

rooms. Students who are 24 or older are eligible to live off-campus and must petition to do so.

Student Life

The extracurricular lives of Bennington students are inextricably bound to their academic lives. Students are involved in their own work and in supporting the work of others. The calendar is filled with music, dance, and drama productions, poetry readings, and art exhibitions, the majority of which spotlight student work to enthusiastic audiences from the Bennington community and elsewhere. In addition, students are actively engaged, in and outside of the classroom, in problem-solving and research in mathematics, exploring the sciences, reading and discussing literature, and delving into issues in the social sciences. Students participate in activities such as soccer, hiking, canoeing, whitewater rafting and rock climbing. The Upstairs Cafe, a student run coffeehouse, is a popular gathering place.

“I know myself to be hard working and to have academic talent, but I've needed to mature in other ways before I felt comfortable applying myself in this way.”

Financial Aid

Students applying for transfer admission who wish to receive financial aid should complete the same forms as freshman applicants: the Bennington College Financial Aid Application and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), a copy of your parents' latest federal income tax returns (if you are a dependent) and a copy of your latest federal income tax returns (if you file). The deadlines for submitting financial aid materials are April 1 for fall applicants and January 15 for spring applicants. Admissions decisions are made without regard to financial need. Transfer students are eligible for the Bennington Scholars program and for other scholarships.

Applying for transfer admission

Transfer students may apply for admission after completing at least one semester of full-time work in an accredited college or university degree program. Students with Associate's Degrees, students currently enrolled at another college, and students who withdrew recently or many years ago from another degree program are considered transfer students.

“Now I am ready to immerse myself in a new environment and complete my undergraduate studies.”

To apply for admission to Bennington, please complete the application for admission, including the additional materials required for transfer students. These materials are outlined in detail in the application booklet. The deadlines for application are April 1 for fall admission and January 1 for spring admission.

In considering transfer applicants, we look for students who have both proven their academic ability, and have a good sense of how they intend to use Bennington's resources to meet their own educational aspirations. Should you have further questions about Bennington or about the application process, please feel free to contact us:

BENNINGTON
COLLEGE

TRANSFER ADMISSIONS
OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS & THE FIRST YEAR
BENNINGTON COLLEGE
BENNINGTON, VT 05201
(802) 442-5401
(800) 833-6845
FAX (802) 442-6164
E-MAIL: ADMISSIONS@BENNINGTON.EDU

TRANSFERRING TO BENNINGTON COLLEGE

“FOR THE REMAINDER OF MY UNDERGRADUATE STUDY, I AM LOOKING FOR A SCHOOL WITH A HARD WORKING, CRITICAL STUDENT BODY. I WANT TO BE IN A PLACE WHERE DISCUSSIONS, AND EVEN ARGUMENTS, ARE FREE TO CONTINUE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM, WHERE PEOPLE ARE COMMITTED AND CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR STUDIES.”

Transferring to Bennington College

Why we hope you will consider transferring to Bennington

What Bennington offers transfer students

Thank you for inquiring about transferring to Bennington College. We welcome applications from transfer students and believe that students who have spent some time studying at another institution often come to Bennington with a greater understanding and appreciation of our innovative approach to education. Students transfer to Bennington from junior colleges, community colleges, large universities, public and private liberal arts colleges and international institutions. Transfer students who choose Bennington are often looking for an opportunity to either expand or focus their range of study.

Bennington asks students to become active participants in the design and scope of their education by proposing and executing their own educational plan. The freedom that Bennington offers students in designing their course of study and in other areas of student life demands in turn a great deal of academic and personal responsibility. Transfer students often bring this level of maturity and a wide range of life experiences to Bennington, adding a great deal of perspective, breadth and depth to the community.

