

OF ALL DIMENSIONS

A BENNINGTON APPLICATION

In the early 1920s, Bennington College emerged as an idea—an idea shared by a group of forward-thinking educators and civic leaders who believed that America needed a progressive new college to spur changes in society and culture. In 1932, with charter and land secured, the College welcomed its first class of 87 students and this idea was given life.

Bennington has, in its persistent reinvention of liberal education, remained true to its founding virtues. It has gained stability not from motionlessness but from constant motion, not from states of rest but from unrelenting restlessness. Yet the underlying purpose of Bennington has been clear from the start: to place students at the helm of their own education; to guide them in the direction of their greatest potential; and to enlarge, deepen, and transform their lives.

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

A DIMENSIONAL APPLICATION

demonstrates your readiness to meet the demands of a Bennington education, including:

The capacity to design an inquiry,
to perform research,
to create and revise work,
to engage with others,
and to communicate your work to the world.

Intrinsic motivation:

The wherewithal to continue when things are hard.

A tolerance for ambiguity and
a facility for collaboration.

Aesthetic sensibility and cultural sensitivity.

SELF-DIRECTION
SELF-REFLECTION
SELF-RESTRAINT

From person to person, and throughout one's lifetime, intellectual and creative capacities are on a continuum of development. They may be demonstrated in any number of ways—which is precisely the opportunity this application presents. We invite you to share with us a collection of your work that reflects your capacities and creates a portrait of what you might bring to the Bennington community. We invite you to be deeply thoughtful. We invite you to be bold. We invite you to bring your own dimension to the college application.

And we look forward to receiving it.



Consider how you wish to demonstrate your academic achievement over time, your writing ability, your contribution to your classrooms and your community, and your capacity to make and revise work. Portfolios, research you designed or experiments you engineered, reflective and analytical writing, transcripts, letters of recommendation—all and more are welcome.

TELL US WHAT MATTERS

One of the most challenging aspects of a Bennington education is making smart, deliberate choices about how to use the resources available to you—your own included—in worlds where there are no givens. We wanted an application that would mirror that experience in some way. At Bennington, students are evaluated both on the quality of thinking they bring to their choices and on the caliber of work they produce. These are rich conditions for an education, and we believe they can be powerfully embedded in the college application.

Bennington's Dimensional Application is for students who want to do more than respond to a set of given prompts. It is an opportunity for you to individually curate an application for Bennington, to create a compelling portrait of your academic achievement, and to demonstrate, in your own way, your potential to enrich, and be enriched by, the Bennington community.

Applications should demonstrate your academic achievement, writing ability, contributions to the classroom and community, and your capacity to make and revise work. While students may choose to do this in very different ways, standard elements of a college application—portfolios, original research, reflective and analytical writing, transcripts, letters of recommendation—are all acceptable and welcome.



n important facet of a Bennington education is how rigorously a student's work is considered—in the classroom, as well as outside of the classroom. For Bennington, that is a distinctive mission. The Dimensional Application invites you—from the moment of application—to reflect on your work in broader contexts.

GUIDELINES

- Visit www.bennington.edu/dimensions to set up an applicant page. Curate your Dimensional Application by uploading and organizing digital files. Please include a cover letter, artist statement, or table of contents that details your Dimensional Application, the pieces that you included, and how you would like it to be reviewed.
- We encourage you to submit your Dimensional Application entirely online. However, if you would like to include work whose physicality is critical to its nature, please reference this work in your digital application and then send a single package to Bennington College, Office of Admissions, One College Drive, Bennington, VT 05201. Please include your first and last names and your date of birth.
- Applications will be assessed on the quality of the materials submitted; the caliber of thinking behind them; and evidence of your readiness to advance a range of work at Bennington. As part of the admissions process, candidates being considered for admission will be invited to interview with a member of the admissions committee. In some instances the Office of Admissions will request additional information in our effort to assure that a thorough holistic review of the applicant is achieved.
- You may use the Dimensional Application to apply for admission through any of our decisions rounds.
 - Early Decision I (**NOVEMBER 15** deadline)
 - Early Action (**DECEMBER 1** deadline)
 - Early Decision II (**JANUARY 15** deadline)
 - Regular Decision (**JANUARY 15** deadline)
- Please include a copy of your most recent transcript. Despite the flexibility of the Dimensional Application, if you are planning to apply for merit or need based financial aid, it is a federal requirement that we receive a copy of your transcript. Please still consider in your curation how to frame your academic qualifications and experiences to Bennington. Your transcript will not be our primary evaluative tool unless you choose to build your application around it.
- There is no application fee to apply to Bennington College. All materials must be received by the application deadline. All applicants will be considered for merit and need-based aid.

Please contact a Bennington College admissions counselor at 800-833-6845 or admissions@bennington.edu with questions or for more information.

**RESEARCH
DESIGN
COLLABORATE
CREATE
PERFORM
COMMUNICATE
REVISE
ENGAGE**

BENNINGTON.EDU/DIMENSIONS