

Department of Chemistry

All-Majors (and Prospective Majors) Meeting

July 22, 2020

STEM Antiracism statement and Barnard College Chemistry's Department Diversity and Inclusion Statement

The STEM departments at Barnard (Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Environmental Science, Math, Neuroscience and Behavior, Physics and Astronomy, Psychology) join the millions of people around the world who are saying “enough” – enough race-based killing, enough brutality, enough systematic injustices that deprive people of life, liberty and peace. It feels long overdue to say this publicly, but we believe that “Black Lives Matter”. We reaffirm our commitment to Barnard’s Diversity Mission statement (below) and look forward to actively working with others to bring change to our communities and the United States. Chairs from each department will be reaching out to their respective majors in the next few weeks to schedule a time to actively listen and to talk. If you have questions for us before then, please reach out. Together we will develop action plans for our departments and offer suggestions for ways to work effectively in our communities. The conversation between President Beilock and Stacey Abrams on the Barnard homepage offers advice, and inspiration, as well.

Barnard’s core mission is to rigorously educate and empower women, providing them with the ability to think, discern, and move effectively in the world—a world that is different from when the College was founded. Now more than ever, the success of our mission depends on the extent to which our community is diverse, inclusive, and equitable. We know that academic excellence is impossible without the unique perspectives, ideas, approaches and contributions that come from having the broadest diversity of students, faculty and staff across the College.

Our definition of diversity encompasses structural and social differences that form the basis of inequality in our society, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, socioeconomic class, disability, religion, citizenship status and country of origin. Moreover, our concern is with how differences in power and possibilities align with social categories and identities, and how these differences distinguish individuals and groups in ways that privilege some and constrain others.


To become the inclusive community we aspire to be, we must treat each other equitably and with respect, creating an environment where no voices are silenced and all of us can thrive. Together, our commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity has the potential to disrupt and transform entrenched practices and thinking. And as a result, it will hold Barnard accountable to its goal of graduating students who are engaged world citizens possessed of a discerning intelligence, an understanding of inequity and power, and moral courage.

Diversity and Inclusion Statement

The students, staff, and faculty of the Barnard College Chemistry Department are committed to a community that values diversity and fosters inclusion and equity. We believe our best work is done in an atmosphere that welcomes diverse perspectives, cultures, backgrounds, and abilities.

<https://chemistry.barnard.edu/diversity-inclusion>

Overview

- Introducing the Department
 - Faculty Introductions
 - Academic Calendar
 - Courses offerings and Course Changes
 - Grading
 - Student employment
 - Barnard Chemical Society
 - Questions and Concerns
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Academic Calendar

- **Three semesters:** Fall, Spring and Summer
- Each semester divided into **two halves:** A and B
- Spring starts a **week earlier** than usual (January 11th)
- **Graduation** right after Spring (week of April 26th)
- Usual **12 credit requirement** (but flexibility as needed)
- **No tuition** for summer
- Can **spread** courses across three semesters or **take more** courses

Fall 2020

As normal, students expected to enroll for a minimum of 12 credits, but there is flexibility.

Monday, Sept. 7	Labor Day holiday
Tuesday, Sept. 8	First day of classes for full semester courses and <i>Fall A</i> courses
Monday, Oct. 19	Fall A last day of classes
Tuesday, Oct. 20 – Friday, Oct. 23	Fall A final exam period
Monday, Oct. 26	Fall B first day of classes
Monday, Nov. 2	Academic Holiday (no classes held)
Tuesday, Nov. 3	Election Day holiday, fall 2020 (no classes held)
Wed., Nov. 25 – Sun, Nov. 29	Thanksgiving holiday (no classes held)
Monday, Dec. 14	Last day of classes for semester-length and Fall B courses
Tues., Dec. 15 – Tues., Dec. 22	Required reading days and final exams
Wednesday, Dec. 23	Semester ends
Wednesday, Dec. 23 – Monday, Jan. 11	Winter Recess–2021

