

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

Commencement 2022 Senior Class Speaker

Application Form & Instructions

Commencement Friday, May 27, 2022

The Senior Class Speaker offers a **9–12 minute** address during Commencement Dinner, celebrating the accomplishments of the graduating class, reflecting upon their years at Bennington, and conveying a message for the future while honoring the celebratory tone of the event. To apply, complete this application form and submit it with a draft of your proposed speech. A formal draft of application materials are due to [Nicole Arrington](#) by email by **5:00 pm on Friday, December 3**. Please do not submit hard copies. Late applications will not be accepted. Your completed application, together with the draft of your speech, will be reviewed by a committee of seniors, faculty, and staff.

Name:

Local Phone:

Email:

Area(s) of Study & Plan Title:

Please answer each of the following questions. If you prefer, you may provide your answers on a separate page.

Why would you like to be the Senior Class Speaker at Commencement?

What experiences have you had at Bennington that would make you a good representative of your class?

What advice or experience would you share with your fellow graduates, their families, and Bennington College guests at Commencement?

SEE FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS BELOW:

Notes on process, schedule, and requirements:

Please submit a FIRST draft of your proposed speech. **NOTE: Although your speech submission is a first draft, it will be the primary consideration in the selection of the finalists.**

The committee composed of on-campus constituencies of a deciding majority of seniors, with faculty and staff, will request edits and revisions of the speech as the selection process proceeds and the final version of the speech is subject to approval by the committee.

Please see the proposed timeline and schedule of commitments as Commencement Speaker below:

Requests for nominations for Senior Speaker

Opening of Senior Speaker Applications	November 3
Deadline for draft copy of application and commencement speech	Fri. Dec. 3
Senior Speaker finalists present drafts to committee	Week of Feb 25
Finalists notified of selection	Week of Feb 25
First full draft of revised speech delivered to committee	Week of Mar 14
Finalist notified of FINAL selection	Week of Mar 14
Final speech delivered to committee	Week of Mar 25
*Final speech rehearsal	Week of April 20
Extra speech rehearsal	May 25

*Other possible resources for rehearsal could be working directly with a faculty member, an advisor, and/or the Communications office.

Finally, please only apply if you can commit fully to this process.

Good Luck!