the Berkeley Carroll School

Information for Colleges 2024-25

A passion for learning is at the heart of Berkeley Carroll. The school is an intellectual, creative, and equitable community where devoted teachers challenge and engage talented students. Our demanding curriculum and vibrant civic life prepare our diverse graduates for success in college and for the greater endeavor—a life of critical, ethical and global thinking.

A BC Education: Critical, Ethical, Global

Berkeley Carroll is a vibrant intellectual community with an academic program that emphasizes research and an interdisciplinary approach. The curriculum is marked by extensive choice, both through academic electives in grades 10-12, as well as opportunities to add research, extra STEM classes and language courses to the core program.

In keeping with our commitment to an education that encourages critical and creative thinking, Berkeley Carroll divested from the College Board's Advanced Placement Program in 2011. Our rigorous faculty-designed curriculum provides students with more school-designed college level and advanced courses and better fosters the attributes students need in the 21st century, including independence, flexibility, empathy, cultural competency, and the ability to collaborate effectively. Our school challenges students to be daring thinkers who would help shape a more just and peaceful world.

The BC Community

While BC students come from all five boroughs of New York City, as well as Long Island and New Jersey, the school retains a strong neighborhood feel, and students, parents and faculty consistently cite the community as Berkeley Carroll's greatest asset. Our beautiful landmarked building in central Brooklyn is a short walk from the Brooklyn Museum and the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and an easy subway ride from the rich opportunities of Manhattan.

There are 341 students in the Upper School, 40% of whom identify as students of color. Approximately 31.4% of Upper School students receive financial aid, and the average aid award for 2024-25 is $45,863.

Berkeley Carroll students are remarkably balanced. Although the school's graduation requirement is two years of arts, 83% of the Class of 2025 is taking a fourth year of visual or performing arts, and many students take multiple arts. Similarly, nearly 80% of upper school students participate in 27 interscholastic teams. Varsity cross country, volleyball, swimming, basketball, baseball, softball, and track teams consistently advance to league playoffs. Since fall 2022, our varsity teams have captured titles in cross country, volleyball, soccer, track, baseball, and tennis. In addition to league success, our varsity basketball, swim, and baseball teams regularly qualify for the NYSAIS championships.

Honor Code

Students commit to following an honor code. Infractions are considered by an Honor Council consisting of elected student representatives and faculty. **If requested by colleges or universities, decisions that result in suspension or expulsion will be reported.**

Community Action

Berkeley Carroll's commitment to our community involves project-based experiences that align with our curriculum and engage with our surroundings. This requirement is designed to foster meaningful and ethical connections through structured reflection and direct engagement. Students with particular interests in community engagement also join related co-curriculars like Strength in Numbers, Best Buddies, Hanging with Mikey, and Food For All.

Semester or Year Away

Each year, up to ten juniors enroll in a year or a semester away in an approved program: The Mountain School, The School of Ethical and Global Leadership, High Mountain Institute, Chewonki, The Island School, or School Year Abroad (SYA). Programs focus on the outdoors, diplomacy, organic farming, sustainability, marine science, language, and culture in addition to core academics. After participating, students return to our campus with broadened perspectives and increased independence and maturity.

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Accredited by NYSAIS

Upper School Course Offerings 2024-25

Advanced level courses are identified in **bold** and should be considered most rigorous.

All topics listed in English or history may not be available every calendar year. Junior and senior-level courses in these departments are highly rigorous, discussion-based, writing-intensive courses with college-level standards and syllabi.

English

4 Years Required

9th:
Myths & Legends (Literatures of Community starting with class of '27)

10th: (Semester electives)
Voice and Style (taken by all 10th graders)
20th Century Black Literary Aesthetics
Homer's Odyssey and its Descendents
Literary Horror: Oppression and Resistance
Marginalized Voices in Contemporary Science Fiction
Poetry for Revolution
Shakespeare's Afterlives

11th:
Adv American Studies (HI/EN)

12th: (**Adv English:** Semester electives)
American Carceral State (HI/EN)
Contemporary World Literature
Creative Writing: Fiction
History/Literature of the Amer West (HI/EN)
Critical Race Theory: Race and American Pop Culture (HI/EN)
Media Literacy: Critical Thinking in the Age of Information Overload
Nature, Race, & Environmental Justice (HI/EN)
Novels of Richard Wright and James Baldwin
Political Writer in Exile
The Essay

