



# Bard College at **SIMON'S ROCK** *the Early College*

## THE EARLY COLLEGE MISSION

Bard College at Simon's Rock offers bright, motivated adolescents a learning environment unlike any other—anywhere. We are the only four-year college designed exclusively for talented students ready to begin their higher education early. We provide a rigorous, exciting education in a community of true peers: students the same age who share an intense appetite for learning. Students learn under the guidance of dedicated faculty passionate about their own scholarship and that of their students. Whether drawn to the sciences, the arts, or the humanities, our students approach life and learning with creativity, boldness, and optimism. Students earn an Associate of Arts (AA) degree after two years of study and a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree after four. We emphasize critical inquiry; rigorous analysis; the development of original ideas; and the cultivation of outstanding written, verbal, and creative expression. The achievements of our alumni demonstrate that our program prepares students for success in a variety of professions.

## Simon's Rock at a Glance

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### FOUNDED

1966

### JOINED THE BARD COLLEGE SYSTEM

1979

### LOCATION

#### Great Barrington, MA

- Named the number-one small town in America by *Smithsonian Magazine*
- One hour from Bard College at Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

### SIZE OF CAMPUS

46 buildings on 275 acres

### DEGREES OFFERED

Associate of Arts  
Bachelor of Arts

### ACCREDITATION

New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE)

### NUMBER OF MAJORS

35+

### MOST COMMON MAJORS

Biology, Creative Writing, Cross-Cultural Relations, Literary Studies, Music, Photography, Politics, Pre-Engineering, Psychology, Theater Performance

### NUMBER OF STUDENTS

400

### NUMBER OF U.S. STATES REPRESENTED

37

### NUMBER OF COUNTRIES (OTHER THAN U.S.) REPRESENTED

15

### PERCENTAGE OF FULL-TIME FACULTY HOLDING HIGHEST DEGREE IN THEIR FIELDS

95

### STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO

8:1

### AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

11

### PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS RECEIVING FINANCIAL AID

85

### NUMBER OF OTHER COLLEGES THAT DO WHAT WE DO

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# THE COMMUNITY

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## SAFE, SUPPORTIVE, AND DIVERSE

Bard College at Simon's Rock is dedicated to helping students find personal and academic success. While most students enjoy a greater degree of independence here than they would at home, they are surrounded by adults who know them as individuals, provide age-appropriate support and guidance, and are invested in their personal growth. Professional residence directors live in and supervise the residence halls and are available to students through a 24-hour on-call schedule, along with health services, security, and senior leaders of the college. Each student is paired with an academic Advisor with whom they meet weekly to discuss everything from coursework to campus life. In addition, parents are considered an essential part of each student's support network and are contacted by college personnel as needed.

### Student Body

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#### AVERAGE AGE AT ENTRANCE

16

#### PERCENTAGE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN RECENT INCOMING CLASSES

12%-16%

#### GENDER

40% Male, 60% Female

#### PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS OF COLOR

40%

# THE OPPORTUNITIES

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## SUPERIOR EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

At Simon's Rock, students learn from faculty and peers in an atmosphere of intense discussion and debate. We offer students the freedom to challenge themselves, go beyond standard offerings, and design an education that meets or exceeds their highest ambitions. Simon's Rock provides students with a rich and rewarding experience while they're here and a host of opportunities to expand their education beyond the campus.

### Dual Degree Programs

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- Columbia University Engineering Program: After three years at Simon's Rock and two years in the engineering school at Columbia University, students receive a BA from Simon's Rock and a BS from Columbia's School of Engineering and Applied Science. Simon's Rock offers a similar arrangement with the engineering school at Dartmouth College.
- Vermont Law School: In four years, students earn a BA from Simon's Rock and a master's degree in either environmental law and policy or energy regulation and law from Vermont Law, one of the nation's highest-rated environmental law schools. Truly exceptional students may participate in a 3-3 BA/JD program.
- John Jay College of Criminal Justice: In five years, students earn a BA from Simon's Rock and a BS in forensic science—from one of the nation's premier programs in forensic science—in one of three tracks: criminalistics, molecular biology, or toxicology.

