

Welcome to Bennington College. The New Student Orientation will help you:

- Navigate the campus through interactive activities;
- Build a sense of community by connecting you with your peers and upper-class students as well as faculty; and
- Become familiar with resources that will be essential to your success.

Thursday, September 1

9 am - noon Check In and Resource Fair

@ Student Center

Arriving students can pick up orientation materials, room key, and Bennington student ID card. Representatives from Academic Services, Business Office, Campus Safety, Career Development and Field Work Term Office, Counseling and Psychological Services, Information Technology, The Library, Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Registrar, Student Health, Student Wellness and others are available to answer questions.

9-10:30 am Family Name A-L

10:30-12 noon Family Name M-Z

9 am - noon Move In

@ Individual Houses

11 - 11:45 am Campus Tour (optional)

@ Flagpole by the Barn

Take a personalized, student-led tour of campus.

Noon - 2 pm Lunch

@ Commons Dining Hall

12-1 pm Family Name A-L

1-2 pm Family Name M-Z

1 - 1:45 pm Campus Tour (optional)

@ Flagpole by the Barn

Take a personalized, student-led tour of campus.

2 - 2:30 pm Welcome

@ Greenwall Auditorium, Visual and Performing Arts Center

President Laura Walker and Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Dr. Alfredo Medina will welcome new students and families to the Bennington community.

2:30 - 4:30 pm Meet Your Orientation Leaders and Your Peers

@ End of the World and Commons Lawn

Meet your Orientation Leaders and other new students through an afternoon of lawn games, alternative campus tours, and the first question-and-answer session with upperclass students.

***The following three sessions are designed for families:**

2:30 - 3:30 pm *The Magic of Adolescence*

@ *Greenwall Auditorium, VAPA*

Faculty in Developmental Psychology Dr. Emily Waterman will discuss the development of young adults and how you can support your students' transition to independent living and college life with introduction by Dr. Maurice Hall, Provost.

3:45 - 4:45 pm *The Whole Person Approach: Keeping the Student at the Center of Education*

@ *Greenwall Auditorium, VAPA*

Dean of Student Life Dr. Li-Chen Chin will facilitate a conversation with Associate Dean of the College Noelle Murphy, Assistant Dean of Student Life Dr. Alison Tartaglia, and Alisha Bade Shrestha '23 to discuss the common challenges new students face and how families can support their students' intellectual, social, and emotional growth.

4:45 - 5 pm *Family Send-Off*

@ *Greenwall Auditorium, VAPA*

Dr. Brian Michael Murphy, Dean of the College will give words of wisdom to families as they depart campus.

***All events after this are for students only.**

5:30 - 6:30 pm *Dinner*

@ *Commons Dining Hall*

Remember to bring your Bennington Card.

6:30 - 7:30 pm *Calling In and Calling Out*

@ *Greenwall Auditorium, VAPA*

Visiting faculty Alisa Del Tufo and Associate Director of Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Xiomara Giordano will facilitate a conversation about how to foster spaces of inclusion and belonging at Bennington College.

8:30 - 9:30 pm *Storytelling Circle*

@ *Your House Living Room*

Learn more about your peers through the storytelling circle facilitated by Orientation Leaders.

Friday, September 2

8 - 9 am *Breakfast*

@ *Commons Dining Hall*

Remember to bring your Bennington Card.

ALL STUDENTS ARE SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS BY HOUSE. FOLLOW THE SCHEDULE OF YOUR GROUP.

GROUP A: Bingham, Booth, Canfield, Dewey, Fels, Franklin, Kilpat, Leigh, and McCullough

GROUP B: Merck, Noyes, Paran Creek, Paris-Borden, Perkins, Stokes, Swan, Sawtell, Welling, and Woolley

GROUP A: Bingham, Booth, Canfield, Dewey, Fels, Franklin, Kilpat, Leigh, and McCullough

9 - 9:40 am *Three Pillars of Your Bennington Experience*

@ *Tishman Auditorium*

Join Dean of the College Dr. Brian Michael Murphy, Dean of Student Life Dr. Li-Chen Chin, and Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Dr. Alfredo Medina in a conversation about the three pillars of your Bennington education.

9:50 - 10:30 am *History of Bennington College*

@ *Greenwall Auditorium, VAPA*

Who are the students of the past, and how are you tied to them and the students of the future? Explore the College's history, educational values, and tenets.

10:40 am - Noon *Building a Community of Care*

@ *Martha Hill Theater, VAPA*

How can you be part of the campus culture in which everyone feels connected, develops better communication skills, strengthens empathy and understanding, and engages in more positive self and community care? Visiting faculty Alisa Del Tufo will lead this hands-on session.

12:30 - 1:30 pm *Lunch*

@ *Commons Dining Hall*

Remember to bring your Bennington Card.

2 - 3:30 pm *Bennington and Me: Let's Draw it Out*

See your Orientation folder for a letter with the assigned group and room.

In this fun workshop, you will complete one of the exercises from Lynda Barry's *Making Comics* to reflect on why Bennington chose you.