Spring 2021

An early start



Monday, Jan. 11	First day of classes for full semester courses and Spring A courses
Monday, January 18	Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday, spring 2021
Monday, Feb. 22	Spring A last day of classes
Tuesday, Feb. 23 – Friday, Feb. 26	Spring A final exam period
Monday, Mar. 1 – Friday, Mar. 5	Spring break
Monday, Mar. 8	Spring B first day of classes
Thursday, Apr. 15	Last day of classes for semester-length courses and Spring B courses
Friday, Apr. 16 – Friday, Apr. 23	Required reading days and final exams
Monday, Apr. 26	Semester ends
Week of Apr. 26	Commencement exercises

Spring 2021

Monday, Jan. 11	First day of classes for full semester courses and Spring A courses
Monday, January 18	Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday, spring 2021
Monday, Feb. 22	Spring A last day of classes
Tuesday, Feb. 23 – Friday, Feb. 26	Spring A final exam period
Monday, Mar. 1 – Friday, Mar. 5	Spring break
Monday, Mar. 8	Spring B first day of classes
Thursday, Apr. 15	Last day of classes for semester-length courses and Spring B courses
Friday, Apr. 16 – Friday, Apr. 23	Required reading days and final exams
Monday, Apr. 26	Semester ends
Week of Apr. 26	Commencement exercises

Graduation in April →

Summer 2021

SUMMER A

May 3 – June 18

Monday, May 3

Summer A first day of classes

Monday, May 31

Memorial Day holiday (no classes held)

Monday, June 14

Summer A last day of classes

Tuesday, June 15 – Friday, June 18

Final exams

Week of June 21

Break

Monday, June 28

Summer B first day of classes

Friday, Aug. 6

Summer B last day of classes

Monday, Aug. 9 – Friday, Aug. 13

Final exams

Monday, Aug. 16

Semester ends

SUMMER B

June 28 – August 16

Immersive Courses

- Twice the weekly workload over half semester
- Opportunity to take fewer courses at any one time
- Seniors can walk in April and count Summer A towards credits
- Rationale: possibly easier to learn when courses are online
- Not ideally suited to courses with a lot of content where time is needed to digest. Therefore not being used in chemistry, but we are attending to the notion of blocks within the semester.

Monday, Sept. 7	Labor Day holiday	} FALL A Sept. 8 – Oct. 23
Tuesday, Sept. 8	First day of classes for full semester courses and <i>Fall A</i> courses	
Monday, Oct. 19	Fall A last day of classes	
Tuesday, Oct. 20 – Friday, Oct. 23	Fall A final exam period	
Monday, Oct. 26	Fall B first day of classes	} FALL B Oct. 26 – Dec. 23
Monday, Nov. 2	Academic Holiday (no classes held)	
Tuesday, Nov. 3	Election Day holiday, fall 2020 (no classes held)	
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Course Offerings for 2020-21

- Courses we are offering are largely unchanged
- Course times have been adjusted to accommodate multiple time zones, afford flexibility, and to better follow CU canonical schedule
- All course adjustments are now updated in the CU Directory of courses
- We have created more sections of general chemistry and the corresponding lab to keep student:faculty ratio low
- We will offer 5 new special topics courses (0.5 credits per block, P/F) to accompany general chemistry
- All courses will be available to remote learners – final decisions of extent of in person instruction will need to wait on more public health information (note that in person instruction will be very different from prior years)
- Major dedensification of all spaces → lab occupancy much lower than before! (currently one person per lab)

Grading

- The college is returning to a grade-based system for the academic year 20-21
- Students may take courses P/D/F and not have them count against the P/D/F limit
- At this point, courses for the major are still required to be in grading mode
- Every faculty member is developing testing and grading strategies that serve an appropriate assessment function while recognizing the limitations of on-line and hyflex testing.

Course Modifications

- Senior requirement – Professor Vizcarra
- Modern Techniques lab – Dr. Rao and Professor Rojas
- General Chemistry lab – Dr. Liu and Professor Austin
- General Chemistry class and special topics classes – Professor Austin
- Chemical Problem Solving – Professor Austin

Student employment

- College is facing an unprecedented financial crisis → all budgets have been cut, staff have been furloughed, more cuts are possible.
- Student employment budget has been cut
- Highest priority is to provide jobs to students on work-study
- Contact Joanna Chisholm if you are looking for departmental work (except for tutoring – tutors are still hired by the Deans office)



Mehrose Ahmad and Erika Amemiya
Co-presidents

Questions and Concerns?

*Feel free to contact your adviser or Professor Austin
for more information or to schedule follow up
meetings.*