

# BENNINGTON

*self-guided  
tour*

The most convenient way to view campus is to walk a loop from the **Barn 2** and **VAPA 10**, up to **Jennings 9** through the meadow, down through **faculty and alumni housing 20/21**, across lower campus by **Dickinson 4** and student housing, past **Commons 14**, **Crossett Library 5**, and end back at the **Barn**. *Note: All numbers correspond with the Bennington campus map.*

## THE BARN

Your starting point. Once a working dairy barn, the Barn now houses Admissions, 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 a comprehensive renovation was completed in spring 2022. The rebuilt wing of the Barn retains the unique character of the existing building while introducing a host of modern features, including a collection of open lounges for meeting and study.



## VAPA

*Visual and Performing  
Arts Center*

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.







## JENNINGS

*& Deane  
Carriage  
Barn*

The former Jennings family mansion is now home to the College's music facilities. Three stories contain eighteen 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.

## DAVID TISHMAN LECTURE HALL

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



## DICKINSON SCIENCE BUILDING

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 a liquid chromatography system, a scintillation counter for analysis of proteins and nucleic acids, a number of oscilloscopes, a greenhouse, a pair of environmental chambers, 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 & astronomy, calculus, statistics, advanced math, and more. This building also houses Bennington's Computer Center on the second floor.







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## STUDENT HOUSES

Student housing at Bennington is made up of twelve colonial-revival clapboard houses arranged around Commons Lawn and six modern houses (the Barnes Houses and the Woo Houses). Each (co-educational) house accommodates about thirty new and returning students, grouped by common living preferences. Every student house has a community living room and at least one full kitchen. Students are guaranteed housing and live on campus during all four years at Bennington, and the house communities are important centers of campus dialogue and recreation.

Bennington also offers apartment-style student housing at the Paran Creek Apartments, just a short ten-minute walk along a pathway next to the soccer field.

## STUDENT CENTER

This 12,000-square-foot structure includes open space for gatherings, a wide array of table games and gaming equipment, a communal kitchen, and a flexible recreation space for all kinds of activities. Glass garage doors in both main areas open to the exterior for fresh air when the weather is right.



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14

## COMMONS *& Commons Lawn*

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, 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](http://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.



# CROSSETT

Edward Clark Crossett Library 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.



# MEYER REC BARN

Bennington College's fitness center, the Meyer Recreation 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.



# CAPA

*Center for the Advancement  
of Public Action*

Bennington's Center for the Advancement of Public Action invites students to put the world's most pressing problems at the center of their education, or to incorporate it into their work in other disciplines. Poverty, war, the environment, public health crises, the struggle for democracy, even the state of education itself—students participate in an education where the problems of the world are their subject matter and doing something about them is their aim. Students can choose to focus their work at Bennington on public action. Under the guidance of faculty, students 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.



*If the weather's nice...* Our campus has many beautiful, secluded spots that students and visitors alike can enjoy: **Crossett Library's walled garden**, located between 5 and 24 / **The Dickinson platforms**, located in the trees between 4 and the Pond / **Jennings Patio & Gardens**, directly behind 9 / **The Pond** and the **Secret Garden**, up the path to Jennings, from 39 to 20 / Entrance to the **Blue Trail/Short Aldrich Trail** to the Mile-Around Woods, entrance near 7 and 20, follow the blue trail blazes around the perimeter of campus.