

Bard College at Simon's Rock | The Early College

Application for Admission

Bard College at Simon's Rock is the only four-year residential college of the liberal arts and sciences specifically designed to provide bright, highly motivated students with the opportunity to begin college after the tenth or eleventh grade. We are pleased that you are interested in this unique opportunity.

Rolling Admission. Applications for fall are accepted on a rolling basis between December 1 and May 31, provided space remains available. We encourage students to apply as early as possible. Those who wish to be considered for merit scholarships (see below) must submit their applications by February 1. Students who submit their applications for both admission and financial aid by the April 15 priority deadline typically have a higher portion of their financial need met.

Merit Scholarships. If you are currently in the 10th or 11th grade, or are the age of a typical 10th or 11th grader, and have an outstanding academic record, you should apply by February 1 to be considered for merit scholarships. Scholarship applicants must submit the materials required of all applicants to the college, plus the additional items listed on the enclosed checklist. Merit scholarship applicants are strongly encouraged to schedule an interview in advance of February 1.

Additional information about the timeline and process is enclosed.

Like the college's academic and social programs, the admission process focuses on addressing each student as an individual and is designed to identify and support students whom we think will thrive at Simon's Rock. It also recognizes that the idea of entering college early may be a new one for many students and their families, and that they will have many questions that need to be answered clearly and candidly.

In the admission process, we look for candidates with the qualities that characterize our student body: intelligence, academic and extracurricular achievement, motivation, curiosity, a willingness to take their work seriously, and openness to new ideas, people, and experiences. In evaluating students' past academic performance, we consider the standards and rigor of their secondary school curriculum, as well as their grades and other accomplishments. We carefully review the application essays, and pay close attention to recommendations and parent statements.

Address application materials to:

Office of Admission
Bard College at Simon's Rock
84 Alford Road
Great Barrington, MA 01230-1978

Address questions to:

Office of Admission
Phone: 800-235-7186
Fax: 413-541-0081
Email: admit@simons-rock.edu

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

All Applicants

- Applicant Information.** Please complete this form and return it to the Office of Admission. Please be sure that you and a parent/guardian both include signatures on page 9.
- Application Fee.** The application fee is \$50 and can be paid by check, money order, or credit card. Applicants who are unable to pay the fee should contact their school guidance counselor for an application fee waiver.
- Parent/Guardian Supplement.** Our experience has been that the decision to apply to Simon's Rock is best made after a serious discussion between the applicant and his or her family. The application includes a form to be filled out by your parent(s) and/or guardian(s). Two copies have been provided in case your parent(s) and/or guardian(s) live separately.
- School Report.** Fill out the top portion of this form and give it to your guidance counselor to be submitted with your transcript and current grades in advance of the application deadline (see next page). Home schooled students should use the Home School Report, which is available at www.simons-rock.edu/admission/apply/information-for-home-schooled-students.
- Letters of Recommendation.** After filling out the top portion of these forms, give them to individuals who know you and your work best. Two recommendations must be from teachers of two *different* core academic subjects (English, math, science, social studies, language); one must be from a current teacher. The third, non-academic recommendation must be completed by another adult, such as an extracurricular activity advisor or work supervisor.
- Writing Samples.** See instructions in the back of the application.
- Interview.** An interview is required of each applicant. We prefer that the interview be part of a visit to campus. If distance and scheduling make this impossible, please contact us to schedule a phone, Skype or off-campus interview.
- Optional: Standardized Test Scores.** College entrance exam scores are optional. Applicants who choose to do so should have PSAT, SAT, ACT, or PLAN scores sent directly to us or included on their official transcripts. Applicants may also submit additional writing samples, DVDs, music, artwork, etc.; please see page 24 for more information.