Math

3 Years Required
(Sequence may vary by level placement)

9th:
Integrated Algebra/Geometry, Geometry, **Adv Geometry**, Algebra II, **Adv Algebra II**

10th:
Algebra II, **Adv Algebra II**, Precalculus, **Adv Precalculus**, Differential Calculus, **Adv Differential and Integral Calculus I**, Statistics (prerequisite Alg II or **Adv Alg II**)

11th:
Algebra II, Precalculus, **Adv Precalculus**, Differential Calculus, **Adv Differential and Integral Calculus I**, Statistics

12th:
Differential Calculus, **Adv Differential and Integral Calculus I**, **Adv Differential Equations**, Statistics, (note: Adv Linear Algebra and Adv Multivariable Calculus will not be offered 2024-2025)

History

3 years Required

9th:
Modern World History

10th: (Semester electives)
Africa and The West
Apartheid and Jim Crow: Racial Segregation and Resistance in South Africa and the US
But Make it Fashion: Clothing and History
Construction of Civilization: How the Natural World Shaped Systems of "Progress"
Cultures in the Caribbean
Global Challenges: Inequality, Sustainability, and Peace
Holocaust and Human Behavior
Indigenous Peoples of the World
Modern China
Modern Middle East
More than Mulan: Sexuality, and Geopolitics in Asian History
The Cold War: Power and Global Resistance

11th:
Adv American Studies (HI/EN)

12th: (**Adv History:** Semester electives)
American Carceral State (HI/EN)
Asian American History: From Yellow Peril to Third World Liberation
History through the lens of Current Events
History/Literature of the Amer West (HI/EN)
Critical Race Theory: Race and American Pop Culture (HI/EN)
Nature, Race & Environmental Justice (HI/EN)
Social History of Truth
Social and Political History of the 1980's
Art & Design Histories (year-long course)
Adv Senior Scholars Program (Year-long, research course, application only)

Science

3 Years Required

9th:
Biology

10th:
Chemistry (Structured/Applied Mathematics)
Intro Science Research and Design (SRD)*

11th and 12th:
Physics
Environmental Studies
Anatomy and Physiology
Science of Psychology
Evolution & the Fossil Record (Semester)
Principles of Engineering Design
Adv Biology II Molecular and Cellular Biology/Genetics, Evolution & Ecology
Adv Chemistry II: Quantitative Analysis
Adv Science Research and Design (SRD)

Science (cont.)

12th (only):
Adv Physics II
Adv Engineering II (year-long half credit)
Adv Quantum Physics (year-long half credit)
Adv SRD: Symposium (year-long half credit)

* Only taken as a second science course

World Languages

3 Years Required
(Sequence may vary by level placement)

French I-V, **Adv. French III/IV**, **Adv French: Camus to Godard** (semester course), **Adv. French: Pluriculturalism in 21st century France** (semester course)

Spanish I, Spanish IIA/IIB, Spanish III/IV, **Adv. Spanish III/IV**, **Adv Latinx in NYC**, **Adv. Marginal Voices in the Hispanic World**

Latin I, Latin II, Latin III: Literature of the Late Republic: Catullus, Cicero, and Clodia, **Adv Latin IV: Literature of the Augustan Age**

Mandarin I-V

Arabic (Taken as an additional language through Johns Hopkins CTY)

Computer Science

1 Year or .05 Credits Required

9th:
Computer Programming Essentials

10th-12th: (Semester electives)
Foundational Programming
3D Modeling in Blender
Dynamic Website Design
Machine Learning
Tech Ethics and AI

11th-12th (only):
Data Analysis: From Python to Pandas
Algorithmic Problem Solving

Visual and Performing Arts

2 Years/1.0 credit or 2 Art Classes Required

Design: Foundations I/II, Portfolio, **Exhibition**
Drawing & Painting: I, II, Portfolio, **Exhibition**
Photography: I, II, Portfolio, **Exhibition**
Digital Film, **Adv Digital Film**
Ceramics & Sculpture: I, II, Sculpture Portfolio, **Exhibition**
Intro Actor's Studio, **Adv Acting Studio**
Intro to Stage Craft I, **Adv Production Design**
Speech and Debate, **Adv Speech and Debate National Circuit**
Dance Repertory, **Adv Dance Repertory**
Jazz Ensemble, Studio Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, **Chamber Ensemble**
Orchestra, **Chamber Orchestra**
Sterling Singers: From Mozart to Mariah, Vocal Arts Workshop

