



At Bard Academy, our students experience a collegiate approach to learning from day one. Located on the campus of Bard College at Simon's Rock, America's first and most innovative early college, Bard Academy shares faculty, facilities, and resources with the college. Students are taught by their future college professors in an intellectually stimulating environment: The Princeton Review rates Bard College at Simon's Rock higher than Harvard and Princeton for academics. Our culture and curriculum provide for a seamless transition from high school to early college.

**Academy students are not simply attending school—they're joining a community of people who share their passion for knowledge.**

CREATIVITY, INNOVATION, AND  
**INTELLECTUAL  
DISCOVERY**  
SHOULD BEGIN IN HIGH SCHOOL.

That's why we started Bard Academy at Simon's Rock, the nation's first two-year high school for boarding and day students.

# ACADEMICS

**The last two years of high school often have more to do with getting into college than learning.** Change the focus and the results are dramatic: High school becomes shorter and genuine learning becomes possible.

While the depth of the curriculum is uncommon, what is truly exciting about Bard Academy is our approach—how we teach our students. We believe education is something you do, not something that’s done to you. Our students learn to think for themselves—not simply how to memorize or adopt someone else’s ideas. In dialogue with professors, they have a chance to contribute to the sum of academic knowledge.

Our students enter an in-depth program of the humanities, world languages, mathematics and science, social sciences, and visual and performing arts. Writing is the hallmark of our approach, and students are asked to write in nearly every class. In doing so, they discover the deep connections between different subjects, themes, and concepts. Bard Academy is an enriched liberal arts program for students who don’t want to wait to ask serious questions.

## Sample Classes

### Chinese

Language is a window into our understanding of life and culture. Explore the beauty of Chinese characters as you learn to write, speak, and hear one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. Our interdisciplinary approach provides historical and geographic contexts for the language. Other languages taught in the Academy include Spanish and French.

### Climate Change

At the intersection of physics, chemistry, and environmental science is climate change, one of the most urgent topics of our time. Examine the causes of climate change, imagine solutions to its challenges, and build the foundation in chemistry and physics needed for further study in the sciences.

### Visual and Performing Arts

Artists inspire curiosity and hold a space for dreams and possibilities. There are endless ways to create. Activate your imagination by exploring the visual and performing arts. Take classes in ceramics, painting and drawing, theater, film, music, photography, and dance.

### Algebra I and II

Whether you are an engineer, inventor, or artist, understanding math enhances your ability to design and create. Algebra I introduces lines and linear functions, Euclidean geometry, and more. Algebra II dives into trigonometry, preparing you for pre-calculus. More advanced students take courses in our college program.

### Critical Reasoning

Participation in society often means articulating our perspectives and understanding the perspectives of others. Learn how to identify flawed reasoning, recognize sound logic, and create clear, persuasive arguments. The ability to analyze logical arguments is a powerful skill and lies at the heart of many disciplines, including politics, science, and philosophy.



*Small classes: Bard Academy has a 5:1 student-to-faculty ratio. The average class has only 12 students.*

## THE BARD ACADEMY DIFFERENCE

Curriculum designed and taught by college professors who are experts in their fields, with years of experience teaching younger students

College-level resources, including science labs, music practice rooms, theater space, art studios, and a research library

Small classes and a collaborative environment foster creative conversations and close student-teacher bonds

78% of Bard College at Simon’s Rock graduates report going on to graduate study

Bard College at Simon’s Rock is ranked #14 in the U.S. for percentage of students who complete a Ph.D.

92 academic rating (on a scale of 60-99) from The Princeton Review



# CAMPUS LIFE

**Learning is embedded in every aspect of Academy life, not just the classroom.** Students are actively engaged wherever they go: walking around campus, chatting in the dining hall, attending a guest lecture, or exploring some of the cultural riches of Great Barrington and the Berkshires. Staff and faculty are always available to provide academic and social support. We're invested in helping our students develop into confident, well-rounded individuals. At Simon's Rock, we value inclusion, creativity, curiosity, and intellectual discovery.

## Personal Attention

We've created a small, tightly knit community where every student receives individualized attention. Students attend weekly group advisory sessions and receive personal guidance and support from tutors, mentors, and residence life staff.

Many of our students are living away from home for the first time. Our residence directors help to provide a sense of security, connecting with students and making sure they have the resources they need to thrive. Students also have access to our health and wellness team, which includes counselors, nurse practitioners, and a physician.



## From 9th Grade to a Bachelor's Degree in Six Years Instead of Eight

**After completing 10th grade in the Academy, all students in good academic and social standing matriculate at Bard College at Simon's Rock.**

Every two years, with the support of their academic advisors, students participate in a process of thoughtful reflection and engaged planning to determine their best path—whether it is remaining at Simon's Rock to earn a BA or taking advantage of transfer options to other top institutions.



**BARD ACADEMY  
AT SIMON'S ROCK  
AT A GLANCE**

**Simon's Rock  
Founded:**  
1966

**Joined the  
Bard College  
System:**  
1979

**Bard Academy  
Established:**  
2015

**Location:**  
Great Barrington, MA  
Named the number-one  
small town in America by  
*Smithsonian Magazine*

**Size of Campus:**  
46 buildings on 275 acres

**Accreditation:**  
New England Association of  
Schools and Colleges

**Student Enrollment  
Statistics:**  
52% Male  
46% Female  
2% Non-Binary

71% Boarding  
29% Day Student

27% Students of Color

**Total Enrollment:**  
46 students

**States Represented:**  
10

**Countries Represented:**  
5

**Receiving  
Financial Aid:**  
80%

**School Background:**  
46% Public School  
46% Private School  
8% Home School

# PLAN A VISIT

**800-235-7186 | [bardacademy.simons-rock.edu/admission/visit](http://bardacademy.simons-rock.edu/admission/visit)**

Visiting our campus is the best way to get to know us. When you arrive, you'll tour with a student and interview with an admission counselor. Depending on when you visit, you can sit in on a class. While you're with us, we'll take you to lunch in the dining hall.

## APPLY FOR ADMISSION

**Deadline: January 15**

**Visit [bardacademy.simons-rock.edu/how-to-apply](http://bardacademy.simons-rock.edu/how-to-apply)**

Your application will include biographical, parent/guardian, and school evaluation sections; transcripts; teacher recommendations; essays; standardized test scores; and an admission interview.

**Bard Academy at Simon's Rock SSAT Code: 1483**

**Need help? Contact a member of our admission team at 800-235-7186.**

## APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

**Deadline: February 1**

Interested families are encouraged to apply for financial aid. We offer both need-based and non-need-based financial aid. Working together with your family and the online School and Student Services (SSS) financial aid system, we will determine eligibility for aid that best reflects your specific family circumstances.

**Bard Academy at Simon's Rock SSS Code: 174896**



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