

# Bard Application Podcast

0:00 Mackie: Hi everyone! And welcome to another podcast from everyone here at the Bard Admission office. My name is Mackie Siebens, I'm the Director of Admission and I graduated from Bard in 2012.

0:14 Josh: I'm Josh Tyler, I am one of the Assistant Directors of Admission and I also went to Bard, and we're here today to really talk to you about five ways that one can apply to Bard. Now these five ways are specifically for first-year students. If you're a transfer, don't worry, we will have another podcast, specifically for you, but today we'll talk about the five ways for first-years to apply, and these five ways really exist for you to pick the one that is right for you. So don't worry about picking the way that you feel might be more preferred by us, that doesn't exist. It's really the one that's more preferred by you. Mackie, can you tell us a little bit more about the methods that we have?

0:54 Mackie: Yeah! I can. So there are five methods in total, three of those you may have heard of already, because they're pretty popular at other colleges and universities. So those are Early Decision, and Early Action, which are both common application methods, and they require you to submit your Common Application by November 1st. The third is the Regular Decision application which also involves the Common Application, and you have to submit that to Bard by January 1st, and then the other two are unique to Bard College. The first is the Immediate Decision Plan, which is also a Common Application process, you have to submit your Common Application by November 1st, to be part of IDP or the Immediate Decision Plan. And then the fifth method of application is the Bard Entrance Exam, which is outside of any application you have heard of before. It is the college's own method of application, and we're going to talk to you in more detail today about IDP and the Bard Entrance Exam specifically, because they are unique to Bard.

2:00 Josh: Alright so let's talk a little bit about our specific, Bard-unique ways that we have to apply to the college. Let's start with the Immediate Decision Plan, or IDP as we call it. Mackie, can you tell us a little bit of what that process is like?

2:17 Mackie: I would love to. So, the Immediate Decision Plan happens in November. You choose, you being the student, you choose a Friday or Saturday to come to campus and take a class, with about thirteen or fourteen other prospective students, you're working with a faculty member in that class as well, and then you head back to the Admission Office, and have an interview with one of the counselors here in the Admission Office at Bard, and you find out two days later, after this process, whether or not you're admitted. You can make the process binding, or non-binding, your choice. To get a real sense of what this experience might look like, we've asked Emmett to come talk to us. Emmett did the Immediate Decision Plan when he was applying to Bard, welcome Emmett.

3:03 Emmett: Thank you very much for having me!

3:04 Mackie: Yeah! So, why did you choose the Immediate Decision Plan, and talk to us a little bit about what you found in the entire process.

3:11 Emmett: Sure, I actually was completely unaware of IDP before my college counselor brought it up. They said, "have you heard of IDP?" I said "I have no idea what that is," and I will say that I was pretty hooked on the whole experience the second I got here. The thought that I could come up here, do an interview, have a classroom experience at Bard, at the place that I was applying to, and then be given this almost quick turnaround to basically say, "Okay, we've reviewed your application, here's our thoughts," was amazing to me. That sounded just like a miracle. I will say that I didn't realize how much I would enjoy the experience of just being on campus until I was actually there. I was a little nervous, I was like "Oh, this is kind of scary to be on campus, to be in a classroom, and do an interview all in one day." And then I found that by the end of the day, time had just kind of flown by, and it was almost like I was 100% ready to make my decision right there. I did sit with it for a little while, before I actually made my decision to come to Bard, but there was something about the experience, that I just knew, right away, that this was the place for me.

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4:23 Mackie: Talk to us a little bit about the class itself, I mean from an Admission perspective it's absolutely not graded, it doesn't factor into the Admission decision at all, it's purely created for the student's experience. But tell us a little bit about maybe what that triggered, if anything, how it tied into the classes that you ended up taking at Bard. Did it prepare you for that at all? Tell us a little bit about that.

4:49 Emmett: I remember actually one really great moment. The students that I was with, and the professor that was leading our class, we were all discussing Plato's *Republic*, and specifically we were talking about "The Allegory of the Cave," and ironically I, in my senior year of high school, was leading my philosophy club, and we had just finished almost a three week chunk of talking about "The Allegory of the Cave," so I came in just, ready to go, ready to jump into the action. And I was kind of surprised because I thought I was going to be the only one who at any point, had had that experience, had this experience of talking with their peers about it. And then at the end of the day, I would learn that well over half of the other kids that were there, had talked about this a year before, two years before. They had all somehow gotten this incorporated into their lives, so when we all came to the table with all we had to offer, the conversation just kind of erupted really naturally, and I remember very specifically, we ran out of time, before we actually got to talk about any of the other stuff we were going to talk about. We all became so invested in this reading, and our professor was able to just guide us along through it, it felt really natural. I think that's one of the things that made the classroom experience really great.

6:12 Mackie: Great, cool!

6:14 Josh: Thanks Emmett! We really appreciate you talking about IDP, and then we also have a very unique process, and way of applying to Bard, called the Bard Entrance Exam, or the BEE, and Mackie is here with Emanuel, who's going to talk to us a little bit more about the Bard Entrance Exam.