Key Facts for College Admissions Officers

- The Berkeley Carroll calendar follows a semester system with two-week Spring Intensives in early March.
- Students are limited to a maximum of 7.5 academic credits/year and must take a minimum of 5 academic credits/year, in addition to PE, arts, and other elective courses.
- No advanced coursework is available in English, science or history until 11th grade.
- **Successful completion of American Studies, an advanced course, earns students credit for two academic courses, history and English, in the junior year.**
- Enrollment in the Senior Scholars, Science Research and Design, and Independent Study programs require an application and must be approved by faculty committee.
- Students may not register for both Senior Scholars and SRD.

Grading Policies and Grade Point Average

Grades are unweighted and students are not ranked. Although we do not offer a cumulative GPA, we provide a realistic grade distribution from courses in the sophomore and junior years to assist colleges in assessing relative achievement.

Spring Intensives and Global Immersion

Classes are suspended for two weeks in March and all students choose from immersive courses designed to inspire meaningful engagement. Using NYC and other locations as a classroom, intensives emphasize experiential fieldwork to build nuanced understanding. SI options also include travel programs, domestic (American West and South) and international. Programs to South Africa, Panamá, Spain, France, Mexico, and Italy foster global understanding Students engage in deep reflection, study language, culture, and history to inform critical perspectives on international development and "voluntourism."

Junior Grade Distribution, 2023-2024

	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D
2023-2024 Academic Year	100-95	94-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	69-60
American Studies	6	44	20	14	4	0	0	0	0
Adv Algebra II	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Pre Calculus	4	10	7	4	1	0	0	0	0
Adv Pre Calc	16	16	6	7	1	1	0	0	0
Differential Calculus	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adv Differential & Integral Calculus	7	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Statistics	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adv Biology II	3	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Adv Chemistry II	9	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Environmental Science	11	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physics	1	9	7	4	4	1	1	2	0
Adv Physics II	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Principles of Engineering Design	4	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
SRD: Adv Science Research	2	7	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Science of Psychology	3	13	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
Spanish IIB	0	0	1	0	1	1	3	0	0
Spanish III	5	5	5	3	0	0	0	0	0
Adv Spanish III	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spanish IV	12	11	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Adv Spanish IV	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adv Latinx in New York City	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
French II	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
French III	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
French IV	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adv French III	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adv French IV	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adv French: Questions d'Identies	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Latin III	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Adv Latin IV: Lit of the Augustan Age	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mandarin III	2	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	0
Mandarin V	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Algorithmic Problem Solving	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
iOS Development I	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Data Analysis from Python to Panda	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dynamic Website Design	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adv Cross Platform Game Design	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Distinctive Programs

American Studies: A rigorous, co-taught, double-credit course that examines "America" through the lenses of history, literature, philosophy, rhetoric, and art. Course culminates in a major research paper, an accompanying walking tour in New York City, and a final exam requiring extensive written analysis of previously unseen material. This advanced course fosters critical reading, writing, discussion, and research skills.

Science Research and Design (SRD): An advanced three-year science program that takes students through the stages of research fundamentals, methodology and question development, original research execution, and the oral and written presentation of research findings. By the end of the second year, most students establish ties with external mentors and master several techniques for analyzing and presenting complex scientific studies. Students completing the third year present a paper at an annual conference and are published in the Berkeley Carroll Independent Research journal. Recent topics have included "Brain Plasticity: the Acquisition of Grapheme Color Synesthesia," "A Comparison of the Antimicrobial Activity of Silver Nano-particles against Antibiotics to Counter Antibiotic Resistance," and "The Potential Uses of Synthetic Shark Skin as a non-Toxic Antifouler and Antimicrobial."

Senior Scholars Program: Designed for seniors who wish to pursue advanced scholarly work in the humanities or social sciences, this demanding program trains them to be responsible researchers and inquisitive citizens. Working with mentors who are experts in their fields, students meet as a class to develop and critique each other's work. In-class instruction focuses on deepening writing, research, and philosophical inquiry. The program culminates in a formal research paper, an accompanying public presentation, and a formal Q and A. Projects range across disciplines, from investigating the role of Artificial Intelligence in contemporary computer science, for example, to analyzing Toni Morrison's novels, to researching gender dynamics in the history of Jazz.

