of 30 CUNY credits while enrolled in CUNY BA.

Non-College Credits: A maximum of 30 credits is possible; these include credits-by-exam (i.e., AP, IB, CLEP), ACE-recommended credits, National College Credit Recommendations Service (NCCRS), and up to 15 credits for life experience.

Grade Point Average: Students must maintain at least a 2.50 GPA overall and in their area(s) of concentration.

Pathways—General Education Requirements

All CUNY students must follow the University-wide, 30-credit common core (general education requirements) known as Pathways. CUNY BA students, therefore, must complete a total of 10 Pathways courses in these categories (each course must bear a minimum of 3 credits):

Required Core, Four Courses

English Composition I and II (2 courses)
Mathematical and Quantitative Reasoning (1 course)
Life and Physical Sciences (1 course)

Flexible Core, Six Courses

(one course in each category and a second in any one of the categories)
World Cultures and Global Issues
U.S. Experience in Its Diversity
Creative Expression
Individual and Society
Scientific World

CUNY BA will assess the entering student's academic record to identify as many courses as possible to fulfill Pathways categories. All CUNY and non-CUNY courses shall be considered, including Advanced Placement Exams (AP), International Baccalaureate Exams (IB), College Board College-Level Exams (CLEP), American Council on Education Courses (ACE), National College Credit Recommended Courses (NCCRS), and the like.

Note that: (1) Students who enter CUNY BA as second bachelor's degree candidates or who have completed A.A. or A.S. degrees prior to CUNY BA admission are considered to have completed the Pathways curriculum. (2) CUNY BA students are not required to complete College Option courses at their home colleges

Area(s) of Concentration Requirements

Students must complete:

For a Single Area: : At least 8 courses/24 credits (both minimums must be met) of coursework at the upper (intermediate or advanced) level. No more than two independent studies or internships may be included.

For Dual Areas: At least 6 courses/18 credits (both minimums must be met) of coursework at the upper (intermediate or advanced) level in each area. One independent study or internship may be included in each area.

All courses taken for an area of concentration must:

- be approved by a CUNY faculty mentor and CUNY Baccalaureate's academic director;
- be taken for a letter grade; and
- be taken at a senior college offering a bachelor's degree in the related field.

At least 50% of an area of concentration must be completed in CUNY as a CUNY Baccalaureate student.

CUNY Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies

Application for Admission

Information and Instructions

Admissions Criteria*

Applicants must meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for admission. Applicants must:

1. have completed at least **12 credits** at an **accredited college with a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.80** (this includes AP, IB, and College Now credits). Students without accredited coursework who have graded courses from conservatories, religious schools, professional schools, etc. may also apply for consideration. Candidates with GPAs below 2.80 will be considered, if their recent work is over 2.80. The GPA in completed courses related to the planned area of concentration will also be reviewed.
2. propose a single or dual **area(s) of concentration** in a unique or interdisciplinary field(s) of study.
3. present a well-written **personal statement** articulating their personal, academic, and career goals as they relate to their proposed area(s) of concentration and application to the program.
4. be **matriculated (enrolled as a degree-seeking student)** at a CUNY community or senior college. Students may apply to the program while simultaneously applying for matriculation in CUNY (see the Applicant Checklist for full details).
5. have passed (or been exempted from) the **CUNY Assessment Tests**. Students may be in the process of meeting the proficiency standards concurrently with applying to CUNY BA. For testing information, go to <http://www.cuny.edu/academics/testing.html>.

These are minimum criteria and do not guarantee admission to CUNY BA. The program reserves the right to request additional documents that may assist evaluating the application. An admissions appointment is also required of all applicants.

The Application and Admissions Process

The Gathering and Submission of Requested Application Materials

Applicants are responsible for securing official transcripts, and are advised to do so **as early as possible**. Application materials may be submitted separately or as a package. Applications are reviewed as soon as the following materials are received: Application Form; Personal Statement; Area of Concentration Proposal(s); and all Transcripts, official or unofficial. In the case of providing unofficial transcripts, official transcripts will be required before the student can be formally admitted.

Students with questions about completing the application should contact the program office at 212.817.8220.