Merit Scholarship Applicants

In addition to the items listed above, applicants wishing to be considered for merit scholarships must complete the additional requirements. While merit scholarships are typically only available to applicants who meet the February 1 application deadline, in some years limited funding may be available following February 1 for the W.E.B. Du Bois Scholarship and the Berkshire Regional Scholarship. Applicants hoping to be considered for those scholarships after the February 1 deadline should also submit the following:

- Updated Transcript.** If the School Report did not include grades through the first semester or first two trimesters of your current year, please have your school send an official transcript with grades as soon as they become available (even if it is after the February 1 deadline).
- Additional Writing Sample.** See instructions for writing sample #3 on page 24.

International Applicants

International students are eligible for both merit- and need-based scholarships. The deadline for students wishing to be considered for merit scholarships is February 1 and the requirements are listed above. International students will be considered for need-based aid through May 31.

In addition to the items listed above, the following is required:

- TOEFL Scores.** If English is not your first language, or if you have not attended a school in which English is the primary language of instruction for at least two full years, you must submit TOEFL scores. These should be sent directly to the Office of Admission or included on the official transcript.

Please note: International applicants requiring an F1 student visa must submit the International Student Certification of Finances, available at www.simons-rock.edu/financialaidforms.html.

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APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION
Phone: 800-235-7186 Fax: 413-541-0081
E-mail: admit@simons-rock.edu

Application Timeline

FALL ENTRY

December 1 Rolling admission begins for fall entry

Applications for fall will be accepted beginning December 1. Students may apply as soon as their first quarter or first semester grades become available. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis and early application is strongly encouraged. An applicant will usually receive an admission decision within several weeks after an application becomes complete.

February 1 Merit scholarship application deadline

Applicants wishing to be considered for merit scholarships must have all pieces postmarked on or before this date. Merit scholarship applicants are strongly encouraged to schedule an interview before February 1.

Merit scholarship applicants who also wish to be considered for need-based aid should submit their application for financial aid as soon as possible after February 1 and no later than March 1.

Mid-March Merit scholarship notification

Applicants will be informed as to whether they have received a merit scholarship. Those who have submitted the financial aid application will also receive their complete financial aid package; this includes any institutional need-based scholarships, federal grants and loans, and work study awarded to the student in addition to the merit scholarships.

A select group of applicants will be invited to Merit Scholarship Day to be considered for our most competitive awards.

April 6 Merit Scholarship Day (by invitation only)

Those applicants invited to visit campus on this day will be considered for our most competitive merit scholarships. Applicants invited to this day will receive notification of their scholarship by April 15 and will be asked to accept their awards and pay the enrollment deposit by May 1.

FALL ENTRY (CONTINUED)

April 15 **Priority deadline for financial aid**

Applicants who submit their financial aid applications by this date will be considered for the highest levels of need-based funding. Please note that financial aid funds will still be available to students who apply after April 15, but those who meet this deadline will receive first consideration.

May 31 **Application deadline for fall entry**

Applications are considered on a rolling basis through May 31 provided space remains available. We encourage students to apply as early as possible. Applications for admission and financial aid received after this date will be considered on a space- and funds- available basis.

SPRING ENTRY

A small class enters in January of each year. Most merit-based scholarships are not available for students entering in January; however, eligible students will be considered for need-based aid. Applications for January entry are considered on a rolling basis throughout the fall and early application is encouraged.

September 1 **Rolling admission begins for January entry**

December 1 **Application deadline for January entry**

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Office of Admission
84 Alford Road
Great Barrington, MA 01230-1978

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION
Phone: 800-235-7186 Fax: 413-541-0081
E-mail: admit@simons-rock.edu

Applying to enter in: Fall Spring 20_____

Applying for: Merit scholarship (February 1) Regular Decision (May 31)

Applicant Information

To be completed by student

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Legal Name _____
Enter name exactly as it appears on birth certificate, passport, or other official documents.

