

## **FAQ -- General Questions**

*Last updated 10 am 3/13/2020*

### **What is the operating status of the College?**

The College is open and classes will be shifting to remote teaching and learning. Students who can return home have been asked to do so. Though the format may change, the integrity of the education and student progress toward degrees will continue uninterrupted.

### **What is the timeline?**

**Friday, March 13, 6:00 pm:** End of in-person classes and advising.

**Sunday, March 15, 2:00 pm:** Deadline to complete [this form](#) for students for whom leaving campus will be a significant hardship or an impossibility. The form can be used to identify the need an extension to leave, or to request housing for the remainder of the spring term.

**Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17:** Focused advising days. Advising, a central and distinctive part of a Bennington education, will take place remotely after in-person teaching ends on Friday, March 13. Advisors will contact advisees to plan for the shift to on-line instruction and to make plans for how they will work together remotely for advising for the rest of term (mode of contact, frequency of meetings), as well as to review classes in progress and objectives for the remainder of the term.

**Wednesday, March 18 - Sunday, March 22:** Long Weekend. Note that this is shifted from the scheduled dates of Long Weekend as posted on the Academic Calendar.

**Saturday, March 21, 4:00 pm:** Deadline for students not approved to remain on campus to depart College housing. Information will be sent to all students and families from the Office of Student Life with detailed information regarding the move-out process, which will follow the process we use at the end of term time, including support for on-campus storage and transportation to Albany airport and Albany-Rensselaer train station at no cost.

**Monday, March 23 - Friday, March 27:** Preparation Week. Faculty will use this time to continue to revisit course learning objectives and course materials, adjust syllabi, and test the tools they will use in the remote delivery of their courses, as well as to check in with advisees. Students will prepare to shift to remote learning by familiarizing themselves with the tools needed for remote instruction, testing the

equipment they will use, catching up on work, following any steps provided by their course instructors, and reviewing the [FAQ](#) that we are updating often to address the many questions we know you will have. Students with Plans due this term will also use this time to continue working on their Plan essays, which are due Thursday, March 26.

**Monday, March 30:** Spring term resumes with remote instruction. The Curriculum Planning Committee has prepared important guidance for faculty and the Provost and Dean's Office and IT will provide support and resources throughout the remainder of the term.

**Friday April 10.** End of First half of term (end of first seven-week courses)

**Monday April 13.** Beginning of second half of term (start of second seven-week courses).

**Thursday May 28, Noon** - Spring Term Ends (no change from published academic calendar)

### **What can students do in this moment to prepare?**

- Talk to your family, if you have not, and make travel plans.
- If there are barriers to your ability to leave campus and you have not already done so, please [let us know](#) by 2:00 pm March 15. We will work with you around those barriers - which includes allowing students who cannot leave to remain in campus housing.
- Review the move-out procedures sent out on March 13, which also includes information about on-campus storage and transportation to Albany airport and Albany-Rensselaer train station at no cost.
- Consider what tools you will need to participate in remote learning classes. If you haven't already done so, complete the [technology survey](#) to help us understand your technology needs. Additionally, Bennington IT has developed a [technology planning support document](#) that includes a section for students.
- Faculty and students can attend a drop-in training session on the basic use of zoom web conferences on Saturday, March 16 between 10:00 am to 1:00 pm in Commons SCoPE Forum.
- Speak with your advisor on one of the focused advising days (March 16 or March 17)
- Continue to use the preventative guidelines that have been provided in all of our communications about hand & respiratory hygiene, social distancing and staying home when not feeling well.
- Review this FAQ and continue to check back for updates/new information

**Will Commencement happen as planned?**

While we are taking steps to prevent or delay the spread of COVID-19, we are looking at events large and small on a case by case basis. We expect to know more in the coming weeks about the plan for Commencement.