

Bennington Underground



TRANSLATIONS

Alabama: The parking lot closest to First Street.

BAD: Bennington Athletic Department, which is the big tent for all recreational and intramural sporting events.

Bennington Card: Your ID card that gives you access to the Dining Hall, Meyer Recreation Barn, Crossett Library, laundry, and cashless purchases around campus.

BFP: *Bennington Free Press*, the student-run newspaper.

Brute Squad: Bennington's fencing team, which participates in regional and collegiate competitions.

Cage: The video editing room in VAPA.

Cricket Hill: The Admissions Office.

Cricket Hill Barn: The small white building featuring a conference room is located next to the admissions office.

Dinging: If you have an event or an announcement, you can "ding" in the Dining Hall. Take a glass, gently tap a knife against it, and announce your event to people in each of the dining rooms.

DownCaf: The Downstairs Café.

End of the World: The vista at the end of Commons Lawn.

Graduate Lecture: In your last residency you'll also deliver a 25-30 lecture on a topic of your choice that condenses some of the understanding

and insights you've gained during your course of study. You'll follow this with a Q&A session, fielding the questions of your peers.

Graduate Reading: During your last (fifth) residency, you'll deliver a 20-minute reading from your thesis.

Graduate Thesis: If you're a fiction writer, your thesis will be a collection of stories or a novel or a combination of the two, at around 100-120 pages. If your focus is nonfiction, you'll write either a collection of essays or a single topic book, also of 100-120 pages. Poets, you'll create a manuscript of poems, 48-64 pages in length. An alternative available to any of you is a mixed-genre portfolio arising from your individual course of study. During the first five days of your final residency, you submit copies of your thesis to Crossett Library and those on your thesis panel. Your thesis panel consists of your fourth term teacher and another faculty member who convene and review your thesis, then submit their recommendation for approval to the heads of the program.

Key List: Some spaces on campus have key lists that allow approved students access even when the space is closed or unmonitored. Speak to the appropriate faculty member or technician to be added to the list. If you are approved, you would get the key from Campus Safety in exchange for your Bennington Card (until the key is returned).

Kinoteca: The video theatre in VAPA.

Ohio: The parking lot behind the Student Center.

"Packets": are what we called the student work back when it was sent through the mail. Although nowadays we primarily exchange work digitally, the lingo survives. You'll hear us say "packets" a lot. Don't be alarmed by the sound of poundage! Many of our instructors have e-readers. --Though don't say we didn't warn you if a few lovers of paper ask you to send your work by pony express. We all know the pleasures of paper!

Pioneers: The College's first group of graduates. Also the name of Bennington's soccer team.

POD: The computer lab in VAPA. It is equipped with digital image and video software, but not word processing programs. User-name and password is "user". You may use the high-quality color printer for a small fee.

Rec Barn/MRB: The Meyer Recreation Barn is the campus gym. It houses cardio and weightlifting equipment, fitness and yoga rooms, and a sauna.

Rollerama: A twice-a-year roller skating extravaganza in Greenwall. PAC provides the skates and the candy.

SEA: Student Endowment for the Arts is a board of students who review applications from students seeking grant money for independent art and performance projects.

Studes: The Student Center.

UpCaf: The Upstairs Café on the second floor of the Student Center complex. You'll find comfy couches and chairs, a media system with DirectTV and a DVD player, as well as a collection of board games. There is also a ping-pong table.

The Vortex: is our faculty authored blog

HEADING FOR HERE?

GETTING AROUND
Cars are allowed on campus but they must be licensed, registered, insured, equipped, and legal (but you already knew that). Get a parking sticker at Campus Safety- it is \$60 per term. Once you have your sticker you can park in student lots on campus. Be warned, without a sticker you will get tickets and may be towed if you park on campus.

The Green Mountain Express operates a shuttle into town, as well as to Manchester and Williamstown. The shuttle operates daily, but when it does not run the College provides a shuttle service. Vans leave from the Flagpole (in front of the Barn) and can be reached by dialing O. Schedules are in

your house. Student Life manages a weekly shuttle service to Albany.

Bike share. Crossett Library has a fleet of 10 hybrid bikes and helmets. Just like a book, you can check these out at the front desk with your Bennington Card. Bikes can be out for 12 hours at a time.