All materials become the property of CUNY Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies and cannot be released to the student or to other institutions.

Filing Deadlines

CUNY Baccalaureate accepts applications throughout the year. Students are encouraged to apply as far in advance of the desired semester of entry as possible.

Notification of Receipt of Application

An email is sent to the student indicating the application status; therefore, you must provide an active email address on your application. Please allow one to two weeks for this notification.

Evaluation and Transfer of Credits

- CUNY BA evaluates all courses previously taken and can accept up to a total of 90 credits. The maximum allowed for community college credits is 68.
- All credits earned within CUNY are recognized.
- Courses taken at other accredited institutions in which students received grades of at least full "C" are eligible for transfer.
- Remedial and English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) credits are not accepted for transfer.
- Credits from universities outside the U.S. must be evaluated by the student's CUNY college of matriculation (home college) OR by an independent agency (see list under application instructions on following page) prior to applying.
- CUNY BA can grant credit for Advanced Placement (AP) exams passed with grades of 3

or higher and International Baccalaureate (IB) exams passed with grades of 5 or higher.

- CUNY BA can award up to 30 noncollegiate credits toward the degree. Noncollegiate credit includes credits evaluated by ACE (e.g., U.S. military credits), credits evaluated and recommended by NCCRS, credit-by-examination, and life experience credits. Credit for life experience is evaluated after admission to the program.

The Admissions Appointment

Academically qualified applicants are contacted by phone or email to schedule an admissions appointment with their academic advisor to review their transfer evaluation, program structure, and degree requirements..

***Please note:** (1) CUNY BA cannot serve students who want degrees in Nursing or Engineering. (2) Students interested in careers in Education are not encouraged to apply because this degree does not lead to New York State Teacher Certification. Students interested, however, in taking Education courses as electives or who plan to complete Education requirements in graduate school may propose a Liberal Arts and Science area of concentration. (3) CUNY BA students are limited to taking 3 upper-level courses in Baruch's Zicklin School of Business. (4) Candidates seeking second degrees should explain their reasons for doing so in the required Personal Statement.

Applicant Checklist and Detailed Instructions

- ☐ The Application Form, which includes your Area(s) of Concentration Proposal
- ☐ Personal Statement
- ☐ Official Transcripts
- ☐ Currently matriculated or applying to CUNY
- ☐ Have passed or been exempted from the CUNY Assessment Tests or expect to meet proficiency by the first day of classes

The Application Form: The two-sided application form must be filled out completely.

Question #12a. Indicate every post-secondary (after high school) institution you have attended. Failure to do so constitutes fraud; see the statement on Fraudulent Admissions Documents at the bottom of this page.

Question #12b. List all college credit you have earned via credit-by-exam and/or non-collegiate credit awarded by non-traditional accrediting institutions.

Area(s) of Concentration Proposal

Question #14. Give the title(s) of your proposed area(s) of concentration and list the courses you believe are appropriate, following the directions on the application form. For course offerings, look at [CUNYfirst Course Catalog](#) online. The program regards this outline as a draft. Once you are enrolled, the faculty mentor you choose will play a vital role in helping you refine and finalize the courses in your area(s) of concentration. While you are not required to have chosen a faculty mentor prior to admission, it is highly recommended that applicants with over 68 transfer credits begin identifying a mentor as soon as possible. How to find and work with a mentor will be discussed at the program's orientation for new students; guidance is also available at www.cunyba.cuny.edu under Prospective Students.

Personal Statement: Your personal statement, which must be typewritten and one to two pages (250 to 500 words), should explain your reasons for seeking admission and give details about your academic, personal, and career goals and their relation to your proposed area of concentration.

Official Transcripts: Applicants do not need to send CUNY transcripts. If you sent your non-CUNY transcripts to the University Application Processing Center (UAPC), we can access those in many (but not all) instances.

We will need you to submit official sealed college transcripts in the following instances:

- If you submitted your non-CUNY transcripts directly to one of the CUNY colleges.
- If you applied to CUNY and submitted your non-CUNY transcript(s) to UAPC while you had coursework in progress (even if you already submitted a finalized copy to one of the CUNY colleges).

