

Vermont Law School

New Frontiers in Environmental Law and Policy

Bennington Scholarships for Summer 2018



photo: VLS Environmental Law Center

What is the New Frontiers in Environmental Law program?

New Frontiers is a summer program for undergraduates interested in environmental law, justice, and advocacy. It consists of two courses—Introduction to Law & Policy and Law of Ecosystem Management—designed to introduce students to the foundations of the U.S. legal system and the legal framework shaping environmental policy. Courses are taught by faculty from VLS' top-ranked Environmental Law Center and give students the foundation they need to become effective environmental advocates. Students in the New Frontiers program are also invited to attend "Hot Topics" lectures on current events in environmental law and policy, as well as take additional courses offered as part of the VLS Summer Session program. Complete program information, including course descriptions, is available at <https://www.vermontlaw.edu/academics/undergraduate>.

When and where will the program take place?

The first course, Introduction to Law & Policy, will take place online from May 29-June 15, 2018. The second course, Law of Ecosystem Management, will take place on the Vermont Law School campus in South Royalton, VT from June 18-20, 2018. South Royalton is a small town approximately two hours northeast of Bennington. The VLS campus sits right on the White River and is close to numerous outdoor recreation opportunities, as well as to Dartmouth College and Middlebury College. It is just over an hour's drive to Burlington, VT.

What does the scholarship cover?

The scholarship is provided through a partnership with Vermont Law School and will cover complete tuition and registration fees for the New Frontiers program, as well as housing and meals for the residential portion of the program. Scholarships will be awarded to two Bennington undergraduates.

How do I apply for the scholarship?

For additional information, please contact Noelle Murphy (nmurphy@bennington.edu), Director of Grants and Fellowships and Associate Director of Academic Services, in Barn 120. See attached application for eligibility criteria and requirements. Applications are due by 9am **March 16, 2018**.

BENNINGTON

VERMONT LAW SCHOOL (VLS) NEW FRONTIERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SUMMER PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP

Students with academic or professional interests in environmental environmental policy or environmental justice are encouraged to apply for the Vermont Law School New Frontiers Summer Program Scholarship. VLS is awarding two (2) scholarships to Bennington students to cover all tuition and room and board fees for the program.

The New Frontiers program provides undergraduate students interested in environmental issues an opportunity to learn about the intersection of law, justice, and the environment. Two courses, one online and one in-person, introduce students to the foundations of the U.S. legal system and the legal framework surrounding environmental law and policy. Students who successfully complete both courses may be eligible to earn 5 transfer credits.

Criteria:

- Applicants must have an approved Plan at the time of application.
- Applicants must be in Good Academic and Disciplinary Standing.
- Students who will have completed their undergraduate degree prior to the summer session are ineligible.

Scholarship funding includes:

- VLS New Frontiers summer program tuition and registration fees
- Cost of housing in South Royalton, VT for the on-campus portion
- Cost of [some meals](#) during the on-campus portion

Scholarship award winners are responsible for funding:

- transportation to Vermont Law School
- some meals during on-campus portion of program
- personal expenses during on-campus portion of program
- course materials and textbooks

Application information:

- Please complete the VLS Summer Program Scholarship application and submit it to Noelle Everett Murphy by *March 16, 2018 at 9:00 am*.
- Two scholarship finalists will be nominated by the College will receive official notification from VLS by April 15. Confirmation of attendance is due by April 30.

Additional information about the VLS New Frontiers summer program for undergraduates can be found at: <https://www.vermontlaw.edu/academics/undergraduate>.

Please see Noelle Everett Murphy, Director of Grants and Fellowships and Associate Director of Academic Services, for additional information about the VLS Summer Program Scholarship.

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

VERMONT LAW SCHOOL (VLS) NEW FRONTIERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SUMMER PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICATION COVER SHEET

Application Deadlines: Please submit the completed application package to Noelle Murphy, Director of Grants and Fellowships and Associate Director of Academic Services, by **March 16, 2018**.

Applicant Information:

Student's Full Name: _____

Current Term at Bennington: _____ Faculty Advisor: _____

Checklist for completing the application:

- Completed Application Cover Sheet**
- Scholarship Application Essay:** Please attach to your application a typed statement (500-1000 words) describing as fully as possible your reasons for participating in the VSL New Frontiers summer program. This essay should include:
 - o Discussion of the ways in which the program's coursework will enrich the goals of your Plan at Bennington. How will it complement prior coursework? Will your work away prepare you in any way for specific courses or projects you plan to pursue after returning to Bennington? How will this summer program inform your career goals?
 - o Evidence of your academic abilities and achievements
 - o Evidence of your ability to work independently
 - o Evidence of your ability to adapt to new cultural or work environments
- Statement of Interest:** Please also attach a typed statement (1800-character limit) describing your interests and experiences in environmental policy work. This statement is required for the VSL New Frontiers summer program application and can draw from your scholarship essay.
- Meeting with Faculty Advisor:** Schedule a meeting with your faculty advisor to discuss your interest in the VSL New Frontiers summer program and the two courses included (see descriptions at <https://www.vermontlaw.edu/academics/undergraduate>). Secure your faculty advisor's signature on the Faculty Advisor Approval Form as evidence of your meeting and their support.
- Letter of Recommendation:** Submit a letter of recommendation from a faculty member who knows your work well. Please provide your recommender with the attached form and any additional information they request (resume, application essay, etc.) in support of your letter of recommendation. Faculty members should submit the letter of recommendation and the recommendation form to Noelle Everett Murphy.
- Declaration of Agreement:** Please read carefully and sign.