Usually Called _____ Birthdate / / _____ Gender _____
mm dd yyyy

Permanent Home Address _____
Number and Street _____ *Apt. No.* _____

_____ *City/Town* _____ *State/Province* _____ *Country* _____ *Zip or Postal Code*

Home Phone _____ Fax _____

Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____
If you use spam filtering, please accept email from simons-rock.edu

If your current mailing address is different from the above (such as boarding school, study abroad, etc.), please indicate this below. This is the address to which admission correspondence will be sent.

Mailing Address from / / to / / _____
mm dd yyyy mm dd yyyy Number and Street Apt. No.

_____ *City/Town* _____ *State/Province* _____ *Country* _____ *Zip or Postal Code*

Phone _____ Fax _____

Citizenship

U.S. Citizen

Dual U.S. Citizen (specify other country of citizenship): _____

U.S. Permanent Resident:

_____ *Country of Citizenship*

_____ *Alien Registration Number*

Other Citizenship:

_____ *Country(ies)*

_____ *Visa type*

If you are not a U.S. citizen and live in the U.S., how long have you been in the country? _____

The following information is optional:

Please check all that apply:

African American, Black

Mexican American, Chicano/a

American Indian, Alaska Native (tribal affiliation _____ enrolled _____)

Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander

Asian American (country/ies of family's origin _____)

Puerto Rican

Asian, including Indian subcontinent (country/ies _____)

White, Caucasian

Hispanic, Latino/a (country/ies _____)

Other (specify _____)

First language if other than English _____

Language(s) spoken at home _____

Place of Birth _____

_____ *City/Town*

_____ *State/Province*

_____ *Country*

_____ *Zip or Postal Code*

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

School you attend now
(or attended most recently) _____ Dates Attended _____

CEEB/ACT Code _____ Current Grade _____ Secondary School Graduation Year _____
Available at your guidance counselor's office.

School Address _____
Number and Street

_____ *City/Town* _____ *State/Province* _____ *Country* _____ *Zip or Postal Code*

Type of school: Public Private Parochial Home School

Guidance Counselor's Name _____

Counselor's Phone _____ Counselor's Fax _____

Counselor's E-mail _____

Recommender Information

Academic Recommendation 1

Name _____

Subject _____

Phone # _____

Email Address _____

Academic Recommendation 2

Name _____

Subject _____

Phone # _____

Email Address _____

Non-Academic Recommendation

Name _____

Activity _____

Phone # _____

Email Address _____

Please list all high school and college courses you are taking in the current school year. Indicate title and level (AP, IB, Honors, etc.) of each course. Home schooled students should list each subject area studied, as well as any online or college courses taken.

First Semester/Trimester

Second Semester/Trimester

Third Trimester

List all other schools you have attended since the ninth grade beginning with the most recent. Include colleges or universities at which you have taken courses for credit. Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please arrange to have an official transcript sent from each school as soon as possible.

Name of School	Location	Dates Attended
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Academic Honors

Briefly list and describe any academic honors or distinctions you have won beginning with the ninth grade. If necessary, please attach additional information on a separate sheet.

ACTIVITIES INFORMATION

Summer Programs

Please list any summer programs in which you have participated since the seventh grade. If necessary, please attach additional information on a separate sheet.

Program Name	Location	Dates Attended
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Extracurricular Activities

Please list your principal extracurricular, community service, and family activities and hobbies in the order of their interest to you. Include specific events and/or major accomplishments such as musical instruments played, awards won, leadership positions held. Check those activities you hope to pursue in college. If necessary, please attach additional information on a separate sheet.

Activity	Grade level(s) Participated						Approx. time spent		Positions held/Honors won	I plan to participate in college?
	7	8	9	10	11	12	Hours per week	Weeks per year		
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Work Experience

Please list any jobs you have held since you started high school. If necessary, please attach additional information on a separate sheet.

Job/specific nature of work	Employer	Dates of employment	Hours per week
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Most Meaningful Activity

Which of the above activities (summer programs, extracurricular activities, work experience) has meant the most to you and why?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Have you been out of school for more than one month (excluding summers and other official school vacations) since the seventh grade?

yes no

If yes, please explain on a separate piece of paper why and what you did during this time.