EAT-IN
On campus you can **grab a bite** in the Dining Hall, the Student Center, the Bookstore, or snacks at any of the vending machines on campus.

Restaurants that deliver to campus include Dominos, Ramuntos, Papa Pete's, and Ann Marie's.

Bring a mug. Admissions, Student Life, the Bookstore, and the Dining Hall all offer **free coffee** to students with a mug. Crossett and the Student Center offer coffee, but you'll have to pay.

Grocery stores in the area include Aldi (cheap, generic food brands); PriceChopper, (open 24-hours and home to a great bakery and sushi shop); Hannaford (close to campus). They sell traditional groceries as well as bulk and organic items); Spice 'n Nice

(located in town, they sell organic and health food, as well as bulk nuts, spices and grains); Walloomsac Farmers' Market (Bennington's year-round farmer's market. Friend them on Facebook to keep up with their location and times).

IT'S ALL HAPPENING
Find out what's going on or promote your own **events** by visiting the College's online calendar (refer to your Connections page). If you're planning an event—everything you need will be on this page: space reservations, promotion and catering requests.

You can **work out** in the Meyer Recreation Barn, which has cardio and weight lifting equipment, an aerobics and yoga studio, rock climbing wall, and sauna. Or get in shape by playing a sport. Student Life organizes basketball, volleyball, tennis, flag football, dodgeball, ice skating, laser tag, Ultimate Frisbee, and fencing. During the fall our co-ed soccer team plays again colleges from Vermont and Massachusetts. All levels of skill are welcome. Contact Student Life to get involved.

Connections



Be sure to bookmark these pages, they will help you find everything you need to know.



CALENDAR

www.bennington.edu/calendar.aspx

Find events, post events, book events, reserve space, order catering, request promotion.



DIRECTORY

www.bennington.edu/contact.aspx

Find the phone, location, and email information for anyone, or any office on campus.



DINING HALL

www.bennington.edu/menueinformation.aspx

Every week the Dining Hall will post an updated, weekly menu.



THE STUDENT HANDBOOK

www.bennington.edu/studenthandbook.aspx

Rules, regulations, and legal obligations.



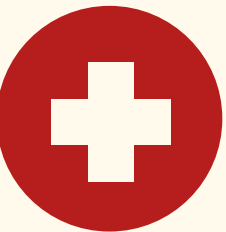
THE BENNINGTON CARD

www.bennington.edu/benningtoncard.aspx

Add money to your account here.

Bennington: The Writer's Guide

B Bennington College
MFA in Writing Authority



↑ Bennington College Houses 1 2

I'M LOOKING FOR...

24/7 SPACES

VAPA, CAPA, Jennings, Commons Lounge, Dickinson Reading Room, the EAC, the Upstairs Cafe (Second floor of the Student Center complex), and the Crossett Library meeting room.

COMPUTERS + PRINTERS

Computer labs can be found in Dickinson, Crossett Library, Commons, VAPA, CAPA, and Jennings. You can print in Dickinson or Crossett.

DOCTORS

Southwestern Vermont Medical Center is the town and region's primary medical center. It offers emergency medical care and is open 24/7. Located at 100 Hospital Drive in Bennington, Vermont. Contacts: 802-442-6361.

A HUMAN BEING

If you have questions or concerns during your time in the program (and, heck, after it), just call the office at 802-440-4452. We answer questions about everything from financial aid to driving directions to "What's the first line of *To Have and Have Not*?" Yes, you can also email us at writing@bennington.edu, but maybe you want a break from writing.

Victoria Clausi

Associate Director
615-794-2203
vclausi@bennington.edu

Dawn Dayton

Program Coordinator
802-440-4452
writing@bennington.edu

JOBS

WorkLink is the College's job application system, and where you will find most on-campus positions listed. If you are hired for an on-campus position, you must complete a work authorization form. If you are a Work Study student you'll get the form in Financial Aid; if you're a regular pay student you'll get the form from the Business Office.

LAUNDRY

Commons: The laundry room is located near the back entrance to the Commons Dining Hall (behind the Post Office). A wash costs \$2 depending on the cycle, and the dryer costs \$1.50. All machines on campus take quarters or use the Bennington Card system.

Third Street Houses: Prices are the same as in Commons.