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

VERMONT LAW SCHOOL (VLS)
NEW FRONTIERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
SUMMER PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP

FACULTY ADVISOR APPROVAL

Name of Student: _____

Faculty Advisor: Please check the appropriate boxes below:

- I am familiar with the student's academic standing and believe that their progress at Bennington and intellectual interests are such that they would profit by studying at the Vermont Law School New Frontiers in Environmental Law Summer Program.
- I recommend the applicant with respect to their character and maturity for admission to this program.
- I have spoken with the applicant about the courses included in the program and find them to be appropriate for the student's fields of interest and Plan of study here at Bennington.

Faculty Advisor's Name (please print): _____

Faculty Advisor (signature): _____ Date: _____

**VERMONT LAW SCHOOL (VLS)
NEW FRONTIERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
SUMMER PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP**

FACULTY RECOMMENDATION

Name of Student:

- I waive my right to see this letter of recommendation.
- I do not waive my right to see this letter of recommendation.

Student's Signature:

**To be completed by a member of the faculty
and returned to Noelle Everett Murphy, Director of Grants and Fellowships**

Please check the appropriate boxes below:

- I am familiar with the student's academic standing and believe that their progress at Bennington and intellectual interests are such that they would profit by studying at the Vermont Law School New Frontiers in Environmental Law Summer Program.
- I recommend the applicant with respect to their character and maturity for admission to this program.
- I have spoken with the applicant about the courses included in the program and find them to be appropriate for the student's fields of interest and Plan of study here at Bennington.

Please attach a letter of recommendation that addresses this student's qualifications to participate in the VLS New Frontiers summer program. As appropriate, please address the following in your letter:

- The ways in which the program's coursework will enrich the work of this student's Plan.
- Evidence of their academic abilities and achievements
- Evidence of their ability to work independently
- Evidence of their ability to adapt to new cultural or work environments
- Assessment of this student's ability to represent Bennington College at a partner institution

Faculty Member's Name (please print): _____

Faculty Member's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Contact Noelle Everett Murphy (x4664 or nmurphy@bennington.edu) with any questions.

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

**VERMONT LAW SCHOOL (VLS)
NEW FRONTIERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
SUMMER PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP
DECLARATION OF AGREEMENT**

- In selecting the two finalists for the VLS Summer Program Scholarship, our campus committee will review all submitted application materials, as well as each applicant's academic record. Students applying to the VLS Summer Program Scholarship should see the committee's rubric (included at the end of this application packet) for more information on the criteria by which each application will be evaluated.
- This application is an internal application for financial support. Once the two finalists have been selected by the campus committee, they are responsible for completing the online VLS New Frontiers summer program [application](#) and uploading a copy of their unofficial transcripts. The Vermont Law School makes the ultimate decision regarding admission to the New Frontiers program.
- Studying away on the VLS Summer Program Scholarship is a privilege that is available to students who have demonstrated the ability to adjust academically and emotionally to college, and who are ready to benefit from the challenges of off-campus study. In order for students to receive and maintain approval for study away, they must be in Good Academic and Disciplinary Standing and have approval from their advisor and the Provost and Dean's Office.
- Students who receive this scholarship are ambassadors of Bennington College and should be mindful to represent themselves accordingly in all interactions with the VLS community. Maintaining the good-faith relationship upon which this partnership was founded and ensuring the continuance of this opportunity for future students is essential.
- This scholarship will support the full cost of tuition and registration for the VLS New Frontiers undergraduate program, as well as housing and meals for the duration of the on-campus portion of the program. Students are financially responsible for transportation to/from South Royalton, VT, and all other fees, including any housing damages, late fees, or similar punitive fees charged by VLS. Students wishing to take additional courses in the VLS Summer Session are responsible for all associated costs (tuition and fees, housing, meals).
- Transfer credit will be awarded for grades of C or above.

I, _____, have read and understand the above statements.

Student's signature _____ Date _____

ADDENDUM: A
(Applicants—do not complete this form. It is for informational purposes only.)

**VLS New Frontiers Summer Program Scholarship
Review Committee Rubric**

Applicant Name:

Reviewer's Name:

Please evaluate the criteria listed below on the following scale:

Excellent—criteria are fully met with thoughtful and thoroughly developed ideas. Specific and complete information is provided.

Good—criteria is met adequately, but there may be minor inconsistencies and weaknesses.

Acceptable—criteria appear to be minimally met, but limited information is provided about approach and strategies. Lacks focus and detail.

Poor—does not meet the criteria. Fails to provide information, or provides inaccurate/confusing information.

Please indicate how well the student's proposal addresses the following criteria:

Proposal	Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Poor
Program coursework is clearly connected to the student's work at Bennington.				
Applicant demonstrates the ways in which participation in this program will prepare him/her for specific coursework upon return to Bennington.				
Applicant makes a compelling case for their candidacy through a well-written, persuasive essay.				

Please rate the strength of the supporting documentation:

	Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Poor
Faculty Recommendation				
Academic Record				

Final Evaluation:

	Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Poor
Overall Strength of Applicant				