Have you been suspended, expelled, or required to withdraw from any of the schools you attended?

yes no

If yes, please explain on a separate piece of paper and provide the name of the person at your school whom we should contact to discuss the matter.

Interview

An interview is required as part of the application. Please indicate your plans below.

I have had an interview.

Name of interviewer

Date

Location

I will call to schedule an interview.

I plan to visit campus and be interviewed at that time.

Please indicate date of campus visit.

Financial Aid

Will you be applying for financial aid? yes no

If you are applying for financial aid we strongly recommend that you submit the applications for admission and financial aid at the same time, as soon as possible after January 1 for fall entry and by December 1 for spring entry. Students applying for merit scholarships may also be considered for need-based aid and should submit the financial aid application as soon as possible after February 1 and no later than March 1.

Application Fee

The application fee is \$50.00.

I have enclosed a check or money order. I have called (will call) with credit card information.

I have attached a fee waiver from my guidance counselor.

Student and Parent/Guardian Signatures

Simon's Rock is an academic community in which students are expected to be active and engaged learners, while demonstrating honesty and integrity, and taking responsibility for their actions. By signing this form, the applicant and parent attest that all information contained in this application is complete, factually accurate, and honestly presented. The applicant agrees to contact the Office of Admission should any information contained herein change once the application is submitted.

Applicant Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

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Phone: 800-235-7186 **Fax:** 413-541-0081
E-mail: admit@simons-rock.edu

Applying to enter in: Fall Spring 20_____

Applying for: Merit scholarship (February 1) Regular Decision (May 31)

Parent/Guardian Supplement

To be completed by parent/guardian

Applicant Name			
<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Middle</i>	
Permanent Home Address			
<i>Number and Street</i>			<i>Apt. No.</i>
<i>City/Town</i>	<i>State/Province</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Zip or Postal Code</i>

To the parent(s) and/or guardian(s): The selection of candidates for admission to Simon's Rock is based upon information provided by the candidate, the school, the recommenders, and the parent(s) and/or guardian(s). We appreciate your honest response to the questions on the reverse.

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Parent/Guardian 1

Name			
<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Middle</i>	
Relationship to Applicant			
Home Address (if different from above)			
<i>Number and Street</i>			
<i>City/Town</i>		<i>State/Province</i>	
<i>Country</i>		<i>Zip/Postal Code</i>	
Home Phone			
Cell Phone			
Fax			
E-mail			
Employer			
Position			
Nature of Business			
Work Phone			
Work E-mail			
College(s) (if any)			
Degree(s)		Year(s)	
Graduate School(s) (if any)			
Degree(s)		Year(s)	

Parent/Guardian 2

Name			
<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Middle</i>	
Relationship to Applicant			
Home Address (if different from above)			
<i>Number and Street</i>			
<i>City/Town</i>		<i>State/Province</i>	
<i>Country</i>		<i>Zip/Postal Code</i>	
Home Phone			
Cell Phone			
Fax			
E-mail			
Employer			
Position			
Nature of Business			
Work Phone			
Work E-mail			
College(s) (if any)			
Degree(s)		Year(s)	
Graduate School(s) (if any)			
Degree(s)		Year(s)	

Financial Aid

Will you be applying for financial aid? yes no

If yes, Simon's Rock requires the following financial forms. Please list the dates on which those were, or will be, filed. *Financial aid forms should be submitted as soon as possible after January 1 for fall entry and by December 1 for spring entry. Students applying for merit scholarships may also be considered for need-based aid and should submit the financial aid application as soon as possible after February 1 and no later than March 1.*

Required Financial Aid Forms

Date Filed/Will Be Filed

U.S. Citizens and Eligible Non Citizens

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): www.fafsa.ed.gov (SR Code #009645)