Bennington offers a flexible curriculum, a chance to define your own field of study, close working relationships with faculty, and small classes in which discussion is the primary venue for exchanging ideas. Our faculty are practitioners in their fields, including poets, scientists, choreographers, sculptors, directors, psychologists, and mathematicians. We offer a safe and open campus with extensive visual

“There comes a point when the ideas, the goals, and the vision must be articulated into action and this urgency is driving upon me like a gale force wind.”

and performing arts, science and technological facilities and a breathtaking landscape. Bennington students participate in a variety of campus-wide programs. They study languages with residents of the town of Bennington at the Regional Center for Languages and Cultures. They have unlimited access to multimedia technology at the New Media Center, where they work individually or in teams. They have opportunities for working with children at the Early Childhood Center. They work on and benefit from the College Farm. And through the Community Service Program, they participate in various public service initiatives, such as teaching at the local high school.

We also offer a unique Field Work Term (FWT) which asks students to spend a winter term working in a paid or volunteer position in a field which complements or contrasts their curriculum. This built-in opportunity for hands-on work is particularly appealing to many transfer students who have already learned that work, combined with or complemented by an academic interest, can be extremely helpful in determining a career direction.

Bennington students often choose to continue their education in a variety of ways, including attending graduate school, law school, or medical school. If you are considering graduate work, you may be interested to know that in addition to the

“I knew that, for me, staying home at a community college for the year would give me the time to really think about my life and what I wanted to accomplish while still staying in school. It's very satisfying because now that I've taken this time, I really feel prepared to move on. So, I guess that's why I'm transferring. It's my time to move on.”

“Though it would be more to my taste to attend school indefinitely, I know that at some point I will need to begin seeking a career, and I would like to be prepared for that with an education as extensive as possible.”

Credit Transfer

What transfer students should know about the Plan

Studying Abroad

Housing

narrative evaluations, all students receive for their course work, upperclassmen have the option to request letter grades in their courses. Bennington is committed to the individual feedback that narrative evaluations provide, but also recognizes that a transcript which indicates letter grades may help to facilitate the process of applying for graduate study.

The self-discipline and commitment to lifelong learning students develop here is invaluable to a student planning to continue his or her formal education, as is the network that Bennington alumni provide for one another. One of Bennington's hallmarks has always been that it produces graduates who know how to make connections, people with a remarkable talent for adaptability, people who lead, above all, interesting lives. Bennington alumni tend to be doers in the arts, sciences, innovation, and research.

Bennington requires 128 credits for graduation. The maximum number of credits that can be transferred is 64. We accept most liberal arts and performing arts credits, as well as credit granted for some technical courses such as computer science. We will accept credit for most introductory courses. We will often accept credit granted for independent study. Students may petition for International Baccalaureate (IB) credit after one term of work at Bennington. We do not grant credit for vocationally directed courses such as business management, nursing, legal studies, nutrition, etc. We do not accept courses with a grade below “C.” We do not accept credit for high school Advanced Placement (AP) courses or for college credit used to meet requirements for high school graduation. If you apply and are admitted to Bennington, we will send a final calculation of transfer credit after we receive final, official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions you have attended. We will also notify you of an estimated graduation date. The graduation date will be confirmed after discussion of your Plan with your academic advisor and plan sponsors.

Students are asked to submit a Plan during the second term of their sophomore year. If you transfer to Bennington as a second term sophomore or as a junior, you will be asked to propose a Plan during your second term at Bennington. This means that students who transfer to Bennington as sophomores or juniors must begin to think in a focused way about how they will synthesize their academic, intellectual, and artistic interests. There are many resources available to help you, including your advisor, The Dean of the First Year, and the Dean of the College.

Students who transfer to Bennington with less than 48 credits are eligible for study abroad. While Bennington asks students to complete at least half (64 out of 128) of their credits in residency, we will, in exceptional cases, allow students who come in as second term sophomores or juniors (or with more than 48 credits) to petition for study abroad.

Bennington students are required to live on campus with few exceptions. Ample on-campus housing is available for transfer students. Students who transfer to Bennington as juniors will be eligible for single rooms. Students who are 22 or older are also eligible for single

“I do not view this transfer as a means of correcting a mistake. Rather, I intend to carry my experiences with me into a new environment that will help me to expand the knowledge I have already gained.”