6:32 Mackie: So welcome, Emanuel.

6:32 Emanuel: Thank you!

6:33 Mackie: Thanks for joining us. So, we're sort of interested in getting your opinion on first of all, why you chose to apply to Bard through the BEE, and what you liked about it, what was unique about it, and anything that pertains, really, to your experience applying through the BEE.

6:51 Emanuel: My brother talked to me about the BEE, we spoke a lot about it, and I'm from Canada, so I wasn't obligated to do the SAT, and I just thought that when he talked to me about it, it was a really human and liberal approach that was way more personal, that actually I would write and professors would read each and every single one of my thoughts that I researched, and also I just thought it was a great experience to get a real feel for what university would be like, and I did a lot of extensive research, but mostly I just did it because I thought it was an interesting alternative to just the Common Application, or just doing the SAT, which is kind of a standardized test that doesn't say much really about who you are, and I just thought the BEE was interesting in this point, yeah.

7:38 Mackie: Yeah! And what questions did you answer, and why?

7:40 Emanuel: There were a lot of questions, there were actually 19 my year. I decided to go with questions about Marx; (Kant) the supposed right to lie and the murderer at the door problem. And this was really interesting because I had to write about my input, and what I believe, what my hypotheses were, give really what I believed, also, I had to talk about Marx's perspective, and just to understand in a broad sense what his beliefs were. So that was my first question because I had to choose between different areas of interest, areas of studies. So, that's the first question about philosophy. After, I decided to go with mythology, and I talked about Prometheus, why he stole the fire, what was the meaning of all this at the time, what's the meaning now, and our relationships to all this, but the point was what was the source of Zeus' anger, so I had to do also extensive research in mythology about what was the situation at the time, and what were the relations between the gods and the demigods. So that was my second question, my third question was an area in which I have completely no knowledge, which was even more interesting

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because I had to just do research, and it really gave me a glimpse of what it would be like on the other side of the curtain, which I don't do often. It was how to locate an illness in the brain. So that was pretty interesting, I had to do a lot of readings that I didn't really understand at first but after, with perseverance, I actually got a good sense of what was happening with the text, because we were provided some texts to do the essays. And I had to also finish the essay with a question, or just like a broad sense of what I thought might be a possibility to research in the future, so that was kind of interesting, and I brought also a more liberal approach to music and arts, which was fun. Yeah, pretty interesting. It was just a good process in general.

9:48 Mackie: And I think that last question probably summarizes most what we're hoping to provide for students. You could choose a question you don't know anything about, but with the materials that are provided, we're just asking students to problem-solve based on what they have, we're not asking them to recall dates or formulas necessarily, you obviously have that kind of experience in high school, so this is moving into an area of exploration, and really seeing if you can apply what you know in a sort of new way, being prepared to kind of bust it open and do some exploration in an area that you have really no knowledge about necessarily.

10:29 Emanuel: Yeah, and now that I'm at Bard, I just see all the different classes that I can take and it's not particularly my area of interest because I plan on majoring in Global and International Studies, but I still have an aesthetics of film class that's really interesting and just gives you a sense of what are the other possibilities, you might, in a liberal arts education, explore.

10:53 Mackie: And can you talk a little bit about what it felt like to balance your last year of secondary school with doing the BEE?

11:02 Emanuel: It's actually a lot of time, but I think it's worth it, and you can balance both. Because I'm from Canada, so it wasn't my last high school year, it was another diploma, but no, just in general, I think it's really doable, if you just plan your things well, like you must do when you're in college, so yeah, just gives a good glimpse overall of what you will have to do and what are the possibilities.

11:35 Mackie: Okay! Great, and do you want to just talk to us a little bit about what you're doing now?

11:42 Emanuel: Yeah, of course! I'm a student athlete, I play lacrosse and cross country here at Bard. I've also applied for a couple of fellowships and jobs, there are so many opportunities, and the faculty is really helpful, and if you show interest, they'll just do everything for you, and just really help you to achieve your goals. Right now I'm planning on majoring in Global and International Studies, and my focus area will probably be Middle East. I have a class right now with a brilliant professor, it's really interesting, it's The History of Capitalism in the Middle East, and it's just not something that I thought I'd explore before, and just because the class looked interesting, I enrolled in it. And it's one of the greatest classes I've ever taken, post-secondary and high school. So yeah that's great, and I'm looking forward to the many opportunities that Bard will offer me.

12:46 Mackie: Great! Well it sounds like an overall good experience and prepared you well for getting to Bard...

12:52 Emanuel: Yes it did.

12:52 Mackie: ...and thinking critically, and being open to a lot of new things. So, thanks for joining us!

12:58 Emanuel: Pleasure!

12:59 Josh: Thanks everybody for listening, thanks to our guests, Emmett and Emanuel, for talking to us a bit about their experiences. If you're interested in learning more details about the ways to apply to Bard, just visit our website at [bard.edu](http://bard.edu), and we hope you tune into our next podcast. Thanks a lot! Take care!