

SY25-26 and SY26-27 Bard High School Early College DC: Admissions Process Rubric

For Grades: 9-11

Note: This rubric will be in effect for SY25-26 and SY26-27 admissions.

About Bard High School Early College DC Admissions Criteria: At Bard High School Early College DC (Bard DC), we are looking for scholars who demonstrate motivation, intellectual curiosity, and excitement about an academic challenge, and who are eager to dive into college coursework at an earlier age.

About Bard High School Early College DC Admissions Process: At Bard DC, our admissions process includes an essay, interview, two recommendations, and a report card review for 9th and 10th grade. For 11th grade, there is a report card and transcript review. We consider each admissions component for every applicant, and all applications are rated on a rubric. No single admissions component will be the sole determinant of eligibility. All applicants must complete an interview and essay to be considered for admission.

Each component is scored and weighted according to the chart below. Applicants must receive a minimum total score of 12 out of 17 points to be considered eligible for admission. Applicants who score below 12 may also be deemed eligible. All eligible applicants are ranked according to the total number of points earned.

Admissions Component	Weight	Notes
Report Card Review (includes GPA)	(3/17 points)	<p>Bard DC reviews grades (GPA) as part of the report card review. Applicants must submit their final SY23-24 and SY24-25 First Quarter report cards. There is no minimum GPA required, but both report cards must be submitted for the application to be considered for admission.</p> <p>We have found that applicants who are successful in our program usually enter with a 2.0 or higher GPA. However, we have also found that applicants with lower GPAs have been able to find success with the right support and strategies.</p>
Interview	(5/17 points)	<p>Bard DC believes strongly in identifying applicants with a passion for being a change agent in their community and a love for learning. We seek a student that is expressive and demonstrates a joy for learning new things.</p> <p>During the interview, the Bard team looks for students who are curious and eager to learn. We want to know what interests them about our program and how they handle challenges in school. We are also interested in how they see themselves and how they deal with conflicts or tough</p>

		<p>situations. Lastly, we like to hear about their passions, goals, and what they want to achieve in high school.</p> <p>Based on health guidance and family circumstances, interviews may be requested to be conducted virtually for SY25-26.</p>
On-Site Writing Prompt (completed during the Interview)	(5/17 points)	<p>Like the interview, the writing prompt is used to assess student interest in our program, commitment to community, and show critical thinking skills. This prompt will be completed on-site during the interview.</p> <p>Though applicants will be expected to write regularly throughout high school, the rubric for the writing prompt does not focus on technical writing skills such as grammar and vocabulary. The rubric focuses on how well students respond to the prompt. It evaluates the clarity, depth, and originality of the writing. Higher scores are awarded for well-crafted responses that show strong engagement, clear viewpoints, and creativity.</p> <p>Based on health guidance and family circumstances, interviews (which include the completion of the on-site writing prompt) may be requested to be conducted virtually for SY25-26.</p>
Recommendations	(4/17 points)	<p>Bard DC uses teacher recommendations to better understand a student’s experience at school and to provide context to their report card.</p> <p>Bard DC requests two (2) recommendations. If only one is completed by the requested teacher, we will assess the student based on the one recommendation submitted. If no recommendations are submitted, then the school will reallocate the points to interview and essay only. The combined score will determine eligibility for the next steps in the process.</p> <p>We strongly encourage applicants and families to follow up with the individuals submitting recommendations on their behalf to ensure we have the most complete picture of the student possible.</p>
<p>All applicants who receive 12 points or higher will be eligible for admission. All eligible applicants are ranked according to the total number of points earned.</p>		