Sophomore Grade Distribution, 2022-2023*

	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D
2022-2023 Academic Year	100-95	94-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	69-60
Algebra II	5	15	0	7	6	0	0	0	0
Adv Algebra II	14	18	4	3	2	0	0	0	0
Precalculus	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adv Precalculus	7	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adv Linear Algebra	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adv Chemistry II (Hacker)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chemistry-Applied Mathematics	18	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chemistry	3	16	20	13	3	0	0	0	0
Physics	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Principles of Engineering	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Science of Psychology	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
French 1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
French II	3	1	1	6	0	0	2	0	0
Adv French III	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adv French IV	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Latin II	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Latin III	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mandarin II	1	1	0	0	3	0	2	0	1
Mandarin IV	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
English Semester Electives	19	82	50	22	5	0	1	0	0
History Semester Electives	23	82	44	21	8	0	0	0	0
Spanish IIA	0	1	2	2	0	1	0	0	0
Spanish IIB	1	4	6	8	1	1	0	0	0
Spanish III	3	17	3	3	1	0	0	0	0
Adv Spanish III	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adv Spanish IV	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SRD: Intro into Research	2	5	4	5	1	2	0	0	0
Algorithmic Problem Solving (Alexis)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foundational Programming	8	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Responsive Wed App Design I	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0

College Matriculations

Members of the Classes of 2020-2024 enrolled at the following institutions:

Matriculations for 2024 are indicated in **bold**, with multiple enrollees in parentheses. With rare exceptions, 100% of Berkeley Carroll graduates attend a four-year college.

5 or more students enrolled:

Amherst College
Bard College (2)
Barnard College
Bates College
Bowdoin College (2)
Brown University (2)
Colorado College
Cornell University (2)
Drexel University (2)
Emory University (3)
Hamilton College
Lehigh University
New York University (2)
Northeastern University
Oberlin College
Occidental College
Rhode Island School of Design
Rochester Institute of Technology (2)
Skidmore College
Syracuse University (1)
Tufts University (4)
Tulane University (3)
University of Miami (2)
University of Michigan
Vassar College
Wesleyan University (4)

4 students enrolled:

Boston College (2)
Colby College (2)
Northwestern University
Scripps College
Trinity College Dublin
University of Pennsylvania (2)
University of Richmond (2)
University of Rochester
University of Vermont
University of Wisconsin Madison
Williams College (3)

3 students enrolled:

American University
Boston University (2)
Carleton College
Columbia University
Connecticut College
Dickinson College
George Washington University
Kenyon College
Lafayette College
Macalester College (2)
Smith College
University of Chicago
University of St Andrews (2)
Washington University St. Louis (2)

2 students enrolled:

Carnegie Mellon University
Chapman University
Colgate University
Elon University
Emerson College
Harvey Mudd College
Howard University
Ithaca College
McGill University (2)
Middlebury College
Muhlenberg College
Parsons School of Design New School
Reed College
Santa Clara University
Sarah Lawrence College
Stanford University
Stony Brook University
Swarthmore College
University of California Los Angeles
University of California Santa Cruz
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Pittsburgh
Wellesley College
Wheaton College MA

1 student enrolled:

Adelphi University
Babson College
Beloit College
Bennington College
Brandeis University
Bryn Mawr College
Concordia University (Montreal)
CUNY Hunter College
Denison University
Duke University
Fashion Institute of Technology
Georgetown University
Goucher College
Hampshire College
Harvard University
IE University
Inholland University of Applied Sciences
Johns Hopkins University
King's College London
Lawrence University
Lewis & Clark College
Manhattan School of Music
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Pace University
Penn State University
Pitzer College
Pratt Institute
Princeton University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Savannah College of Art and Design
Seton Hall University
Southern Methodist University
Spelman College
SUNY at Albany
SUNY at Purchase College
Temple University
The New School
The Ohio State University
The University of Edinburgh
University of British Columbia
University of California Berkeley
University of California San Diego
University of Guelph
University of Hartford
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Oregon
University of South Florida
University of Toronto
Vanderbilt University
Whitman College
Yale University