

## Family Zoom – Most Frequently Asked Questions

**October 24, 2023**

*Panelists:* Beth Kotarski (she/her) [bkotarski@brynmawr.edu](mailto:bkotarski@brynmawr.edu), A.T. Ortiz (she/her/hers) [aortiz3@brynmawr.edu](mailto:aortiz3@brynmawr.edu), Karlene Burrell-McRae [kburrellmc@brynmawr.edu](mailto:kburrellmc@brynmawr.edu), Katie Krimmel [kkrimmel@brynmawr.edu](mailto:kkrimmel@brynmawr.edu), MB Horvath [mhorvath@brynmawr.edu](mailto:mhorvath@brynmawr.edu), Angie Sheets [asheets@brynmawr.edu](mailto:asheets@brynmawr.edu)

**Q: What is the rationale behind the college's schedule of breaks during the year?**

- A: The college's academic schedule is aligned with Haverford, Swarthmore, and Bryn Mawr, as part of the Tri-Co system. This allows students to take classes at these institutions. While the college does not strictly follow the University of Pennsylvania's schedule, they aim to be considerate of students who may take classes there, which can complicate the adjustment of breaks.

**Q: Can we expect changes in the timing and length of breaks, like fall break and family weekend?**

- A: Over the years, the college has discussed potential changes to breaks, but it's important to understand the challenges involved. The goal is to ensure that students have suitable access to meals and other resources. We will continue to consider changes, these decisions are made with consideration for students' needs and academic progress, and in coordination with our Tri- Co colleagues.

**Q: Is there an official channel for college-related information, apart from unofficial sources like Facebook pages?**

- A: While there may be unofficial sources like Facebook pages, it's encouraged to reach out to the college if you have concerns or questions about the information being circulated. Sometimes, misinformation or incomplete details can create unnecessary confusion. The college is committed to supporting students' overall health and wellness.

**Q: How is the college addressing the concerns of Jewish, Palestinian, Israeli, Muslim, and Arab families given recent events?**

- A: The college acknowledges the impact of global events on its community and is committed to supporting its students. They have taken actions aligned with the college's mission. Our primary focus is on student safety, care, and support. We have sent messages to affirm our care and to offer necessary resources to support students.

**Q: What is the current status of first-year students at the college, and what's happening in terms of their academic progress?**

- A: As First-year students complete their first semester, they are preparing for Spring class registration. Advising sessions are ongoing to help them understand course registration requirements. The college is also hosting events like "First Year First Friday" and Club Athena to engage and support students.

**Q: Can you share information about “major” declaration for sophomores and the study abroad application process?**

- A: Sophomores are in the process of declaring their majors and can attend academic department information sessions to explore their options. They are also applying for study abroad programs, with some competitive programs having early decision deadlines. Students not applying early can still apply in the spring.

**Q: What's happening for juniors and seniors, and what support is available for them?**

- A: Juniors and seniors are participating in events like "adulting" workshops, thesis nights, and class competitions. These programs cater to the unique needs and interests of upper-class students, helping them transition into their roles as leaders on campus and preparing for life after graduation.

**Q: What events are taking place during Owl's Fest, and can families attend college classes?**

- A: Owl's Fest is a combination of family and friends' weekend, homecoming, and alumni weekend. Events include class visits on Friday. It's an opportunity for families to get a glimpse of the academic environment and their students' experiences. However, some classes might not be suitable for visitors during specific times.

**Q: What are some highlights of recent activities in student engagement at Bryn Mawr College?**

- A: Recent highlights include the success of Fall Frolic, the active clubs and organizations on campus, leadership development conferences, fun outings like Comic-Con trips, and the Junior Senior Olympics.

**Q: How can I get more information about specific college programs and resources for students?**

- A: The college regularly hosts events and information sessions. You can check the college's website for program details or reach out to the appropriate department for specific information.

**Q: How does Bryn Mawr College handle dining services during breaks, like Fall Break?**

- A: During Fall Break, Bryn Mawr College offers a regular lunch service Monday through Friday, with students able to take additional food for breakfast and dinner if they wish. The approach is based on student feedback and helps provide students with the flexibility they desire.

**Q: What is the plan for Thanksgiving Break meals and special events at Bryn Mawr College?**

- A: Bryn Mawr College aims to provide a special meal for students during Thanksgiving Break as it's a time when more students remain on campus. It's an opportunity to create a sense of community during the holiday season.

**Q: Can you share more about Lantern Night and who gets class lanterns?**

- A: Lantern Night is a cherished student tradition at Bryn Mawr College. Every class, including transfer students and McBride scholars, gets class color lanterns. The lanterns are a significant and tangible memory of the event. This year's color is green.

