

The Woodwind Ensemble begins at 9:45 a.m., finishing just before the first stroke of ten.

1. Procession from the southwest door of the Barn to Silo Base. The President joins the procession shortly before ten. The President leads off the procession after the clock strikes the hour of ten and when the Brass Choir begins to play.
2. The Candidates for Degrees stand in front of their seats until the music stops. The signal for their being seated is the President seating himself.
3. The President rises and gives his opening remarks.

sit when
music
stops

STAND

There are formally assembled here in regular session the Board of Trustees and Faculty of Bennington College for the purpose of making the last official decisions relating to the award of the Bachelor of Arts degrees to the members of the 28th graduating class.

This commencement ceremony is a fitting occasion to reaffirm the ideals of this College.

Bennington seeks to liberate and develop the individual student--to strengthen the natural endowment of each in rich variety and direct her skills and talents toward constructive social purposes. Bennington seeks to train the imagination and sensibility, the moral and emotional aspects of personality as well as the intellectual.

It seeks to develop free citizens dedicated to civilized values, capable of energetic and constructive membership in modern society by sponsoring in its students active and responsible participation in their own education and the practice of the liberties and responsibilities of a democratic community.

The award of the degree certifies that these students have successfully met the standards of quality in work and in citizenship set by the College. The extent of their accomplishment in our other aims cannot be formally certified, but the degree does express our confidence in them as persons who will represent this College with credit.

At Bennington, the award of the degree means at least one other thing. Education here is a reciprocal affair. It is such that we can say in all seriousness that we who are charged with instruction and educational policy have received as well as given, learned from these students as well as taught them. The conferring of the degree is thus an acknowledgment of the contribution to us and to our practices which these students have made in the years they have been here.

We who have worked with them shall continue to follow them with interest and affection as they go to do their part in other communities. To those communities we confidently recommend them.

4. At the end of his remarks the President turns to the Faculty Representatives, seated in the front row of the Faculty section, and says:

"Will the representatives of the Faculty present their recommendations for the award of Degrees?"

5. The first Faculty Representative will rise and say, "Mr. President: As a representative of the Faculty in (field), and by recommendation of the Educational Counseling Committee, I present the names of the following students for the award of the Bachelor of Arts Degree:" Each candidate rises as his or her name is called and remains standing until the Faculty Representative resumes his seat.
6. Remaining Faculty Representatives do likewise.

7. After all the Faculty Representatives have presented their candidates and resumed their seats, the President addresses the whole Faculty as follows:

"Members of the Faculty: You have heard the names of those students who have fulfilled all requirements for graduation and are recommended for the award of the Bachelor of Arts degree--and the name(s) of the graduate student(s) who is (are) recommended for the Master of Arts Degree. Do you now nominate these candidates to the Trustees for this purpose? If so, please signify your approval by rising."

(The members of the Faculty rise and remain standing through parts 8, 9 and 10 of the ceremony, after which everyone sits down while the choir sings.)

8. The President then addresses the Chairman of the Board of Trustees as follows:

"Mr. Chairman: (the Chairman rises) I present for the consideration of the Trustees the students whom you have heard formally nominated by the Faculty for the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, and the Master of Arts.

9. The Chairman, addressing the Board of Trustees, says:

"Members of the Bennington College Corporation: By charter the power of conferring all degrees, diplomas and honors from this institution is placed in your hands. You have heard the nominations of the Faculty. As many as are in favor of granting the recommended degree to the students named, signify your approval by rising."

(The Trustees stand and remain standing through part 10 of the ceremony, after which they will be seated while the choir sings.)

10. The Chairman then addresses the candidates for the degree as follows:

"Members of the Graduating Class: (The class rises in response to this salutation) I am happy to inform you that the Trustees of the Corporation, in the exercise of their authority and on nomination of the Faculty, have admitted you to the Degree of Bachelor of Arts, and in the case of the graduate student(s), to the Degree of Master of Arts. "I declare you entitled to all the rights and privileges pertaining to that Degree here or elsewhere."

(The candidate(s) receiving the MA degree will step to the edge of the platform)

SIT EVERYONE SITS DOWN AT A SIGNAL FROM THE PRESIDENT (if necessary)

11. Choir sings

THE PRESIDENT AND EVERYONE RISES AND REMAINS STANDING THROUGH THE REST OF THE CEREMONY

12. The President then addresses the members of the Graduating Class.

"With this formal recognition of academic accomplishment you join the company of young men and women from this College and the men and women in all our colleges and universities who have been admitted to the special opportunities and obligations which the Bachelor of Arts Degree and the Master of Arts degree implies.

"In the name of all here assembled--your Trustees, your instructors, your Fellow Students, your Parents, your Friends, your Fellow Townsmen--I congratulate you."

13. Brass choir plays for recessional.

14. The Chairman and the President remain standing while the Graduates march in procession to the Science entrance of the Barn, then turn left, down the steps and to Cricket Hill Lawn. When the music stops, the Chairman and the President exit at the rear of the silo base.

- *15. The President and the Graduates will go to Cricket Hill Lawn where Mr. Fels will hand each Graduate her diploma. Just before handing out diplomas, The President will thank members of the Class for their gift.

11:00 a.m. - INFORMAL RECEPTION ON CRICKET HILL LAWN FOR GRADUATES AND THEIR GUESTS.

REMAIN
STANDING

WHEN MUSIC
STOPS, EXIT
AT REAR