ACTING (BFA)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND
MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Basic Undergraduate Admission Requirements for Brooklyn College
(Check Admissions Office for clarification at time of application):

Freshmen:
• SAT score of 1000 in reading and math
• High School GPA: 81% minimum average

Transfer student with less than 25 credits:
• GPA: 2.2 minimum and transcript (81% requirement)

Transfer student with 25 or more credits:
• GPA: 2.2 minimum and transcript (no minimum requirement)
• GPA: 2.0 minimum for students with an Associate Degree from CUNY
• GPA: 2.0 minimum for students with a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited institution

Incoming freshmen will also be required to take the CUNY Skills Assessment Test in the areas of Math and Reading prior to the start of their first semester. Students who scored at least 480 on Critical Reading and 510 on Math on the SAT are exempt from the assessment exam.

Please check with the Admissions office for details at (718) 951-5001.

The CUNY Brooklyn College Application fee is $125.00. The deadline is February 1st, 2018 for the CUNY Brooklyn College Application. Remember that the deadline for the BFA Acting Application is January 30th, 2018 and both the BFA application and your CUNY Brooklyn College application must be submitted by the deadlines in order for you to be considered for the BFA Program.
Housing

Brooklyn College has access to a new Residence Hall, owned and managed by a private organization, located at 1 Kenilworth Place about two blocks away from campus.

- Shared rooms: $4,995 per semester
- Private rooms: $6,995 per semester

Housing information for prospective students can be found through the Student Life and Housing Office, (718) 951-5000 x6534 or x6533, or on their websites:
  
  http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/about/offices/studentaffairs/offices/housing.php
  
  http://www.1kenilworth.com

Tuition Costs

Undergraduate (New York State Resident)

- Full-Time: $3,265/term
- Part-Time: $285/credit
- Non-Degree: $415/credit (no limit)

Undergraduate (Non-New York State Resident)

- Full-Time: $580/credit (no limit)
- Part-Time: $580/credit
- Non-Degree: $865.00/credit (no limit)

*For Non-Resident students, there are only per credit rates.

For further information concerning tuition and application deadlines, contact the admissions office: (718) 951-5001.
How many students do you accept?
We accept twelve (12) new students annually; this maintains a strong student/teacher ratio. Your training will be personalized, hands-on, and challenging: a small community means an intense, focused education. It also means that personal responsibility and collaborative learning are all the more important because we maintain a small community. A cornerstone of our teaching philosophy is that individual learning can’t happen without collaborative learning. You’re training for a collaborative profession, and being a positive, contributing member to your class, workshops, and productions is essential to your education.

Can I be accepted as a freshman into the program at Brooklyn College?
Yes. However, if we accept you as a freshman, you will not begin the intensive three-year sequence of BFA Acting classes until the start of your second (sophomore) year. This is to help you get grounded in the college experience, make headway with the Core curriculum and other college requirements, and for you and your ensemble to graduate at the conclusion of the three-year training sequence. In your first (freshman) year, you will be permitted to take some lower tier theater courses, such as an Acting Workshop class, Introduction to Theater Production, or Production Practicum (working in one or more shop areas). BFA Freshmen are permitted to participate in directing students’ scenes in the departments of theater, film, and television production, as long as those commitments don’t interfere with their academics.

If I am not accepted by Brooklyn College (CUNY) itself, and yet I’ve been told I’ve been accepted into the BFA Acting program, can I still attend?
Absolutely not. There is often a lag time between the time we audition BFA candidates, and the time that Brooklyn College notifies candidates of their admission status. If a student does not meet the academic criteria for admission to Brooklyn College, they cannot attend. Your degree of study is awarded from Brooklyn College, City University of New York, and all BFA candidates are expected to meet the high academic standards set by Brooklyn College.

If I’m accepted as a freshman, what happens at the start of my sophomore year?
At the start of your sophomore year, you’ll be joined by a number of transfer students.
who will have been accepted to the BFA Acting program. Together, your ensemble of twelve (12) will then begin the intensive BFA course sequence in your practical classes.

What if I’m applying as a transfer student? Do I need to start at the beginning of the three-year sequence of courses or can I jump into the acting program “further along” in the sequence?
If you are applying as a transfer student, you should contact the Transfer Student Services office as soon as possible for additional information and guidelines for your application to Brooklyn College: (718) 951-5263.

An applicant can’t simply “transfer in” to the BFA Acting program at Brooklyn College; everyone must fulfill the written application and audition requirements. If you’re accepted into the BFA Acting program, unless you are transferring from another BFA program whose course content matches ours exactly, you will indeed need to begin your studies at the start of the three-year BFA course sequence. You may have transferable credits in theater that we may accept (History of Theater, Theater Production, etc.), but it’s very highly unlikely that the content of the practical courses in acting, movement, and voice will align.

