

Suggested Driving Route

Please refer to the Self-Guided Walking Tour handout for reference.

Step 1

Head west past the campus safety booth parallel with the flagpole. On the right, you will see the Barn (2)

(2) Once a working dairy barn, the Barn now houses administrative offices—including Student Life, Field Work Term, and Financial Aid—along with some faculty offices. A fire in spring 2019 damaged the southeast wing of the building, where we are now planning a comprehensive renovation. Work began in Fall 2020, to be completed in Fall 2021. The rebuilt wing of the Barn will retain the unique character of the existing building while introducing a host of modern features and new spaces for all.

Step 2

Keep heading west past the barn and crosswalk. On your left you will see Commons (14), and on your right you will see Dickinson (4) and Tishman (3)

(14) Commons was fully renovated in 2019 to accommodate the needs and desires of a growing campus. Commons houses the dining hall, a cafe, bookstore, the mail room, several spaces for studying and socializing, classrooms, performance and event spaces, and more. The north end of the building faces Dickinson, our science building. The south end of the building faces Commons Lawn, the campus green, and a beautiful view of Mount Anthony and the End of the World (our panoramic view over the low stone wall). Check out the 2018 article, “Legends in the Attic,” (www.bennington.edu/bennington-magazine/legends-attic) to learn more about the history of Commons and how notable figures, such as Martha Graham and Bob Dylan, were inspired by the space.

(4) Dickinson is Bennington’s building for math and the sciences. A center for teaching and research, Dickinson houses laboratories for chemistry, animal physiology, biology, and physics, as well as faculty offices and classrooms. Its resources include an NMR spectrometer, a liquid chromatography system, a scintillation counter for analysis of proteins and nucleic acids, a number of oscilloscopes, a greenhouse, and an herbarium. The walls are covered with posters that students make to document their research projects in math and science courses in disciplines like ecology/environmental science, biology, animal science, chemistry, computing, physics, calculus, statistics, advanced math, and more. This building also houses Bennington’s Computer Center on the second floor.

(3) Tishman, next door to Dickinson, is used for readings, movies, community meetings, and lectures.

Step 3

Continue heading west until you reach the intersection with 2nd street. Make a left down second street. On your right you will see the Student Center (15). On your left you will see Commons (South) and Commons Lawn. There are also 6 colonial student houses (30-35)

Student Center: This 10,000-square-foot structure—most recently used for dining services during the renovation of Commons— includes a performance space with state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems, a communal kitchen, and a lounge for small and large student gatherings. A comprehensive renovation, based on concepts generated by Bennington students in a recent collaborative course, is planned in the near future.

Commons: See step two. 2nd street gives you a SE vantage point of commons lawn.

Over

Step 4

Turn around at the rotary and head back to the intersection. If you would like to see a glimpse of the Purple Carrot Farm and Stickney Observatory (7), make a left and circle the Ohio Parking Lot. If coming from the Ohio lot, continue straight east, or if from 2nd St, make a right. Continue east, and make the last right prior to the campus safety booth. On your right you will see Crossett Library (5), and on your left will be the Student Health Center (18), The Meyer Recreation Barn (19), and Buildings and Grounds (6).

(5) Crossett was designed by world-renowned architect Pietro Belluschi and won the 1963 Honor Award for library design. Its collection includes over 100,000 physical volumes, 40,000 eBooks, 17,000 periodicals, and over 10,000 films and musical scores. Students may take advantage of a wide range of library resources, including online databases, peer writing tutors, reference librarians, and study spaces. The collection is built in collaboration with students and is a location for display of their work, whether visual art, class project, or senior thesis.

(19) Students enjoy a variety of fitness and recreational activities on and off campus. Bennington College's fitness center, the Meyer Rec Barn, has fitness equipment, a climbing wall, sauna, and aerobics room, where students and faculty lead classes in yoga, tai chi, and other activities. Outdoor facilities include three tennis courts, a basketball court, and a soccer field. Situated at the foot of the Green Mountains, Bennington is within an hour of some of the best hiking and skiing in the Northeast.

Step 5

Return to the main road and head east past the Campus Safety booth. Take the first left, heading northbound. Continue Northbound until you reach the first left, opposite the parking lot. Enter the rotary island between CAPA on your right (11), and VAPA on your left (10)

(11) Bennington's Center for the Advancement of Public Action invites you to put the world's most pressing problems at the center of your education, or to incorporate it into your work in other disciplines. Poverty, war, the environment, public health crises, the struggle for democracy, even the state of education itself—imagine an education where the problems of the world are your subject matter and doing something about them is your aim. You can choose to focus your work at Bennington on public action. Under the guidance of your faculty, you develop a Plan that integrates course work and field work, drawing on the full breadth of Bennington's curriculum as well as a range of interdisciplinary courses on understanding the complex variables that define critical public issues and building the capacities necessary to effect lasting change.

(10) VAPA is a 120,000-square-foot space that opened in 1976. The building includes 20 studio spaces, darkrooms, workshops, and classrooms open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in addition to a performance annex with 4 separate performance spaces—Lester Martin and Margot Tenney theaters, the Greenwall Auditorium, and the Martha Hill Dance Workshop. Its Usdan Gallery hosts both traveling and College exhibitions. On the main floor there is an open area that looks down on central studio spaces where students study and create work in architecture, ceramics, design, digital art, drawing, film/video, painting, printmaking and sculpture.

Step 6

Return to the rotary entrance and make a left, heading northbound. Once you see Jennings, make a left to drive along the front facade (9). On your left farther down, you will also see the Deane Carriage Barn (8)

(9/8) The former Jennings family mansion is now home to the College's music facilities. Three stories contain 18 individual and group studios, a percussion studio, a full electronic music studio, a multi-track recording and computer editing studio, and the Hoffberger Music Library. Students can take classes focusing on music

fundamentals, composition, history, instrumental study, performance, sound design/recording, and theory. If the weather is nice, take a walk through the meadow in front of Jennings and enjoy the view of the stone building. Next door is the Deane Carriage Barn, a beautiful music performance space for students, faculty members, and visiting artists to share their work.

Continue west past the Deane carriage barn. On your right, you'll notice a northbound trail that students use to access North Bennington, especially Lake Paran in the summer! At the entrance to that trail, you'll see a single story white structure. This is home to painting studios that are provided to advanced painting students. Advanced students in visual arts are often provided studio spaces as they actively create original work and finesse their craft. More painting studios are located south of Crossett Library. Similarly, advanced sculpture students have access to their own spaces on the ground level of VAPA. These spaces are designed to provide a haven for students refining their Plan in the visual arts. Access to private spaces is not confined to the visual arts, however. Students can reserve practice rooms in Jennings to work on their music; dance studios on the upper level of VAPA to work on their performances; any of our theaters to block, rehearse, and perform productions; dark rooms to develop their work in photography, and so much more.

We hope you enjoyed your visit to Bennington College. If you have any questions, please contact us at admissions@bennington.edu or by calling the Admissions Office at 800.833.6845

Safe travels.