Dear Prospective Speaking Fellow,

Before you fill out the application that follows, we’d like to clarify what it means to be a part of the Speaking Fellows Program. Speaking Fellows are a team of specially selected and trained Barnard students who are passionate about developing a healthy speaking culture on campus. By experimenting with language and structure, Speaking Fellows help peers actively engage in their own thinking processes, getting to the bottom of what they want to say and how they want to express those ideas to an audience.

Speaking Fellows come from a variety of backgrounds, not all related to public speaking. So, whatever your relationship to public speaking is, know that crucial to being a Speaking Fellow is having a passion for speaking and listening, and a genuine investment in seeing peers succeed. In addition, Speaking Fellows have excellent leadership, team-building, and interpersonal skills, as they work collaboratively among themselves, with other students and, occasionally, with professors. We encourage students of all majors to apply.

After being accepted into the Program, Speaking Fellows are required to take a semester-long, 4-credit training course in the Fall called “Rhetorical Choices: The Theory and Practice of Public Speaking.” This course is co-taught by Pam Cobrin (Director, Writing and Speaking Programs) and Daniela Kempf (Associate Director, Speaking Program). After the training course, Speaking Fellows dedicate a minimum of 70 hours per semester to the program and commit to working for at least three semesters, one of those being the semester directly following the training course.

During the semester, Speaking Fellows are “attached” to courses across the disciplines where they create and run customized workshops or one-on-one sessions with peers. They also staff the Speaking Center for one hour per week and meet every week as a group for continued training and workshop development. Speaking Fellows have managed this workload and doing their own work for years, and they support each other while doing it. If you can make this commitment, we would love to read your application.

Once training is completed successfully, Speaking Fellows receive a stipend of $1050 per semester.

A word about the training course: Rhetorical Choices combines the study of theoretical texts with hands-on training in peer-to-peer coaching. Covering this much ground in one semester is intense, which does not mean we don’t laugh a lot. Students meet three times per week for seminar discussion, workshop, and a lab component led by Teaching Fellows. They write two essays; learn how to run workshops and one-on-one sessions;
prepare speeches; and participate in formal debates. There is also a great deal of theory-heavy reading about what forms of speaking are valued across institutions and communities, and how gender, race, and ethnicity intersect with rhetorical expression and reception.

The Barnard Speaking Program aims to foster connection through dialogue, listening, and active engagement. By developing these skills, Speaking Fellows are empowered to create environments where all voices are valued. Participating in this program provides an opportunity to develop and support your and your peers’ voice. If you think it’s for you, we look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely yours,

Pam Cobrin  Director, Writing and Speaking Programs
Daniela Kempf  Associate Director, Speaking Program
SPEAKING FELLOW APPLICATION Deadline: Friday, March 27th at 5:00pm

Please either staple or securely paperclip a hard copy of your application and deliver to DaMonique Ballou (Program Coordinator) in 222 Barnard Hall by the above deadline.

Name: Phone:

Class Year: Projected Major:

Email:

Name of faculty member providing a reference:

(You must provide at least one reference from a professor with whom you have taken a seminar. Please provide them with the reference form at the end of this document.)

1. Please list the courses you have taken at Barnard/Columbia and the grades you received.

2. Please list your work and/or volunteer experience, including the dates (or attach a resume).

3. Please describe your prior experience in tutoring or peer counseling.
SPEAKING FELLOW APPLICATION: Supplementary Materials

1. In a page or so, please tell us why you would like to be a Speaking Fellow, how you go about preparing for class discussions and/or presentations, and how that might relate to your interest in helping others with their speaking skills. What do you see as the biggest speaking issue that students face at Barnard? How do you take responsibility for these issues in class? Use specific examples (without using students’ or professors’ names).

2. We encourage you to begin preparing a 3-4 minute teaching demonstration about a topic of interest to you. If you are invited back for an interview, you will be asked to give this demonstration to the Associate Director, Coordinator, and the Speaking Fellows. Choose a topic you are passionate about, have questions about, or are otherwise fascinated, bothered, confounded, or excited by. You do not need to be an expert on this topic, but rather, engaged with it in some meaningful way.

Present your material in the format you feel would be most effective. This might mean that you give a standard, lecture-style presentation; facilitate a discussion or activity; or do a creative combination of the three (or any other format you might imagine). A visual aid is not required or expected, but a whiteboard will be available, and you may bring in a handout or other non-electronic visual aid if you like (please do not bring in a PowerPoint, Prezi, or anything that requires A/V equipment). Keep in mind that you will be presenting to an audience who may not be familiar with your course, but who is eager to learn something meaningful from you. Please do not bring a performance piece in which you speak in character; we are not interested in seeing you perform, but rather teach and connect.

Applicants whom we wish to interview will be listed outside of 222 Barnard Hall on Friday, April 3rd at 5:00pm. If your name is listed, please sign up for an interview.

We strongly encourage you to sign up for a Speaking Fellow one-on-one session or workshop if you have not done so yet, especially if you are selected for the interview. We also encourage you to attend one of the information sessions listed below:

- Tuesday, March 3, 6 - 7 pm
- Wednesday, March 4, 4 - 5 pm
- March 6, 11 - 12 pm
- Thursday, March 10, 7 - 8 pm
- Thursday, March 12, 6-7pm
All info sessions will take place in BAR 217

You can sign up here: https://speaking.mywconline.com/.
Faculty Name: Student Name:

SPEAKING FELLOW APPLICATION: Faculty Reference Deadline: Friday, March 27th at 5:00pm

Thank you for taking a moment to answer the following questions.

1. Does this student participate in class discussions? Please describe their style of engagement with others during class. (Does she engage with other students, or just the professor? In what way?)

2. Have you seen this student speak in front of a group? If so, how would you rate their competence as a public speaker?

3. How would you rate this student’s commitment level? Does she complete assignments on time? Does she otherwise demonstrate integrity in their work?

4. How would you describe this student’s intellectual capacity and ability to connect ideas?

5. Please feel free to share anything else you would like us to know when considering this student for the Speaking Fellows Program, either here or via email.

Please return this form to DaMonique Ballou (Coordinator, Writing and Speaking Programs) by Friday, March 27th at 5pm. You may email it to dballou@barnard.edu, or send it (in a sealed envelope) to 222 Barnard Hall via interoffice mail.