I’m strongly considering the BFA in Acting at Brooklyn College; would it be possible for me to speak to a current student or an alum of the BFA program?
Absolutely. Our students are always eager to speak to potential candidates, and our alums remain involved in the program through mentoring, and appearing on guest artist and alum panels for our students. Let us know, and we will reach out to someone who might come from an experience comparable to yours (e.g., an out-of-state student, an older student who began their undergraduate training later in life, etc.).

Are there scholarships I can apply for?
Yes. All applicants should contact the Scholarships Office on campus, and Financial Aid, to see what you may be eligible for. Note that both offices have strict and early deadlines. You should apply for financial aid as soon as you apply to Brooklyn College. Any student who is accepted into our program can apply for departmental awards at the end of their first year of training; these awards can range from several hundred to a thousand dollars, and each award has specific academic and personal criteria.

Do I receive progress reports each semester?
Yes. Every student meets individually with their collective of teachers at the end of that semester for comprehensive evaluations. Their progress is reviewed, and specific guidance is given to each student to help them meet their goals for the following semester. Students also meet regularly throughout the semester with their advisor, Professor Rose Burnett Bonczek, and they receive peer mentoring from an upper class BFA Acting student.
Can I double major or minor in another subject, or apply to the Macaulay Honors College as well as the BFA Acting program?
Yes. If you double major, you would need to be an excellent time manager, and plan to take additional courses in either winter intercession or summer session if you want to complete both degrees in four years. If you’re accepted into the Macaulay Honors College as well as the BFA Acting program you should meet with a Macaulay advisor immediately to review their course requirements and the timing of when you would take those specific courses. Because the BFA Acting program is purposely kept small in numbers, we offer only one section of each class annually — that means, there’s no flexibility with the scheduling of BFA classes. To successfully complete the BFA and a second program or major students must plan their schedules far in advance, be highly organized, and excellent communicators.

Are students ever “cut” from the program after they’re accepted?
Only if the student has failed to meet their academic and artistic responsibilities. If a student has consistently struggled with lateness, failing to be responsible to themselves, their work, and their ensemble, the first step would be to place them on probation in the program. Students then have a full semester — working and meeting with their advisor and teachers on a regular basis — to improve. Only after probation has proved unsuccessful would a student be suspended from the program.

Am I permitted to take theater classes outside of my required courses for the BFA?
Absolutely! Our BFA Acting majors take courses in directing, stage management, theater for social change, arts management, and often do independent studies that can range from assistant teaching to assistant directing to an internship on- or off-campus.

Can I work on shows outside of Brooklyn College if I’m in the program?
Not usually. The training program is very intensive, and we produce eight (8) to nine (9) shows annually. If a student is not cast in an on campus show, and they have been successful with their academic and artistic responsibilities, they can then petition to work off-campus. Once approved, the student is then free to audition for that project.

Can I be considered for productions right away?
No. Freshmen as well as BFAs in their first semester of the sequence are not permitted to perform in productions. This is to give you the time and ability to adapt to the intensive demands of the training program, and to develop a work ethic and focus on your training. Never forget: you are in a training program to develop your skills for your future. The productions exist only as an additional opportunity to apply your skills. They aren’t a means to an end.
**Will I be cast in a show every semester?**
Not necessarily. In some seasons we have more actors than there are available roles — no one is guaranteed a role, and every role is earned.

**When will your new Performing Arts Center be open?**
The Leonard and Claire Tow Performing Arts Center is slated to open in Early 2018. This new facility will have a state-of-the-art theater, classrooms, and equipment, and will be a space we share with the Department of Music.

**Does Brooklyn College help its graduating seniors with an industry showcase?**
Yes. In the final semester before a BFA student graduates, all eligible students are invited to participate in an industry showcase that is produced by the students themselves and by the Department of Theater, held at a key location in Manhattan (usually on Theater Row). Students learn how to fundraise to pay for their venue and catering, learn how to work with headshot photographers, and how to make cold calls and create mailing lists. If a student is not meeting their academic responsibilities, they may not be invited to participate.

**What kind of work do graduates of your program do?**
At this moment, we have alums who are appearing regularly in New York and regional theater (The Public Theater, The Flea, Stable Cable Lab Co., Huntington Theatre in Boston, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, and The Falcon Theater in Los Angeles); receiving their Actors Equity memberships, working in film and guest starring and featured in recurring roles in television (House of Cards, Orange Is the New Black, The Deuce (HBO), Chicago PD, Outsiders, Containment, and many others), as well as working in Web series and in a range of commercials. Our alums are also working as directors, playwrights, screenwriters, and teaching artists. Some have gone on to graduate school to specialize in drama therapy, education, mental health counseling, and social work. Our students receive the skills essential for a professional career in acting; however, those skills also prepare them for countless career choices that may call to them throughout their lives.