The College Board PROFILE (CSS Profile): profileonline.collegeboard.com (SR Code #3795)

Verification Worksheet: www.simons-rock.edu/financialaidforms.html

Non-Custodial Parent Statement (if applicable): www.simons-rock.edu/financialaidforms.html

Parent/Guardian and student most recent income tax forms: submit using IRS Data Retrieval through FAFSA or order an IRS Transcript at www.irs.gov

International Students

International Student Financial Aid Application: www.simons-rock.edu/financialaidforms.html

International Student Certification of Finances: www.simons-rock.edu/financialaidforms.html

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE APPLICANT'S DEVELOPMENT

As a parent or guardian, you have a unique perspective on the applicant that we both need and value in assessing the candidate's readiness to enter college early. Please respond fully to each of the following five questions and attach your answers to this form. Please type your answers if possible.

1. Describe how the applicant's intellect, interests, and approach to learning have developed during adolescence.
2. Comment on the applicant's relationship with family members, teachers, and mentors who have influenced the candidate's development.
3. Relate an event or experience that illustrates the applicant's individuality and his or her particular ways of interacting with others.
4. Comment on the candidate's emotional and social maturity as they pertain to living away from home.
5. Please discuss any other circumstances that you believe will have an impact on the applicant's success at Simon's Rock.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

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84 Alford Road
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APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION
Phone: 800-235-7186 **Fax:** 413-541-0081
E-mail: admit@simons-rock.edu

Applying to enter in: Fall Spring 20_____

Applying for: Merit scholarship (February 1) Regular Decision (May 31)

Parent/Guardian Supplement

To be completed by parent/guardian

Applicant Name			
<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Middle</i>	
Permanent Home Address			
<i>Number and Street</i>			<i>Apt. No.</i>
<i>City/Town</i>	<i>State/Province</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Zip or Postal Code</i>

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PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

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Name			
<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Middle</i>	
Relationship to Applicant			
Home Address (if different from above)			
<i>Number and Street</i>			
<i>City/Town</i>		<i>State/Province</i>	
<i>Country</i>		<i>Zip/Postal Code</i>	
Home Phone			
Cell Phone			
Fax			
E-mail			
Employer			
Position			
Nature of Business			
Work Phone			
Work E-mail			
College(s) (if any)			
Degree(s)		Year(s)	
Graduate School(s) (if any)			
Degree(s)		Year(s)	

Parent/Guardian 2

Name			
<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Middle</i>	
Relationship to Applicant			
Home Address (if different from above)			
<i>Number and Street</i>			
<i>City/Town</i>		<i>State/Province</i>	
<i>Country</i>		<i>Zip/Postal Code</i>	
Home Phone			
Cell Phone			
Fax			
E-mail			
Employer			
Position			
Nature of Business			
Work Phone			
Work E-mail			
College(s) (if any)			
Degree(s)		Year(s)	
Graduate School(s) (if any)			
Degree(s)		Year(s)	

Financial Aid

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Parent/Guardian and student most recent income tax forms: submit using IRS Data Retrieval through FAFSA or order an IRS Transcript at www.irs.gov

International Students

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2. Comment on the applicant's relationship with family members, teachers, and mentors who have influenced the candidate's development.
3. Relate an event or experience that illustrates the applicant's individuality and his or her particular ways of interacting with others.
4. Comment on the candidate's emotional and social maturity as they pertain to living away from home.
5. Please discuss any other circumstances that you believe will have an impact on the applicant's success at Simon's Rock.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

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APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION
Phone: 800-235-7186 Fax: 413-541-0081
E-mail: admit@simons-rock.edu

Applying to enter in: Fall Spring 20_____

Applying for: Merit scholarship (February 1) Regular Decision (May 31)

School Report

To the Applicant:

After filling in the information below, please give this form to your guidance counselor.