**Q: What training and support does Bryn Mawr College provide for hall advisors and students related to safety?**

- A: We offer ongoing training and support for hall advisors, including fire safety training, to ensure students' safety and well-being in the residence halls.

**Q: How does Bryn Mawr College support students in handling roommate relationships, especially as the semester progresses?**

- A: The college works with hall advisors to reevaluate students' roommate agreements and conduct formal check-ins, especially after Fall Break when stress levels might increase. This support aims to ensure students have a positive living experience.

**Q: How does housing work for juniors that go abroad in the fall? Do they still participate in the room pick process?**

- A: All students receive a random priority number within their class year in the spring room draw process. Students who are away in the spring can participate in the room selection process easily through a proxy or on their own, as materials are all available online and selection events are virtual. Students who plan to study away in the fall don't participate in the spring room draw process. Instead, they complete a preference form late in the fall semester and we use the priority numbers from the spring draw to house students for their spring semester return.

**Q: What is Bryn Mawr's approach to health and wellness?**

A: Bryn Mawr College follows an integrated health and wellness system. This means that counseling services and medical/health services, including preventive health, work together closely under one umbrella. The focus is on the holistic well-being of students, including their medical, mental, spiritual, occupational, and community health.

**Q: What are some recent updates in the medical and counseling services at Bryn Mawr?**

A: Bryn Mawr has introduced several exciting updates, including lowering the barriers to access for students. They offer quick appointments, often within the same day, and always within 24 hours for various student needs. They also have on-call partners to assist with emergencies even outside regular hours. Additionally, they're onboarding three new counselors to provide more support, and plan to partner with the School of Social Work, and Social Policy, to augment services, and involving students in wellness promotion.

**Q: Are there student groups that support health and wellness at Bryn Mawr?**

A: Yes, there are two prominent student groups dedicated to supporting health and wellness. The Peer Health and Wellness Educators and the Health Center Advisory Board (HCAB) are active and student-led organizations that provide advisory support to Bryn Mawr's health and wellness services. They work on projects related to health information, advocacy, and wellness promotion.

**Q: What initiatives are happening at the Impact Center for Community Equity and Understanding?**

A: The Impact Center at Bryn Mawr College is involved in several programs and events, such as the Breaking Barriers initiative for low-income, first-generation, and undocumented students, the Faith Journeys 101 program, and the Intercultural Living and Learning Center. Additionally, the center supports various affinity groups and cultural-related clubs on campus.

**Q: What is Friends Giving at Bryn Mawr, and when does it occur?**

A: Friends Giving at Bryn Mawr is a celebration where students cook and share meals with each other. It's a diverse potluck gathering with food from around the world, and it takes place on November 17th.

**Q: How does Bryn Mawr College support students during major global events?**

A: Bryn Mawr provides support and sessions for students during major global events, ensuring that they have a safe space to discuss and process these events. They offer individual outreach, group sessions, and discussions that promote civil discourse and uphold the college's values.

**Q: How can students stay informed about the various events and opportunities at Bryn Mawr College?**

A: Students can stay informed through the Daily Digest, the college's official communication channel, where events and opportunities are listed daily. They can also follow relevant groups and organizations on Instagram and log into Handshake to find career and civic engagement-related events and opportunities.

**Q: Is there any information available regarding the search for a new President of Bryn Mawr College?**

A: The search for a new President is ongoing, and a diverse committee is leading the search. They have conducted stakeholder meetings and will begin interviewing candidates. The final decision involves a board vote, and the goal is to have the new President in place by July 1st.

**Q: Can you share more about the Summer Intern Session? Is it led by staff or students? Is it a drop-in or a presentation? Will student applications be available for Summer 2024? Are some internships in DC or Maryland?**

A: This event is our culminating event for the Beyond Bryn Mawr Summer Internship Program. We invite all students in the program to attend, but some of class, some are abroad, so we don't have all 100+ in attendance. Our Career & Civic Engagement staff is also present at the event. It is a very informal drop-in networking and sharing opportunity that is on the plaza outside of the Well. During the year, we do more formal sharing of experiences and workshops for how to find internships that are often focused on class years. Deadlines for applications for internships happen year-round.

Many opportunities can be found in Handshake. Applications for internship funding for unpaid internships are due in March for International self-design internships and in April for domestic self-design internships. We also have internships partners, and we are currently working on the spring deadlines for those opportunities. There are organizations that offer opportunities specifically for Bryn Mawr students.

Here is where you can learn more about Summer Funding options:

<https://www.brynmawr.edu/inside/offices-services/career-civic-engagement-center/summer-funding>

Here is where you can see some of the student blogs from Summer of 2023 (pages 1-8):

<https://www.brynmawr.edu/inside/latest/news?tagged=3791>

Please note that the provided answers are based on the transcript and may not cover all possible details.