E + R Cleaners: This company offers pick-up-and-delivery service. A representative will be on campus at check-in to give you information about service and cost.

MONEY

ATM. A People's United ATM machine is located in Commons.

Banking. There are several banks in town, check the Bennington Chamber of Commerce website for an up-to-date directory of Banks.

Check cashing. The Bookstore will cash a check up to \$50 with a purchase. The Business Office will cash a check up to \$200 with a valid Bennington Card.

The Bennington Card.

By putting money to use as a declining balance on your Bennington Card, you will be able to purchase items from the Bookstore, food outside of the meal plan, use the laundry facilities on campus, rent outdoor equipment from the Meyer Recreation Barn, pay for student trips, make on-campus shuttle reservations, and other activities.

Change.

Get your fill of quarters by using the change machine in the Commons laundry room.

STORAGE SPACE

A limited amount of storage is available on campus to store your suitcases, packing materials, and other belongings during term. Your House Chair can provide access.



RESOURCES

www.bennington.edu/MFAWriting/Resources.aspx



FACULTY BLOG

<http://benningtonvortex.com>

THE WRITING SEMINARS

HOUSE LIFE AND YOUR RESIDENCIES

Your program begins with the next 10-day residency. Residencies are held at Bennington's campus in January and June. The campus, and the housing, is as well known as the College's academic programs. Bennington has been recognized by *The Princeton Review*, *Architectural Digest*, *The Huffington Post*, and visitors from all over the country as one of the most beautiful college campuses in the country. It is here, during your writing seminars, you will experience one long, lively conversation taking place on the trails and lawns, and in the dining and living rooms. Debate is vigorous but spiked with humor; the sense of comradeship apparent. We want you to flourish at the seminars, so you must arrive the day before the seminars begin and leave only after the final workshop on the last day. But believe us, you will not want to go. Almost all of us stay in the award-winning Woo Houses on campus, but we have included a little bit about all of the houses located on campus.



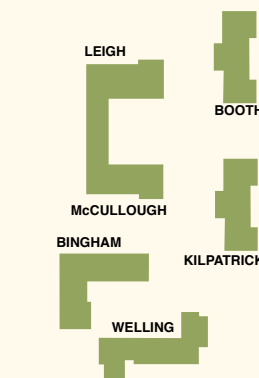
Woo Houses

The Woo Houses, one half of Third Street, are the newest, built in 2001. They are Merck, Paris-Borden, and Perkins. Each Woo House has three floors with elevators, laundry facilities, living rooms with fireplace, and kitchens with dishwashers. The walls are soundproof, and the rooms get great sunlight and offer sunset views off the balconies. These award-winning houses have been featured in *Architectural Record* magazine.



Barnes Houses

The Barnes Houses, also known as the 70s Houses and Milk Crate Houses, make up the other half of Third Street and boast some of the biggest rooms. The Barnes Houses include Fels, Noyes, and Sawtell. All have a kitchen with a dishwasher, laundry room, and regularly used living rooms.



Colonial Houses

The Colonial Houses were part of the original Bennington campus and make up First and Second Streets. They include Bingham, Booth, Canfield, Dewey, Franklin, Kilpatrick, Leigh, McCullough, Stokes, Swan, Welling, and Woolley. The Colonial Houses have hardwood floors, fireplaces in the living rooms, and kitchens; some feature porch swings or courtyards, and others open onto Commons Lawn. There are four floor plans, which means that there are a variety of rooms and layouts. Students appreciate the unique personalities of the rooms. There are no washers or dryers in the Colonial Houses, so residents use the laundry facilities in the nearby Commons building.

YOUR MENTORS



WE ARE YOUR CORE FACULTY

F FICTION

- 1 Martha Cooley
- 2 David Gates
- 3 Amy Hempel
- 4 Bret Anthony Johnston
- 5 Alice Mattison
- 6 Jill McCorkle
- 7 Askold Melnyczuk
- 8 Brian Morton
- 9 Rachel Pastan
- 10 Lynne Sharon Schwartz

N NONFICTION

- 1 Paul Yoon
- 2 Sven Birkerts
- 3 Susan Cheever
- 4 Bernard Cooper
- 5 Dinah Lenney,
- 6 Phillip Lopate
- 7 Peter Trachtenberg

P POETRY

- 1 April Bernard
- 2 David Daniel
- 3 Major Jackson
- 4 Ed Ochester

W WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE

- 1 Lyndall Gordon,
- 2 Donald Hall
- 3 Rick Moody
- 4 Bob Shacochis

Longmeadow

The residents of Longmeadow are dedicated to living in an intentional community on campus. Longmeadow gives upperclass students the opportunity to form and shape their own community standards and to design the type of community in which they would like to live. Students apply to live in the house each year, and are accepted based on space availability.