Applicant Name			
<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Middle</i>	
Permanent Home Address			
<i>Number and Street</i>			<i>Apt. No.</i>
<i>City/Town</i>	<i>State/Province</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Zip or Postal Code</i>
Phone		Email	

Applicant, do not write below this line.

To the Secondary School Guidance Counselor:

Attach applicant's official transcript, including courses in progress, a school profile, grading scale, and transcript legend. (Please check transcript copies for readability.) After filling in the blanks below, use both sides of this form to describe the applicant. Please provide all available information for this applicant. Be sure to sign on the reverse.

About Your School:

Grade Scale (please indicate the numeric range for each letter grade): A _____ B _____ C _____ D _____ F _____

Passing mark _____

Percentage of graduating class attending: _____ four-year _____ two-year institutions

Are classes taken on a block schedule? yes no If yes, in what year did block scheduling begin? _____

Date final grades are available: Fall Semester _____ Spring Semester _____

About the Applicant:

Class rank _____ in a class of _____, covering a period from _____ to _____
(mm/yyyy) (mm/yyyy)

The rank is weighted unweighted. How many students share this rank? _____

If a precise rank is not available, please indicate rank to the nearest tenth from the top _____

Cumulative GPA _____ on a _____ scale, covering a period from _____ to _____
(mm/yyyy) (mm/yyyy)

This GPA is weighted unweighted. Highest grade/GPA in class _____

The courses this student is taking are most mixed least rigorous available to him/her

Counselor's Name: Dr. / Mr. / Mrs. / Ms. _____
Please print or type

Counselor's School _____ Position _____

Counselor's Address _____

Counselor's Phone _____ Counselor's Fax _____

Secondary School CEEB/ACT Code _____ Counselor's E-mail _____

EVALUATION (OPTIONAL)

Please write whatever you think is important about this student, including a description of academic and personal characteristics. We are particularly interested in the applicant's intellectual promise, motivation, maturity, integrity, independence, originality, initiative, leadership potential, capacity for growth, special talents, enthusiasm, concern for others, respect accorded by faculty, and reaction to setbacks. We welcome information that will help us to differentiate this student from others.

Is this student in good academic standing? Yes No

If no, please explain on a separate sheet.

Has this student ever been subject to any disciplinary action? Yes No

If yes, please explain on a separate sheet.

Please indicate whether these comments come from personal knowledge of the student or written record.

How long have you known this student _____ and in what context? _____

What are the first words that come to your mind to describe this student? _____

Compared to other students in his or her class year, please rate where the applicant's abilities place him or her.

Candidate places in the upper:						Below
	1%	5%	10%	25%	50%	Top 50%
Academic ability	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Work Habits	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Extracurricular Accomplishments	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Personal Qualities and Character	<input type="checkbox"/>					

I recommend this student: enthusiastically without reservation with slight reservations with strong reservations

CONFIDENTIALITY

We value your comments highly and ask that you complete this form in the knowledge that it may be retained in the student's file should the applicant matriculate at Simon's Rock. In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, matriculating students do have access to their permanent files, which may include forms such as this one. Unless required by state law, colleges may not provide access to admission records to applicants, those students who are denied admission, or those students who decline an offer of admission. Again, your comments are important to us and we thank you for your cooperation.

Signature

Date

Bard College at Simon's Rock | The Early College

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84 Alford Road
Great Barrington, MA 01230-1978

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION
Phone: 800-235-7186 **Fax:** 413-541-0081
E-mail: admit@simons-rock.edu

Applying to enter in: Fall Spring 20_____

Applying for: Merit scholarship (February 1) Regular Decision (May 31)

Academic Recommendation

Applicant Name			
<i>Last</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Middle</i>	
Permanent Home Address			
<i>Number and Street</i>			<i>Apt. No.</i>
<i>City/Town</i>	<i>State/Province</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Zip or Postal Code</i>
Phone		Email	

To the Applicant:

Under the provision of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, you have the right, if you enroll at Simon's Rock, to review your educational records. The Act further provides that you may waive your right to see recommendations for admission. Please indicate by checking the appropriate box and signing your name whether or not you wish to waive this right.