### Study Away

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While students study off campus through many programs, Simon's Rock has developed articulation agreements with a number of institutions, including:

- Oxford University, England
- Qingdao University, China
- London Dramatic Academy, England
- University of Manchester – Centre for New Writing, Manchester, England
- Bard Globalization and International Affairs Program, New York City
- International Center of Photography, New York City
- The Center for Cross-Cultural Study, Spain, Argentina, Puerto Rico, or Cuba
- East Carolina University – Italy Intensives, Certaldo Alto, Italy
- National Theater Institute at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Waterford, CT
- Munich Business School (BA/Master's)

### Research Opportunities

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- SUNY Upstate Medical Center summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program
- Medical Robotics Technology Symposium (three-day career workshop in medical technology)
- Students in the natural and social sciences have opportunities to conduct research in partnership with faculty scholars in their disciplines; several students each year present and/or publish with faculty.

### Intensive Senior Thesis

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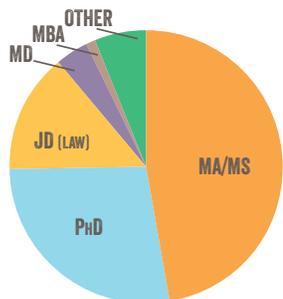
The thesis is a yearlong, self-designed scholarly project that represents the culmination of a student's work at Simon's Rock. It is required of every student, not only those seeking to graduate with honors.

# THE OUTCOMES

## PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION AND PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS

Young people who are excited by the prospect of leaving home to start college at 16 are already on the road to initiative, independence, and accomplishment. Simon's Rock meets students at their intellectual level and challenges them to aim even higher. As a result, Simon's Rock alumni are innovators and game changers. They make their mark in finance, the arts, literature, politics, academia, and science—often while still in their 20s. Our alumni are Fulbright Fellows, Teach for America corps members, and Rhodes Scholars. They are activists, educators, performers, entrepreneurs, authors, and diplomats, as well as engineers, doctors, lawyers, and bankers. Early college has given them a head start on finding and pursuing their passions.

### Graduation Rates



- More than 80% of our students earn their BAs within four to six years, compared to 59% nationally.
- Approximately 50% of AA recipients complete their BAs at Simon's Rock, while the balance transfer to nationally ranked US colleges or universities.
- Simon's Rock ranks 13th among all US colleges/universities in percentage of alumni who complete their PhDs.
- A survey of recent Simon's Rock graduates showed that nearly 80% continue on to graduate study.

*Left: Graduate degrees earned by Simon's Rock alumni.*

### After Simon's Rock: Graduate, Professional, and Transfer Placement

Bard College	London School of Economics	Stanford University	University of Massachusetts - Amherst
Boston University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	State University of New York - Purchase & Stony Brook	University of Michigan
Brown University	New York University	Swarthmore College	University of Texas - Austin
Columbia University	Northeastern University	Tufts University	University of Toronto
Cornell University	Oxford University	University of California - Berkeley	University of Washington
Eugene Lang/The New School for Liberal Arts	Queens University	University of Chicago	Washington University in St. Louis
The George Washington University	Rhode Island School of Design	University of Iowa	Yale University
Georgetown University	Rutgers University	University of Maryland	
Harvard University	Smith College		

### Honors, Awards, and Accolades

- *Forbes* magazine included four Simon's Rock alumni in each of its first two annual "30 Under 30" lists of the most creative minds in 15 fields; *Forbes* describes its picks as young people who "represent the entrepreneurial, creative and intellectual best of their generation" and "aren't waiting to reinvent the world."
- Since 2010 nine seniors have been named Fulbright Fellows.
- One alumnus has been awarded a Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford University.
- In the most recent National Survey of Student Engagement, Simon's Rock placed in the top 10 percent of all colleges and universities for level of academic challenge, student-faculty interaction, and enriching educational experience.
- In 2015 *The Princeton Review Best 379 Colleges* ranked Simon's Rock higher for academics than Princeton, Harvard, and Yale. In the same year, *The Princeton Review* also ranked Simon's Rock seventh in the top 20 schools with the most highly rated faculty.