For credits completed at domestic colleges other than CUNY:

Request an official transcript from every college you have attended to be mailed to CUNY Baccalaureate, 365 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6412, New York, NY 10016 or have official electronic transcripts sent to admissions@cunyba.cuny.edu.

For post-secondary institutions outside the U.S.: Credits from universities outside the U.S. must be evaluated by the student's CUNY college of matriculation (home college) OR by a course-by-course evaluation by one of the following agencies prior to applying: World Education Services www.wes.org, Evaluation Service, Inc.: www.evaluation-service.net/, Josef Silny & Associates: www.jsilny.com/, Transcript Research: transcriptresearch.com/. Note: You cannot elect to use a different type of foreign credit evaluation after your CUNY BA admission is finalized.

For other types of credit earned:

CLEP, military service, police department credits, etc., may be accepted towards the CUNY BA degree. Official documentation must be provided during the application process. CUNY BA can accept AP credit directly from a CUNY college transcript or from an official, sealed College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) transcript. The CEEB code for CUNY BA is 3988. CUNY BA can also accept IB credit directly from a CUNY college transcript, electronically from the International Baccalaureate, or from an official, sealed IB transcript. CUNY BA can accept military transcripts electronically or by hard copy in official sealed envelopes.

For credits in progress:

If you are currently registered for courses outside of CUNY enclose a copy of your registration information.

Matriculation in a CUNY College

For all currently matriculated CUNY students: Proof of matriculation is indicated on your current CUNY transcript.

Students not currently enrolled in a CUNY college must apply for matriculation using the online transfer application at www.cuny.edu. If you were previously enrolled in CUNY but are no longer and want to attend the same home college, see that college directly about readmission. If you are currently enrolled and you want to change home colleges, you must use the online CUNY transfer application.

For CUNY community college students: CUNY BA students can be matriculated at a CUNY community college until they reach 68 credits. Upon approaching this limit you must begin the transfer process to a senior college using the online transfer application at www.cuny.edu. Students interested in completing their associate's degree before transferring to a senior college must get prior approval from CUNY Baccalaureate's academic director if they will exceed 68 credits. Note that no more than 68 community college credits can be applied to your CUNY Baccalaureate degree.

Students can apply to CUNY BA before they have matriculated into CUNY; they will be required to submit documentation of their matriculation before the start of the semester to be formally admitted.

The CUNY Assessment Tests

All students must pass the CUNY Assessment Tests or be granted exemption by their college of matriculation. Students who fail one or more of the Assessment Tests are placed into related remedial courses at a CUNY community college. To be eligible to be admitted to CUNY BA, students must complete the highest level remedial course(s) available at their community college

Students can apply to the program while simultaneously being in the process of meeting CUNY Assessment Tests proficiency through remedial coursework, taking the exams, or obtaining an exemption from their home college.

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK POLICY ON THE SUBMISSION OF FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTS AND ON THE OMISSION OF INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF AN APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

The submission of documents in support of applications for admission such as transcripts, diplomas, test scores, references, or the applications themselves, that are forged, fraudulent, altered from the original, materially incomplete, obtained under false pretenses, or otherwise deceptive—collectively referred to as fraudulent documents—is prohibited by The City University of New York and may be punishable by a bar on applying for admission, suspension, and/or expulsion. The term "applications for admission" includes transfer applications.

Materially incomplete applications include applications that fail to include all prior post-high school college-level courses, regardless of whether: a) the courses were taken at a postsecondary institution in the U.S. or outside the U.S. b) the applicant received a degree at the postsecondary institution c) the applicant is seeking credit for such courses d) the applicant is changing majors/careers.

Application for Admission CUNY Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies

365 Fifth Avenue, Room 6412, New York, NY 10016-4309
Tel: 212.817.8220 admissions@cunyba.cuny.edu
www.cunyba.cuny.edu

For Office Use Only

CUNY BA/BS ID#

CUNY Baccalaureate accepts applications throughout the year. Students are encouraged to apply as far in advance of the semester for which they are interested in joining the program as possible.