I waive do not waive my right to view this recommendation.

Applicant's signature	Date
Applicant, do not write below this line.	

To the Recommender:

Simon's Rock is a selective, private, nondenominational, coeducational college of the liberal arts and sciences specifically designed to offer bright, highly motivated students with the opportunity to begin college after the tenth or eleventh grade. We appreciate your frank and detailed account of the candidate. Please complete both sides of this form and return it to the college address above.

Name of Recommender		Title/Position	
Secondary School Name			
School Address			
<i>Number and Street</i>			
<i>City/Town</i>	<i>State/Province</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Zip or Postal Code</i>
Phone	Fax	E-mail	

How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?

Did you teach the applicant in the current academic year? Yes No

List courses in which you have taught the applicant, noting for each the applicant's year in school, the level of course difficulty (AP, IB, honors, 100-level, 200-level, etc.), and the grade earned by the applicant.

Based on _____ (number of) students you have known of the same age over the past _____ years, please rate where the applicant's abilities place him or her.

Candidate places in upper:	1%	5%	10%	25%	50%	Below Top 50%
Academic Ability	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Work Habits	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Personal Characteristics	<input type="checkbox"/>					

List three adjectives that first come to mind when you think of the applicant:

1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____

If you prefer, you may answer these questions in a personal letter on official letterhead and attach it to this form.

1. Please assess the candidate's intellectual abilities as well as his or her actual performance.

2. Please assess the candidate's social maturity and peer relations.

3. Please assess the candidate's readiness to engage in the kind of independent work and living required in college. Are there any academic, social, and/or personal habits you've observed that need further development in order for the candidate to succeed in a college environment?

4. Please comment on any background information or special circumstances that you think may be relevant to our assessment of the candidate.

I recommend this applicant for admission to Simon's Rock:

enthusiastically without reservation with slight reservations with strong reservations

Signature of Recommender

Date

Bard College at Simon's Rock | The Early College

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Phone	Fax	E-mail	

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Non-Academic Recommendation

Applicant Name

Last

First

Middle

Permanent Home Address

Number and Street

Apt. No.

City/Town

State/Province

Country

Zip or Postal Code

Phone

Email

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Date

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Name of Recommender

Title

School or Organization Name

School or Organization Address

Number and Street

City/Town

State/Province

Country

Zip or Postal Code

Phone

Fax

E-mail

How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?

Describe the extracurricular, community or employment activity and your relationship (supervisor, coach, advisor, etc.) to the applicant.

Based on _____ (number of) students you have known of the same age over the past _____ years, please rate where the applicant's abilities place him or her.

Candidate places in upper:	1%	5%	10%	25%	50%	Below Top 50%
Academic Ability	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Work Habits	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Personal Characteristics	<input type="checkbox"/>					

List three adjectives that first come to mind when you think of the applicant:

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If you prefer, you may answer these questions in a personal letter on official letterhead and attach it to this form.

1. Please comment on the candidate's participation in the activity with which you are involved. Of particular interest to the admission committee are qualities like initiative, enthusiasm, dedication, leadership, and teamwork, and how this candidate compares in these areas to others with whom you've worked.

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WRITING SAMPLES

The writing samples are designed to give us a sense of your writing voice and command of language, as well as a sense of what and how you think. Each of the writing samples is designed to allow you to present a different aspect of your character, interests, and abilities. Each essay should be two to four pages in length, typewritten, double spaced, and carefully proofread. Two essays are required of regular applicants (1a or 1b, and 2), and three of merit scholarship applicants (1a or 1b, 2, and 3).