Welling Townhouse

Welling Townhouse is the off-campus co-op in North Bennington, about a 20-minute walk to Commons. The Townhouse is home to 14 people who share house responsibilities, such as cooking and cleaning. With the exception of room charges, the Townhouse is financially independent from the College—residents manage a shared house budget for food and other house supplies over the course of the year. The Townhouse has laundry facilities. The rooms are spacious, the food organic, and the people cooperative.



Schedule Fall

1 3

August 27	Pre-orientation trip participants arrive
August 29	New international students arrive/international student orientation
August 31	New students arrive/new student orientation begins
September 3	[Labor Day] Houses open for returning students at noon Several administrative offices closed
September 4	Faculty Advising (new students) in faculty offices 9:30–11:30 am Add/drop (in faculty offices) 2:00–4:00 pm 1 Convocation 4:30 pm
September 5	Classes begin
September 14	End of add registration period
September 19	End of drop registration period Last day to request letter grades
September 24	Plan drafts due to advisors
September 28-30	Family weekend
October 4	Plans due to Dean's Office
October 8	[Columbus Day] Classes in session
October 18	Last day to withdraw from classes. 1st 7-week classes end
October 19–22	LONG WEEKEND—No classes
October 23	2nd 7-week classes begin
October 30	Plan Day—No classes 8:00–4:00 pm
November 7	Registration for 4000-level classes begins
November 8	Plan Day—No classes 8:00–4:00 pm
November 14	½ Plan Day—No classes 8:00–12:30 pm Classes will meet beginning at 2:10 pm
November 15	Registration forms due (with 4000-level faculty signatures and 2000-level requests)
November 16	FWT registration due
November 20	Preliminary spring schedules available to students First-term & senior essay drafts due to advisors
November 21–25	Thanksgiving break
November 28	First term & senior essays due to Dean's Office
November 29	Add/drop for spring 2012 term 1:00–2:00 pm Greenwall
December 13	Last day of classes
December 15	Student houses close at noon
December 24–Jan 2	Winter break
WINTER 2013	
December 30	Houses open for FWT on-campus residents
Jan 2–Feb 15	2 Field Work Term

1 2 everyone stops here

Schedule Spring

1 4

February 16	New and transfer students arrive
February 17	Houses open for returning students at noon
February 18	[Presidents Day] Several administrative offices closed
February 19	Advising and registration
February 20	Classes begin
March 1	End of add registration period
March 6	End of drop registration period Last day to request letter grades
March 18	Plan drafts due to advisors
March 28	Plans due to Dean's Office
April 9	Last day to withdraw from classes 1st 7-week classes end
April 10–14	LONG WEEKEND—No classes
April 15	2nd 7-week classes begin this week
April 24	Plan Day—No classes 8:00 am–4:00 pm
May 1	Registration for 4000-level classes begins
May 2	Plan Day—No classes 8:00 am–4:00 pm
May 6	First-term senior essay drafts due to advisors
May 7	½ Plan Day—No classes 8:00 am–12:30 pm Classes will meet beginning at 2:10 pm
May 8	Registration forms due (with 4000-level faculty signatures and 2000-level requests)
May 10	Summer make-up registration deadline for FWT
May 13	First-term and senior essays due to Dean's Office
May 14	Preliminary fall schedules available to students
May 16	Add/drop for Spring 2013 term 1:00–2:00 pm Greenwall
May 27	[Memorial Day] No classes
May 29	Last day of classes on campus
May 31	Student houses close at noon for undergraduates not attending commencement (10 am) Commencement Dinner 6:00 pm
June 1	Commencement 10:00 am Student houses close at 2:00 pm for non-graduates
June 2	Student houses close at noon for graduates

3 everyone stops here