

About Bard CEP

The Bard Center for Environmental Policy (Bard CEP) was created in 1999 to promote education, research, and public service on critical issues relating to the natural and built environments. Its primary goal is to improve environmental policies by facilitating the use of the best available scientific knowledge in the policy-making process at the local, regional, national, and international levels. Bard CEP's premise is that in order to be effective in addressing environmental problems and pursuing sustainable patterns of natural resource use, scientists, economists, lawyers, ethicists, and policy makers must be able to understand one another's perspectives and values. The general public should be a companion in these discussions.

Bard CEP's graduate programs combine an intensive course of study with practical training in preparation for environmental careers in nonprofit organizations, government, and the private sector. The programs emphasize methods of critical inquiry and provide the practical knowledge necessary to understand the legal, political, socioeconomic, cultural, and ethical forces that influence the decision-making process. Bard CEP offers two degree options, an MS in environmental policy and an MS in climate science and policy. Students may also wish to pursue one of our dual-degree or Peace Corps programs. The two MS degrees are explained below.

Why Bard?

- Interdisciplinary curricula covering local to global perspectives
- Systems thinking and analytical skill building
- Integration of natural and social sciences
- Exceptional faculty of experts and practitioners
- Close mentoring of student career preparations
- Professional internships
- Research opportunities designed to meet student interests



Nick Martin '13

Policy Analyst, Pace Energy and Climate Center, White Plains, New York

During my time at Bard CEP, I was supported in securing two internships at leading environmental think tanks, one at the World Resources Institute in Washington, D.C., and the other at Development Alternatives in New Delhi, India. Both of these internships provided invaluable experience in my career field of choice, where I worked on policy research quality issues and climate adaptation/food security issues, respectively. After finishing my MS degree in climate science and policy, I was successful in securing a position with Pace Energy and Climate Center as a policy analyst.

Master of Science in Environmental Policy

The environmental policy track is for students who wish to pursue an interdisciplinary graduate degree with versatile career options in both the public and private sectors. Throughout the two years, students are exposed to a range of environmental topics and learn important analytical tools and concepts valuable to their profession. Due to the broad nature of the environmental policy field, the curriculum allows students to explore their own interests through practical experience and research, cultivating mastery in an area of their choice.

Environmental science, environmental and natural resource economics, environmental law, and environmental policy constitute the core first-year courses of the environmental policy track. The curriculum's modular organization enables students to examine one specific environmental area at a time in an integrated, comprehensive, and realistic manner. First-year courses move progressively through several topics, all concurrently addressing the same environmental theme, shown below.

- Foundations and general concepts
- Air and atmosphere
- Risk and uncertainty
- Water and fisheries
- Biodiversity
- Lands, forests, and soils
- Food and agriculture
- Energy and sustainability
- Industrial ecology
- Urban ecology

The second year of the program is designed for students to explore their career interests through a required internship, and by researching and writing a Master's Project. The two-year curriculum ensures that graduates develop both broad and deep knowledge of environmental policy issues; a powerful suite of analytical, communication, and problem-solving skills; professional experience in their chosen field; and finally, specialized expertise on the particular topic of their research project.

Master of Science in Climate Science and Policy

The climate science and policy track is designed for students who understand the risks posed by global climate change, a growing population, and diminishing ecosystems across the world and who are looking for the advanced knowledge and skills to address these challenges. The degree encompasses fundamental concepts of climate science, agricultural and ecosystem science, environmental and natural resource economics, and U.S. and international climate law and policy. Classes focus both on scientific understanding and on solutions, training future policy leaders to guide efforts in greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation. The first-year curriculum is integrated to connect core scientific principles to socioeconomic impacts, infrastructure investment, and political and legislative responses to climate change. First-year courses cover several key topics:

- Climate change science
- Energy systems and solutions
- Ecosystems and agriculture in the face of climate change
- Carbon markets and incentives
- Carbon sequestration and offset projects
- Global food security
- Regional impacts and adaptation strategies
- International negotiations and development
- Life-cycle analysis of energy sources
- U.S. legislative process and climate policy

The second year of the program is the same as the environmental policy degree.

A nonresidence Master's Project option is available for students in both degree tracks who gain relevant employment during their second year. These students may request to be considered for nonresidency and, if approved, will complete the second year of the program off campus with two weeklong visits during the spring semester of the second year.

Professional Certificate

The professional certificate is awarded in either degree track upon completion of the first year of courses. It is designed for midlevel professionals seeking to change careers. A certificate recipient may choose to continue toward a master's degree, either immediately or within five years of matriculation into the program.

Summary of Degree Requirements

First Year: Environmental Policy Track

Environmental Science of Natural and Built Environments 8
Environmental Policy and Law 10
Natural Resource and Environmental Economics 8

Tools of Analysis

Statistics and Econometrics (Fall) 2

GIS (Spring) 2

January Term (Winter) 2

First Year: Climate Science and Policy Track

Climate Science and the Science of Energy Solutions 7

Climate Policy and the Politics of Solutions 6

The Science of Agriculture and Ecosystems 6

Natural Resource and Environmental Economics 8

Tools of Analysis

Statistics and Econometrics (Fall) 2

GIS (Spring) 2

January Term (Winter) 2

Total Credits: First Year / Professional Certificates

Environmental Policy Track 32

Climate Science and Policy Track 33

Second Year: MS Degrees

Internship 10

Master's Project Proposal 2

Capstone Seminar: Leadership and Communication 2

Topics in Environmental Policy 2

Master's Project and Seminar 10

Total Credits: MS Degrees

Environmental Policy Track 58

Climate Science and Policy Track 59

Admission

Early Deadline: January 15, 2014

Regular Deadline: March 15, 2014

Final Deadline: May 15, 2014

Bard CEP seeks motivated students who are dedicated to becoming leaders in the field of environmental policy. Students are accepted into the graduate program based on an assessment of various components: record of academic achievement, letters of reference, work and career experiences, volunteer activities, and professional goals. Quantitative literacy is required.

We hold open houses every fall and spring in Annandale and New York City, as well as online information sessions throughout the year. Contact us today to learn more.