*"The unique and fundamental culture of Simon's Rock was evident in every aspect of our visit. The faculty is devoted to teaching and to sharing in the lifelong process of learning for its own sake. The students are passionate about learning and grateful to their teachers and the entire Simon's Rock administration and staff for creating a caring, supportive environment in which these talented and promising young people come into their own. There is a purity and singularity of purpose among all members of this community that we found nothing short of inspiring."*

— From the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Reaccreditation Report

*"American education can only be as great as is our willingness to experiment outside of the conventions, and in that, Bard and Simon's Rock have long been inspiring leaders. We all have much to learn from their efforts and analysis, for which we are all grateful."*

— Anthony W. Marx, Former President, Amherst College

## Top Fields of Professional Achievement

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Arts and Entertainment  
Computing/Information Technology  
Education  
Engineering

Environment  
Finance/Business/Banking  
Government/Nonprofit/Social Services  
Health Services

Law  
Publishing

## Notable Simon's Rock Alumni

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- Doug Ahlers, builder of first commercial website; director of Broadmoor Project at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government
- Henry Alford, author; *New York Times* columnist
- Loren AliKhan, attorney; deputy solicitor general of Washington, D.C.; *Forbes* "30 Under 30"
- Kyle Allison, Systems Biology Fellow, Columbia University; 2014 recipient of the NIH Director's Early Independence Award; *Forbes* "30 Under 30"
- Kristen Anderson, psychology department chair, Reed College
- Alison Bechdel, graphic artist; author; 2014 MacArthur Genius Award
- Joel and Ethan Coen, Oscar Award-winning filmmakers
- Jennifer Fan, founder of Arbalet Capital LLC Hedge Fund; *Forbes* "30 Under 30"
- Ronan Farrow, former US State Department official; Rhodes Scholar; special correspondent for NBC/Universal
- Rachel Feltman, science blogger, *The Washington Post*
- Nita Ing, chair of Continental Holdings Corporation and Continental Engineering Co. Ltd.; director of Taiwan Synthetic Rubber Corporation; one of five founding shareholders in Taiwan High Speed Rail BOT; adviser to former Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian
- Mark Leiter, chief strategy officer at Nielsen Company; founding chair of Demand Institute
- Jessica Mah, founder and CEO of inDinero.com; *Forbes* "30 Under 30"
- John McWhorter, linguist; author; political commentator for *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and *Los Angeles Times*
- Raj Mukherji, deputy mayor of Jersey City, NJ; Internet and public affairs entrepreneur
- Eli Pariser, former MoveOn.org executive director; CEO of Upworthy
- Nina Perales, vice president of litigation at Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
- Anne Reid, director, American Academy of Microbiology at American Society for Microbiology; and former executive director of the National Center for Science Education
- Brooke Skinner, head of brand strategy, Twitter

## ENTRANCE OPPORTUNITIES

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### CHOOSING THE RIGHT TIME FOR EARLY COLLEGE

Most Simon's Rock students leave high school immediately after 10th or 11th grade to begin their studies as first-year college students. In addition, students have the option of entering through two special programs:

#### HIGH SCHOOL GRADE COMPLETED

10th = 57%

11th = 37%

12th = 1%

- **Bard Academy at Simon's Rock.** Located on the Simon's Rock campus, Bard Academy is the nation's first boarding and day high school program designed specifically to prepare students to enter college at Simon's Rock after two years. The Academy's curriculum in the liberal arts and sciences is created and taught by the same college faculty already noted for engaging younger scholars and provides intellectual challenge while nurturing curiosity, creativity, and character. At the end of the 10th grade, students begin their undergraduate studies at Simon's Rock.
- **Pathway to Academic Choice and Excellence (PACE).** This three-year path to the Associate of Arts program is designed for students who are bright, motivated, and ready for the challenge of college at a younger age but need further instruction to advance their English language skills. PACE students receive dedicated instruction leading to proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking American English. Students scoring between 65-99 on the TOEFL are eligible for consideration.

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