4 - 5:20 pm *Anti-racism and Social Justice at Bennington*

@ *Tishman Auditorium*

Drawing on various race intersectionality frameworks, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Dr. Alfredo Medina and Associate Director Xiomara Giordano will provide a historical overview and understanding of antiracism and social justice in the U.S. and Bennington's aspiration to become a more welcoming, inclusive, and equitable institution. Students will examine their social identities relative to disparate power and privileges in a brave and safe space guided by agreed community norms.

5:30 - 6:30 pm *Dinner*

@ *Commons Dining Hall*

Remember to bring your Bennington Card.

7 - 8 pm *Condom Olympics*

@ *Commons Lawn*

Join us for fun and laughter while engaging in some interactive and hands on activities focused around sexual health.

9 - 10 pm *Activity*

Led by Orientation Leaders.

GROUP B: Merck, Noyes, Paran Creek, Paris-Borden, Perkins, Stokes, Swan, Sawtell, Welling, and Woolley

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A special note about language placement

*If you wish to register for a 4000-level language course but have not yet registered one, **contact the faculty listed below via email before Monday, September 5.** Language placement interviews take about ten minutes. If you are interested in an introductory*

course and have never studied the language before, you may email the faculty member listed below to learn more about Cultural Studies and Languages at Bennington.

- **Chinese: Ginger Lin**
- **French: Noelle Rouxel-Cubberly or Maboula Soumahoro**
- **Italian: Barbara Alfano**
- **Japanese: Ikuko Yoshida**
- **Spanish: Jonathan Pitcher or Lena Retamoso Urbano**

Once the term begins, look for more updates and information in the Provost and Dean's Office Academic Minute.

Saturday, September 3

8 - 9 am *Breakfast*

@ Commons Dining Hall

Remember to bring your Bennington Card.

9 - 10:30 am *ConnectED Bystander Education*

@ Greenwall Auditorium, VAPA

What do you do when you witness incidents of alcohol intoxication or sexual misconduct? How do you support your peers in a crisis? Learn all about supporting peers and where resources are during this interactive session co-facilitated by Assistant Dean and Director of Wellness Dr. Ali Tartaglia and upper-class peers. Bring your questions!

11 am - Noon *Resource Scavenger Hunt*

Starting @ End of the World

Engage in this scavenger hunt with your housemates to search for important student resources around campus. Winners will earn points toward the house competition.

12:30 - 1:30 pm *Lunch*

@ Commons Dining Hall

Remember to bring your Bennington Card.

2 - 3:30 pm *Weaving Together Questions and Inspiration: Bennington Faculty's Perspectives on Lynda Barry's Making Comics*

@ Martha Hill Dance Theater

Join faculty in Literature Manuel Gonzalez, Dean of Faculty and faculty in Spanish Dr. Sarah Harris, faculty in History Dr. Carol Pal, Crossett librarian and graphic artist Wade

Simpson, and faculty in Psychology Dr. Özge Savas to discuss Lynda Barry's *Making Comics*. A Q&A with the students will follow.

3:30 - 5 pm *Building Situational Awareness*

Starting @ Greenwall Auditorium, VAPA - ending at your house

What do you do when a fire alarm sounds? How do you keep your bike from being stolen? How do you stay safe from lightning? It's all about building situational awareness. Director of Campus Safety Dr. Cathy Anthofer-Fialon will lead this interactive session which ends with a house competition. Will your house win points and the coveted "golden smoke alarm" trophy?

5:30 - 6:30 pm *Dinner*

@ Commons Dining Hall

Remember to bring your Bennington Card.

8:30 - 10 pm *Movie Night*

@ Commons Lawn

Sunday, September 4

8 - 9 am *Breakfast with First-year Forum Co-leaders*

@ Commons Dining Hall

Remember to bring your Bennington Card.

9:30 am - Noon *First Year Forum Introductory Class (for students with first- or second-term standing)*

Starting @ Greenwall Auditorium

See your Orientation folder for a letter with the assigned group and room.

This is your introductory class to the First Year Forum. Among other things, you will meet your First-Year Forum advisor and find out more about what to expect. This is an opportunity to ask questions and complete important work of your year-long First-Year Forum course.

10 - 11:30 am *Transfer and Exchange Student Experience*

(for students with third- or fourth-term standing and exchange students)

@ Tishman Auditorium

Associate Dean of the College Noelle Murphy and Assistant Director of Academic Services Stephanie Meyer will discuss academic life at Bennington, the transfer student

experience, and the supports Bennington offers to guide you along the way. Come ready to share a bit about yourself and to ask any questions you have.

12:30 - 1:30 pm *Lunch*

@ Commons Dining Hall

Remember to bring your Bennington Card.

2 - 5 pm *Faculty Workshops*

See your Orientation folder for your assigned workshop and location.

A window into the Bennington classroom experience.

5:30 - 6:30 pm *Dinner*

@ Commons Dining Hall

Remember to bring your Bennington Card.

