

A close-up photograph of a green lizard, likely a spiny-tailed lizard, with its body and tail coiled. The skin is covered in small, raised, bumpy scales. The lizard is perched on a dark, textured branch. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

Bard Center for
Environmental Policy
Education for Leadership

Master of Science and
Juris Doctorate (M.S./J.D.)
Dual Degree with Pace Law School

Master of Science and Juris Doctorate with Pace Law School

This program combines Bard's innovative graduate curriculum with one of the nation's top environmental law programs. The M.S./J.D. joint-degree program allows students to complete, in an accelerated period, a master of science degree in environmental policy at Bard College and a doctorate in jurisprudence with a certificate in environmental law at Pace University. Pace Law School has an excellent selection of courses that cover national and international environmental and land-use topics, an abundance of research opportunities, expert faculty, and hands-on experiences available to its students. Combining an advanced degree in environmental policy with a juris doctorate at Pace provides a level of depth and understanding that is unmatched, and is excellent preparation for a career in environmental decision making.

Most students begin the M.S./J.D. program with the first year of study at Bard CEP. The first year of Bard CEP course work provides a foundation in economics, science, policy, and law, which enhances students' learning and provides vital preparation for law school. Lawyers with a background in environmental policy are equipped to understand complex environmental problems, enabling in-depth analysis and problem solving in the scientific, political, and economic arenas.

Distinctive Features

Modular course structure, ensuring thematic cohesion across the curriculum

Integration of natural and social sciences

Internships/externships that enhance professional skills and job placement

Exceptional faculty, experts, and practitioners from two renowned institutions

Close mentoring of student career preparations

Extensive contact with environmental organizations, public agencies, businesses, and international organizations

"The Bard CEP program offers a great refresher on the many technical aspects of environmental issues that no serious environmental law student should miss."

– Steven Sarno, M.S./J.D. '09

Curriculum

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. 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 that exist 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.

First-Year Course Work

The overall goal of Bard CEP's graduate training is to provide the methods of inquiry, knowledge, and tools necessary to create realistic and effective policies concerning the environment. The first-year courses link natural ecosystems and their functioning to the impact of socioeconomic activities, and to the political, institutional, and legislative processes that address environmental problems. Emphasizing analytical frameworks and basic principles through examples and case studies, the courses are designed to focus on the topic specified in each of the subject themes, or modules, which are highlighted below.

General Concepts in Environmental Policy

Air and Atmosphere

Water and Fisheries

Land, Forests, and Soil

Biological Diversity

Energy and Transportation

Agriculture

Urban Systems

Industrial Ecology

Risk, Toxicology, and Human Health

The M.S./J.D. program consists of four years in residence at either Pace or Bard, including two-and-a-half years at Pace and one-and-a-half years at Bard. The internship requirement for Bard CEP may be fulfilled through completion of a previously approved Pace internship, externship, or clinic program that has an environmental focus. Students in the M.S./J.D. program must earn a total of 132 credits: 88 credits from Pace and 44 credits from Bard.

Master's Thesis

The master's thesis is the student's chance to specialize and to create an original body of work, often linked to some aspect of the internship/externship, with practical applications to environmental policy issues. Bard CEP theses reflect the multifaceted nature of environmental issues while integrating aspects of the natural and social sciences and humanities in the policy-making process. The student is expected to pursue a topic intensively, drawing on and integrating knowledge from the first-year course work and internship, and demonstrate skill in developing and conveying recommended policies and action on a particular issue or problem.

Students work closely with their advisers during development of the thesis topic. Advisers are chosen on the basis of several criteria, including the student's preference and the interests and availability of the faculty. Graduate theses, which range greatly depending on the student's interest, may fall into such categories as: water policy, wildlife and biodiversity conservation, pollution prevention, regulatory review, land-use planning, environmental justice, preservation of natural resources, economic growth and sustainable development, corporate social responsibility, national environmental agendas, and international environmental policy. For a list of recent thesis topics, see www.bard.edu/cep/curriculum/sample-masters-thesis.php.

M.S./J.D. Degree Timeline

Year 1 First-year course work at Bard *(subject to change)*

Environmental Science of Natural and Built Environments
Natural Resource and Environmental Economics
Environmental Law and Policy
Statistics and Econometrics *(fall)*
Geographic Information Systems *(spring)*

Year 2 Pace Law School course work

Summer: Pace internship/externship

Year 3 Pace Law School course work

Summer: Pace internship/externship

Year 4 Completion of classes at Pace and final semester course work at Bard

Fall: Final Pace classes
Master's thesis proposal submitted to Bard CEP adviser
Spring (subject to change):
Communication Strategies
Capstone Seminar
Master's Thesis Seminar

"I think we are challenged as mankind has never been challenged before to prove our maturity and our mastery, not of nature, but of ourselves."

– Rachel Carson

Bard CEP Degree Options

Master of Science (M.S.)
Dual M.S. and M.A. in Teaching
Dual M.S. and J.D. with Pace Law School
Peace Corps Master's International (MI) Program
Professional Certificate
3+2 Program with Bard College

Admission Requirements

(see catalogue supplement for specific instructions)

Students interested in the M.S./J.D. program are required to apply separately to each school. The schools will, however, share supporting documentation, including, but not limited to, transcripts, LSAT and GRE reports, letters of recommendation, writing samples, and personal statements. Students in the M.S./J.D. program may accept admission at both schools simultaneously, or may enroll in the joint-degree program after beginning studies at one of the schools. Students who choose the latter must apply to Pace in their first year at Bard, if they have not already done so, and upon admission will be advised about how to begin the program.

Bard Center for Environmental Policy

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