



“The rigorous curriculum at the Bard Center for Environmental Policy will allow students to hone their professional skills and will prepare them to take on leadership roles both at home and abroad.”

—Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams

With climate change, renewable energy, and other critical environmental issues at the forefront of public attention and policy discussions, Bard College and the Peace Corps have teamed up to offer the Peace Corps Paul D. Coverdell Fellows Program for returned Peace Corps volunteers to earn a master of science degree in climate science and policy or in environmental policy. Both degrees take two years and consist of one year of interdisciplinary course work at Bard, followed by a full-time internship and thesis in the second year.

The environmental and climate dimensions of the Center’s graduate programs and its commitment to civic engagement are of particular interest to students who have worked overseas on environmental issues and would like to pursue a career in policy. In recognizing the tremendous service Peace Corps volunteers provide to communities around the world, the Coverdell Fellows Program at Bard gives returned Peace Corps volunteers the unique opportunity to earn a master’s degree with the benefits of financial assistance, academic credit, and professional internship opportunities.

Why Bard

- Interdisciplinary course work
- Critical inquiry from local to global perspectives
- Integration of natural and social sciences
- Exceptional faculty of experts and practitioners
- Focused research opportunities
- Close mentoring of student career preparations
- Professional internships
- Research opportunities designed to meet student interests
- Affordable education at a world-renowned private college

Pioneering Curriculum Design

The Bard CEP curriculum integrates the core disciplines of science, policy, law, and economics into a cohesive and comprehensive first year of graduate course work. Through close collaboration with faculty and an innovative program of study, students learn to think across disciplines to understand the complexities of today’s environmental problems and challenges. In addition to projects assigned in each course, students work with a professional writing instructor throughout the first year to hone their writing skills.

Fellows participate in a four- to six-month experiential internship during the summer and fall of the second year, and return to campus

to complete a master’s thesis, supporting the development of deep individual expertise. In the final semester, students also enroll in a Capstone Seminar. In this way, students develop broad knowledge of environmental issues; gain a suite of analytical, communication, and problem-solving skills; earn professional experience in their chosen field; and finally, become experts on topics that they have selected. Our alumni/ae are making a difference in private, nonprofit, and public sectors around the world.

Cutting-Edge Degree Programs

MS in Environmental Policy

The Bard CEP curriculum integrates the core disciplines of science, policy, law, and economics into a consistent and comprehensive first year of graduate course work. Through close collaboration with faculty and an innovative program of study, students learn to think across disciplines to understand the complexities of today’s environmental problems and challenges. Courses delve simultaneously into curricular themes to provide students with a deep understanding of the issues from multiple perspectives and at the same time highlight linkages and divisions across disciplines. This holistic approach to learning illuminates integral connections between the social world and the physical sciences, and encourages students to incorporate various perspectives and ideologies into their work. The program focuses on the following themes: Foundations and General Concepts, Air and Atmosphere, Risk and Uncertainty, Biodiversity, Water, Terrasphere, Agriculture, Energy, Industrial Ecology, and Urban Environments.

MS in Climate Science and Policy

First-year courses focus on the interplay between climate science and solutions. The program trains future policy leaders to guide critical greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation efforts, working in business, government, and NGOs. Students develop specific expertise in the development and deployment to scale of clean energy technologies and the interaction of ecosystems, agriculture, and climate. Joint class sessions, field trips, guest lectures, and conferences expose students to the critical issues and practices of climate-change science and current policy issues. Policy experts and natural and social scientists have designed the curriculum for students to gain the sophisticated graduate-level training in policy solutions demanded by employers today. The program focuses on the following themes: Climate Science, Ecosystem and Agricultural Sciences, Energy Conservation and Efficiency, Renewable Energy and Clean Technology, Global Food

Security, Life Cycle Analysis, Carbon Sequestration and Offset Projects, Carbon Markets and Incentives, U.S. Legislative Process and Climate, International Negotiations and Development, and Regional Impacts and Adaptation Strategies.

Flexible Thesis Research

The master's thesis is the student's chance to create an original body of work, usually linked to some aspect of the internship or Peace Corps experience, with practical applications to environmental policy or climate-change solutions. Students' theses reflect the multifaceted nature of environmental issues while integrating aspects of the natural and social sciences and humanities in the policy-making process.

Graduate theses, which range greatly depending on the student's interest, may fall into such categories as water resources, wildlife and biodiversity conservation, pollution prevention, environmental and social justice, preservation of natural resources, economic growth and sustainable development, corporate social responsibility, national environmental agendas, climate change and energy policy, and international environmental policy.

Financial Benefits

Earning either an MS in environmental policy or an MS in climate science and policy, Fellows are eligible to receive a CEP Fellowship worth at least 33 percent of tuition in the first year and a CEP Fellowship worth \$10,500 in the second year. Applicants to the Fellows Program should apply for admission to the MS in environmental policy or MS in climate science and policy degree program, and are also required to submit a signed copy of their Description of Service to be eligible for the financial assistance listed above. Fellows enter the program along with the incoming cohort and enroll as full-time graduate students. Bard anticipates that Fellows will have worked on environmental projects during their service overseas, although this is not required.

Learn from the Best Faculty

The Bard CEP faculty consists of a distinguished core of full-time and affiliated members who are eminent experts and researchers in diverse fields relating to environmental and climate policy and current practices. The high ratio of faculty to students allows for close rapport and individualized guidance.

Join an Exceptional Student Cohort

Our students come from a variety of academic disciplines, and they bring to Bard a passion about their future role as environmental leaders. Although each class is diverse in both background and interests, all students share a common purpose—to understand the complexity of environmental problems, and work toward finding viable and sustainable solutions to tomorrow's environmental challenges.

Interdisciplinary Course of Study

Year 1 MS in Environmental Policy

Environmental Science of Natural and Built Environments
Environmental Law I and II
Environmental Policy I and II
Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
Statistics and Econometrics
Geographical Information Systems
National Climate Seminar

Year 1 MS in Climate Science and Policy

Climate Science and Solutions
Environmental and Natural Resource Economics
Agriculture and Ecosystems I and II
Climate Policy and The Politics of Solutions
Statistics and Econometrics
Geographic Information Systems
National Climate Seminar

Year 2 MS degrees

Professional Fulltime Internship
Master's Thesis Proposal
Capstone Seminar: Policy Leadership
Topics in Environmental Policy
Master's Thesis Seminar

Admission

Early Deadline: January 15, 2013

Regular Deadline: March 15, 2013

Final Deadline: May 15, 2013

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.

Bard CEP Degree Options

MS in Environmental Policy
MS in Climate Science and Policy
Dual MS and JD with Pace Law School
Dual MS and MAT
Dual MS and MBA in Sustainability
The 3+2 Program for Undergraduates
Peace Corps Master's International Program
Peace Corps Paul D. Coverdell Fellows Program
Professional Certificate