Please print or type all answers

Desired semester of enrollment: ☐ Fall 20__ ☐ Spring 20__

1. Name

Last	Middle Initial	First Name
Name		
Prior Last Name/s (if applicable)		Preferred First Name

2. Mailing Address

Number and Street	Apt.	City or Borough	State/Zip Code
Permanent Address			
Number and Street	Apt.	City or Borough	State/Zip Code

3. Telephone

Day phone number	Evening phone number
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4. Primary Email Address

Correspondence regarding your application and status will be sent to this email address. Important: Keep Office of Admissions informed of all name, address, and email changes.

5. Gender ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Other

6. Date of Birth

7. EMPLID/Last 4 Digits of SSN

8. State and/or Country of Birth

9. Have you served in the U.S. military? ☐ Yes ☐ No

10. Ethnicity (Optional) Information on ethnicity is being collected to meet federal reporting requirements. It is confidential and will not be released except in the form of statistical summaries in which individuals will not be identified. Your response is voluntary and has no bearing on either admissions or academic decisions. Which category best describes you?

- (1) ☐ White, non-Hispanic (2) ☐ African American, non-Hispanic (3) ☐ Puerto Rican (4) ☐ Hispanic, other
(5) ☐ Asian or Pacific Islander (6) ☐ American Indian or Native Alaskan (7) ☐ Other (please specify)

11. Employment Information (Optional)

Field of Employment

Name of Agency

12. Prior Academic Record

a. List chronologically all postsecondary (post high school) institutions attended, regardless of matriculation status or credits earned. Include postsecondary institutions attended while in high school (e.g., College Now), and CUNY courses taken on permit at other colleges. Provide transcripts for each. Failure to do so violates CUNY's prohibition on materially incomplete applications.

Name of Institution	Dates of Attendance	Credits Completed or In Progress	Degree Earned (if applicable)

b. List all college credit you have earned via credit-by-examination (e.g. CLEP, AP exams, etc.) or non-collegiate credit awarded or evaluated by non-traditional accrediting institutions (e.g., ACE, DANTES, NCCRS, etc.). Provide official transcripts for each. Failure to do so violates CUNY's prohibition on materially incomplete applications.

Name of Exam or Institution Awarding Credit	Date(s) for which Credit was Awarded	Credits Earned

All students must be matriculated at a CUNY College to participate in the program. Students with 68 credits or more must matriculate at a senior (4-year) CUNY college.

13. Are you enrolled in Macaulay Honors College? ☐ Yes ☐ No

14. Your Proposed Area(s) of Concentration (AOC)

Provide a title and outline a course of study for your single or dual AOC proposal(s) in the space provided below. List the intermediate and upper level courses you plan to utilize for each (no introductory courses). A minimum of 8 courses/24 credits are required for a single area proposal (AOC1) or 6 courses/18 credits in each area of concentration (AOC1 and AOC2) for dual area proposals. Courses must be selected from departments that offer bachelor's degrees. You must complete at least half of the coursework for each AOC in CUNY as a CUNY BA student. Please note: This is only your proposal. If you are accepted into the program, the final structure of your AOC is subject to approval by both your faculty mentor(s) and the program's academic Director.

(AOC1) Title: _____

College	Department and Course No. (as listed in college catalog)	Title of Course	Credits
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

(AOC2) Title: _____

College	Department and Course No. (as listed in college catalog)	Title of Course	Credits
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

15. CUNY Assessment Tests in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics

☐ I understand that I must pass or be exempted from all parts of the CUNY Assessment Tests before being eligible for acceptance in the program.

16. Please attach a one- to two-page (250-500 words) typewritten essay detailing your personal, academic, and career goals.

17. How did you hear about CUNY BA?

ALL APPLICANTS MUST SIGN BELOW

☒ I hereby certify that all the information on this application is accurate and complete. I realize that failure to file the appropriate application materials may affect my admission status. I understand that all the information contained in the application will be treated confidentially and will be used for institutional purposes only. Submitted documents become property of CUNY Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies and cannot be returned regardless of the admission decision.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____



"CUNY BA is a wonderful gem in the City University system."

—Liam Giordano, *CUNY BA student*



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TO:

