

Bard College

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS, ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, NY 12504 • ADMISSIONS: 845-758-7472 • FAX: 845-758-5208

CAMPUS LIFE

Quality of Life Rating	77
Fire Safety Rating	86
Green Rating	92
Type of school	Private
Affiliation	No Affiliation
Environment	Rural

STUDENTS

Total undergrad enrollment	2,022
% male/female	45/55
% from out of state	65
% frosh from public high school	59
% frosh live on campus	9
% undergrads live on campus	73
% African American	6
% Asian	4
% Caucasian	60
% Hispanic	2
% Native American	1
% international	12
# of countries represented	60

ACADEMICS

Academic Rating	98
% students returning for sophomore year	87
% students graduating within 4 years	60
% students graduating within 6 years	74
Calendar	Semester
Student/faculty ratio	10:1
Profs interesting rating	99
Profs accessible rating	99
Most classes have 10–19 students.	
Most lab/discussion sessions have 2–9 students.	

MOST POPULAR MAJORS

English language and literature;
social sciences; visual and performing arts

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Originally called St. Stephen's College upon its founding in 1860, Bard College is located in Annandale-on-Hudson, the heart of the Hudson Valley, about 100 miles north of New York City. A private liberal arts college with a student body of fewer than 2,000, Bard has historically been known for its strong academics, gorgeous campus, outstanding arts programs, slant toward civic engagement, and "hipster" student body. The academic culture emphasizes both intellectual rigor and students' self-direction, offering more than forty majors and twelve interdisciplinary concentrations; the forward-looking college was also the first in the country to offer a human rights major. Each student chooses a major or concentration in conjunction with faculty, through a process known as "moderation," in which the student presents their work to a moderation board of three departmental professors; every student is also required to complete a senior project or departmental thesis project. Bard also boasts a wealth of study-abroad options due to its constellation of satellite campuses from Berlin to the West Bank.

Students praise the "small and intimate" campus atmosphere, the excellent faculty and their encouragement of sophisticated critical thinking, the school's popular financial aid programs, and the "artsy-intellectual" social scene. One student praises Bard's professors as "experts in their respective field who care about their students and initiate interesting discussions in class." Liberal politics dominate the political climate on campus, and while the school's Convocation Fund supports more than 120 recognized student groups, there are no sororities or fraternities on campus. Discussion is taken seriously by Bard undergraduates as a learning method superior to lecture, and students largely praise the academic rigor as the foremost aspect of their college experience. The eclectic social scene, however, gets as much exposure in students' perspectives as the academics: "People think about philosophy, their existence, and sex," comments one student.

BANG FOR YOUR BUCK

Many students name the school's financial aid program as one of their main reasons for choosing to attend; about two-thirds of the student body receives aid. While Bard distinguishes itself from many other prestigious colleges and universities by offering merit-based financial support to promising applicants alongside need-based options, the school also reads applications on a need-blind basis, meaning financial need is not a factor in determining a student's eligibility for admission. While the ever-swelling annual costs are now around \$60,000 (a rough estimate of tuition plus room and board and supplies and fees), the average average scholarship package is \$30,375. The unique Bard Budget Plan also allows tuition payments to be made in ten installments spread throughout the year, rather than the typical biannual or quarterly payment schedule. Finally, the campus' distance from major urban areas means that having a good time outside the classroom costs a lot less than it might in a major metropolis.

STUDENT LIFE

Bard students are "eccentric intellectuals who like pontificating about anything and everything." Students generally don't separate their social life from their academic interests ("Most students are incredibly interested in an area of study outside of their major") and it's common to talk about academics at a party on the weekends, or get into "heated debates on thought experiments." There's also a strong sense of global awareness, which is reflected even in

conversations. Sometimes “there is a lack of organized things to do on-campus which inspires creativity on the part of students.” Students here love to plan events, and these are not limited to the famous Bard dinner parties; on any given weekend there is “a plethora of student theater productions, garage band shows, dances, dinner parties, dorm activities, club meetings, magazine release parties, cozy gatherings, off-campus ragers, [and] more dinner parties.”

CAREER

At Bard “it is more than acceptable to study seriously a mélange of such subjects as dance and biology, and expect to use these skills in tandem somehow after graduation.” The school places a high value on independent work and internships (it is “especially supportive of the arts as a valid career path”), and also works with students to tailor their programs to meet professional requirements for admission to graduate schools (including the simultaneous completion of professional graduate work at another institution). There are numerous institutes for special study within the Bard network (both on- and off-campus), ranging from New Orleans to Budapest. The Career Development Office hosts many skills workshops, recruiting consortiums (the Bard equivalent of career fairs), and is particularly helpful in guiding students through finding work or internships abroad.

FINANCIAL AID

Students should submit: FAFSA, CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE, State aid form, Noncustodial PROFILE, Business/Farm Supplement. Regular filing deadline is 2/15. The Princeton Review suggests that all financial aid forms be submitted as soon as possible after January 1. *Need-based scholarships/grants offered:* Federal Pell, SEOG, State scholarships/grants, private scholarships, the school’s own gift aid. *Loan aid offered:* Direct Subsidized Stafford Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans, Direct PLUS loans, Federal Perkins Loans, College/university loans from institutional funds. Applicants will be notified of awards beginning 4/1. Federal Work-Study Program available. Institutional employment available. Off-campus job opportunities are good.

BOTTOM LINE

In general, a Bard education is high quality, with a high cost unusually well balanced for a school of its caliber with financial aid defrayments. Ninety-eight percent of first years, and 98 percent of undergraduates overall, who demonstrate need, receive need-based scholarship or grant aid, and 70 percent of undergraduates total receive some form of aid. Forty-seven percent of Bard students must borrow in order to pay for school, and the average cumulative indebtedness upon graduation is about \$25,600, or much less than one full year of tuition. Overall, Bard clearly works hard to deliver an education that students feel is worth it, both in terms of academic quality and in terms of the school’s financial support.

SELECTIVITY

Admissions Rating	95
# of applicants	5,466
% of applicants accepted	38
% of acceptees attending	24

FRESHMAN PROFILE

Range SAT Critical Reading	600–710
Range SAT Math	570–670
Minimum paper TOEFL	600
Minimum web-based TOEFL	100
Average HS GPA	3.50
% graduated top 10% of class	58
% graduated top 25% of class	92
% graduated top 50% of class	99

DEADLINES

Early Action	
Deadline	11/1
Notification	1/1
Regular	
Deadline	1/1
Notification	4/1
Nonfall registration?	No

FINANCIAL FACTS

Financial Aid Rating	90
Annual tuition	\$47,560
Room and board	\$13,772
Required fees	\$680
Books and supplies	\$950
% needy frosh rec. need-based scholarship or grant aid	98
% needy UG rec. need-based scholarship or grant aid	98
% needy frosh rec. non-need-based scholarship or grant aid	0
% needy UG rec. non-need-based scholarship or grant aid	0
% needy frosh rec. need-based self-help aid	85
% needy UG rec. need-based self-help aid	78
% frosh rec. any financial aid	73E
% UG rec. any financial aid	70
% UG borrow to pay for school	47
Average cumulative indebtedness	\$25,664
% frosh need fully met	60
% ugrads need fully met	52
Average % of frosh need met	84
Average % of ugrad need met	80

CAREER INFORMATION FROM PAYSACLE.COM

ROE rating	84
Median starting salary	\$42,900
Median mid-career salary	\$70,000
% stay in state after graduation	46%