



# PROSPECTIVE STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

NEW YORK | BARD PRISON INITIATIVE

## FACILITIES

### **Women**

Taconic Correctional Facility  
*Medium Security*

### **Men**

Coxsackie Correctional Facility  
*Maximum Security*

Eastern NY Correction Facility  
*Maximum Security*

Fishkill Correctional Facility  
*Medium Security*

Green Haven Correctional  
Facility  
*Maximum Security*

Woodbourne Correctional  
Facility  
*Medium Security*

## WHAT IS BPI?

The Bard Prison Initiative (BPI) operates a college degree program in six New York State correctional facilities. All classes and coursework occur in these facilities. Bard does not offer correspondence courses.

## ADMISSION

BPI offers admission to prospective students at Eastern, Green Haven, and Taconic Correctional Facilities each summer. At Coxsackie, Fishkill and Woodbourne, admission is offered during odd-year summers (e.g., 2021).

Admission to BPI is a selective process. BPI typically admits 1 out of every 7 individuals who apply, and many students gain admission after more than one application. Admission requires a high school diploma or its equivalent; however, students are selected based on their ambition and willingness to work hard rather than their academic history. BPI does not consider an applicant's age, criminal conviction, or details of sentencing during the admission process.

The application process involves a written exam and a personal interview. Since the entire process happens at the time of admission, there is no application form that may be filled out in advance.

Individuals at sites where BPI does not operate may speak with their counselors or the education supervisors at their facilities about their interest in BPI.

## ACADEMICS

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BPI is a program of Bard College, and students earn Bard College degrees. As the largest program of its kind in the United States, BPI currently enrolls more than 300 students, and Bard has conferred nearly 550 degrees through BPI.

BPI students are initially accepted to an Associate of the Arts (AA) degree program. After earning an AA degree, a student is eligible to apply to the Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree. An AA degree from another institution does not qualify for admission to the BPI BA program.

BPI does not offer a correspondence program. All coursework occurs on site and in person.

### **Curriculum**

In keeping with the character of Bard College, BPI offers a liberal arts curriculum that includes history, literature, philosophy, mathematics, foreign languages, science, and the arts. BPI's primary focus is not vocational; it is designed to educate students broadly and challenge them to think flexibly and critically. However, BPI does offer advanced coursework in areas of career development.

### **Credits**

BPI students earn Bard College credits, which can be transferred to most other institutions of higher education. Some students who do not complete Bard degrees during their sentence go on to earn college degrees elsewhere.

### **Tuition**

BPI students do not pay tuition for BPI AA or BA degree programs.

## CONSORTIUM

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BPI leads a national consortium of college and universities across the country. Through the consortium, BPI partners with colleges and universities to transform educational opportunities both inside correctional facilities and post-release.

The BPI consortium is currently active in states including Connecticut, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Washington.

BPI is continuing work to expand educational opportunity and college access within the justice system nationwide.