8:30 - 10 pm *Movie Night*

@ Commons Lawn

Monday, September 5

8 - 9 am *Breakfast*

@ Commons Dining Hall

Remember to bring your Bennington Card.

9 - 9:50 am *Faculty Advising*

@ Individual Faculty's Office

Plan to meet with your faculty advisor to discuss your course schedule in advance of the add/drop period which starts at 3:30 pm.

10 - 11 am *Finding On-Campus Employment*

@ Tishman Auditorium

Associate Dean and Director of Career Development and Field Work Term (FWT) Office Lisa Noble, Student Employment Specialist Iñigo Auza de la Mora '22, and Executive Chef and General Manager of Dining Services Steve Bohrer will answer your questions about on-campus jobs, work expectations and resources.

11:30 am - 12:30 pm *The Plan Process for Transfer Students (Required for transfer students with 2nd and 3rd year status)*

@ Tishman

Join Noelle Murphy, Associate Dean of the College and Stephanie Meyer, Academic Services and Study Away Counselor to discuss the specific experience upper-level transfer students have as they enter the Plan process in their first term at Bennington.

12:30 - 1:30 pm *Lunch*

@ Commons Dining Hall

Remember to bring your Bennington Card.

1:30 - 3:30 pm *Faculty Advising*

@ Individual Faculty's Office

Plan to meet with your faculty advisor to discuss your course schedule in advance of the add/drop period, which starts at 3:30 pm.

2 - 3:15 pm *Stories of Triumph*

@ Martha Hill Dance Theater, VAPA

How do you acknowledge the impact of trauma on your life and utilize it to move forward? What will be your Bennington story? Join Director of Residence Life and Community Standards Donnie Redd and Psychotherapist in Counseling and Psychological Services Samia Abbass in this interactive session.

6 - 7 pm *Dinner*

@ Commons Dining Hall

Remember to bring your Bennington ID Card.

7 - 9 pm *Dessert Reception and Dance Party*

@ Student Center

Join your fellow students for desserts and an evening of live music and dancing.

Tuesday, September 6

8 - 9 am *Breakfast*

@ Commons Dining Hall

Remember to bring your Bennington Card.

9:30 - 10:45 am *First-Year Forum Class*

See your Orientation folder for a letter with the assigned group and room.

This will be your official first class for the First-Year Forum. During this session, you will focus on specific components of your Bennington education such as self-reflective practices.

9:30 - 10:45 am *Field Work Term Planning for Transfer Students*

@ Tishman Auditorium

Associate Dean and Director of Career Development and Field Work Term (FWT) Office Lisa Noble and Communications and Engagement Coordinator and FWT Advisor Sarah Krinsky will answer your questions about planning your first Field Work Term experience. You will learn about Handshake and other resources to help you discover and prepare for opportunities, and discuss all the ways the Career Development and Field Work Term Office can support you in finding meaningful work-integrated learning experiences.

11 am - Noon *Convocation*

@ Greenwall Auditorium, VAPA

A community tradition in celebration of the start of the academic year.

12 - 1 pm *Lunch*

@ Commons Dining Hall

Remember to bring your Bennington Card.

2 - 5 pm *Open Office Hours*

This is another opportunity to connect with administrative offices that are essential to your success at Bennington.

- Buildings and Grounds (near Meyer Rec Barn)
- Career Development and Field Work Term Office, Barn 112
- Campus Safety
- Crossett Library
- Financial Aid, Barn 104
- IT Help Desk, Commons 3rd Floor
- Student Health Center
- Student Life Office, Barn 113
- Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, ECA
- Academic Services - First-year Student Support, International Student Support, Barn 113
- Academic Services - Transfer Student Support, Accommodations, Study Away, Grants and Fellowships advising, Barn 120

2:10 pm *Classes Begin*

A special note about Drama, Dance, and Music auditions

Drama

Drama auditions will be held on:

Tuesday, September 6, 7 pm: Audition Monologue Workshop with faculty Jenny Rohn
@ Dickinson 207

Thursday, September 8, 7 - 10 pm: Auditions **@ Dickinson 207/208**

Friday, September 9, 7-10 pm: Auditions **@ Dickinson 207/208**

Dance

Thursday, September 15, 7 pm @ Martha Hill Theater

This audition is for all students interested in making dance work and for students interested in performing in the work of their peers. For the audition, you will participate in a guided warm-up followed by movement structures and/or phrases offered by student choreographers. Subsequently, you may be invited by the student choreographers to join in their projects.

Music

Email individual faculty to schedule an appointment:

- Bass: Michael Bisio
- Cello and Advanced Chamber Music: Nat Park
- Guitar: Hui Cox
- Jazz Piano and Jazz Ensemble: Jen Allen
- Mallet Percussion Ensemble: Michael Wimberly
- Piano: Joan Forsyth, Chris Lewis or Yoshiko Sato
- Rebetiko Ensemble: Joseph Alpar
- Violin and Viola: Kaori Washiyama
- Intermediate Voice: Tom Bogdan and Kerry Ryer-Parke (Monday, September 5, 4-5:30pm)