1. CRITICAL ANALYSIS (ALL APPLICANTS)

Please respond to *either* (a) one Du Bois quotation or (b) the Genetic Testing prompt.

a. W.E.B. Du Bois

W.E.B. Du Bois [1868–1963] was an American sociologist, historian, civil rights activist, and author. Born in Great Barrington (where Simon's Rock is located), Du Bois graduated from Harvard and was the first African American to earn a doctorate. Du Bois published *The Souls of Black Folk* in 1903, was one of the co-founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909, and edited its monthly magazine, *The Crisis*.

Select one of the following excerpts from *The Souls of Black Folk* and write a 2-4 page essay interpreting Du Bois' quotation, discussing its present day implications regarding access, prejudice, and society.

Souls of Black Folk (Chapter IX)

In any land, in any country under modern free competition, to lay any class of weak and despised people, be they white, black, or blue, at the political mercy of their stronger, richer, and more resourceful fellows, is a temptation which human nature seldom has withstood and seldom will withstand.

Souls of Black Folk (Chapter III)

[T]he hushing of the criticism of honest opponents is a dangerous thing. It leads some of the best of the critics to unfortunate silence and paralysis of effort, and others to burst into speech so passionately and intemperately as to lose listeners. Honest and earnest criticism from those whose interests are most nearly touched,—criticism of writers by readers, of government by those governed, of leaders by those led,—this is the soul of democracy and the safeguard of modern society.

b. Genetic Testing

The following segment, broadcast on the news recently, is based upon research published in the journal *Science Translational Medicine* in June 2012. Write a 2-4 page essay in response, articulating and supporting your point of view regarding the ethical concerns raised by this scientific development.

A simple new test could tell you all kinds of things about an unborn baby, including its risks of developing certain diseases. Doctors are calling it an exciting medical breakthrough that could detect serious genetic disorders, but it could open the door to all kinds of new ethical questions. Researchers at the University of Washington mapped the DNA of a fetus simply using a blood sample from a pregnant mother and saliva from the father. This revolutionary technique could become a non-invasive alternative to procedures like amniocentesis. The new test could one day be a routine screening tool for more than three thousand genetic disorders...including Down Syndrome, Huntington's Disease and cystic fibrosis. "Many of those diseases are now treated after the kids are born...so you can imagine by even potentially supplementing them in utero, that might improve outcomes," said Dr. Shendure. While the ability to identify chromosomal abnormalities before birth has its benefits, some warn these types of scientific advances open the door to a host of ethical concerns. That's because parents could potentially get information on genetic markers that might increase the risk of heart disease or certain types of cancer. "What about heredity deafness? We can tell you that your fetus is going to be born deaf. Some people may say, 'I don't want a deaf child;' other people may say the child's still otherwise a normal child. Where do we draw the line?" said Dr. Robert Klitzman. In the meantime, the technology is moving forward with the hope that soon, doctors will be able to diagnose and treat a problem before it ever appears.

WRITING SAMPLES (CONTINUED)

2. WHY HERE, WHY NOW? (ALL APPLICANTS)

Leaving high school to begin college early is an unusual choice. What goals, ambitions, and motivations have led you to apply for admission to Bard College at Simon's Rock? Are there particular experiences, either academic or personal, that have contributed to your desire to begin college early? How does the particular kind of education and community that Simon's Rock offers fit your own desires for intellectual and personal growth? How will your presence affect the academic and social environments at Simon's Rock?

3. POSITION PAPER (MERIT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS ONLY)

Write a position paper about a significant issue that interests you and that you believe deserves greater public attention. This may be an issue you have addressed through your community involvement. Your essay should not only clearly and persuasively present your views but also honor the complexity of the issue.

4. OPTIONAL (ALL APPLICANTS)

We are aware that no application, however thoughtfully designed, can yield a truly comprehensive portrait of an applicant. We invite you to submit a piece of your own work (or description of a project) that has particularly intrigued and excited you. The work may take any form you deem appropriate. Examples include but are not limited to a problem solution, a poem or short story, a graded test, a research paper, a science project, a copy of a drawing, painting, or photograph, or a recording of music, a film, or a performance.