BENNINGTON COLLEGE

Financial Aid Office • One College Drive • Bennington, Vermont • 05201 • 802-440-4325 • fax 802-440-4880 • finaid@bennington.edu • www.bennington.edu

International Financial Aid Handbook 2012–2013

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Introduction

College financial aid can seem like a maze of forms, regulations, and figures. Even students who have received financial aid in previous years find that a new year brings new questions. This handbook is designed to explain those regulations as well as the College's procedures. It should be used in conjunction with personal contact with members of the Financial Aid Office staff.

The Financial Aid Office is located in Barn 104 and is open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm weekdays during the term; 8:30 am to 4:00 pm during the rest of the year. Students are welcome to stop by with questions at any time or to make an appointment with a staff member.

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Financial aid award

For Bennington students, the primary responsibility for financing an education belongs to the student and his/her family. The College assumes that the student and family will make every effort to contribute.

For students whose own resources are not equal to the cost of attending Bennington and whose accomplishments make them especially qualified members of the community, the College will provide assistance to the extent funds are available. The award letter delineates the aid funds allocated for a student for one academic year.

The primary responsibility for financing an education belongs to the student and the student's family.

At the time of enrolling at Bennington, each international student completes a Certification of Finances which shows the financial resources that student will use to pay for his or her years of study at the College. The resources listed there must be secure because Bennington aid is limited, and a student's financial aid for coming terms is not likely to increase.

COLLEGE COSTS

Direct and Indirect Costs

Bennington charges include tuition, room and board, an activities fee, a mandatory health service fee, a transcript fee for entering students, and possibly materials charges for some classes. Optional services for which the College charges students include car registration fees and tuition-refund insurance. Budgeting for the cost of a student's education means planning for more general expenses as well. These may include books and supplies, personal expenses, and transportation to and from school. While these costs do not appear on a student's bill, they are real expenses and require an expenditure of resources.

Term Start-up Expenses

For many students, most of the funds for books, supplies and personal expenses are needed at the beginning of a term, generally before the student can get an on-campus job and paycheck. A student should plan to arrive on campus with sufficient funds for books, supplies, and initial living expenses (at least $600). The first paycheck for students with on-campus jobs arrives nearly a month after classes begin. Students who will not work should anticipate needing at least $3,000 for books, supplies and personal expenses during the year.

Field Work Term

Aid students must plan for expenses associated with the seven-week Field Work Term (FWT), often $1,000 to $3,000. Many students are off-campus during this time and Bennington does not charge tuition for this required work period. Students meet their FWT expenses in a variety of ways: some with salaries or stipends provided by an employer, some by doing a combination of paid and volunteer work, some by living at home. (For more information on the Field Work Term, contact the Field Work Term & Career Development Office (CAPA 16), Bennington College, fwt@bennington.edu. See page 5, Arrangements for Field Work Term.)

Cost Increases

Families should anticipate some increase in the cost each academic year. As costs increase, the financial aid package will be affected in the following ways. In general, students who receive Brockway scholarships will receive the same amount of Brockway funding each term they're at Bennington (see details, below) without having to reapply for aid. For students with need-based institutional aid, the student's institutional grant funds will, in the coming year, remain at the same percentage of tuition, room, board, and activities fee charges. That is, a student receiving a Bennington Grant of 50% of tuition, room, board, and activities fee should have a 50% grant for four consecutive years at Bennington assuming a similar family financial profile and the student's satisfactory academic progress and full-time attendance.

TYPES OF ASSISTANCE

Bennington Grant

The Bennington Grant is a need-based grant that is funded by gifts from donors—friends of the College, foundations, or, often alumni —who wish to help those who would not otherwise be able to afford a Bennington education. Through our External Relation's Office, student recipients may have the opportunity to meet or be in touch with these donors.

Bennington Loan

This resource, offered to international students only, is a loan on which no interest is charged until after the student graduates or ceases to be at least a half-time student at Bennington College. Students have up to 10 years to repay the amount borrowed. A copy of the Statement of Borrower Rights and Responsibilities is printed on the last page of this handbook. Students must sign the loan agreement as soon as they arrive on campus for the term.

Students are expected to borrow between $2,500 and $5,000, annually. The loan amounts in the aid award of international students may increase by $500 each year.

This annual loan increase does not result in a reduction to the family contribution to education costs. International students will often borrow a total of $13,000 to $17,000 over their four years at Bennington, which necessitates a repayment amount of at least $160 to $205 per month for 10 years.

When a student withdraws early in the term and an adjustment is made to Bennington charges and financial aid, any resulting credit balance on the student's account will be applied to the outstanding Bennington Loan debt.

Brockway and Special Bennington Scholarships

Brockway Scholarships are awarded each year for up to four years regardless of financial need, provided the student makes satisfactory academic progress and does not withdraw for more than one year.

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Special Bennington scholarships are awarded to new students, and may (but will not necessarily) be renewed for succeeding years as long as the student remains in good academic standing. Recipients are frequently asked to be in touch with the donor of the scholarship.

A student should plan to arrive on campus with sufficient funds for books, supplies, and initial living expenses (at least $600).

Student Employment

Earnings from part-time employment during the term can help students meet expenses. Every two to three weeks, students are paid by check for hours they have worked. Employment may not exceed 20 hours per week for all combined jobs. More often, a student works an average of five to six hours per week with a maximum of nine to ten hours weekly. International students should be aware, however, that as non-immigrant aliens, they are eligible only for jobs classified on campus as "regular employment," not jobs funded by the Federal Work-Study program (FWS jobs).

To obtain a campus job during the term, it is the student's responsibility, after he/she arrives on campus, to:

1. make arrangements with the Student Life Office to apply for a U.S. Social Security number if the student does not already have one;
2. report to the Student Life Office with passport and visa to complete additional payroll forms.
3. review the posted positions online at WorkLink. Go to www.bennington.edu, Student page. Under FWT and Career Development, click "WorkLink" and follow login instructions. Select the "Campus Jobs" link once you have logged in
4. take his/her new U.S. Social Security card to the Business Office (Barn 101C) so the correct number can be recorded.

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Terms and conditions of the financial aid award

1. The College cannot make adjustments to international student aid awards because of fluctuations in an exchange rate or in the home country's economy.
2. Because the financial aid award may be determined without knowledge of other aid the student may receive, individual portions of the aid award may be adjusted if other aid is received.
3. Only students enrolled in a Bennington degree program are eligible for College financial aid.
4. A student receiving financial aid must maintain satisfactory academic progress (see page 7).
5. It is the student's responsibility to notify the Financial Aid Office, in writing, of any change in his/her permanent mailing address.
6. No financial aid is available for studies beyond those required by the College for graduation.
7. Any scholarship/grant assistance received in excess of the amount of tuition, fees, and required books and supplies must be reported as gross income on a federal income tax return.

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Special requirements

TAX STATUS AND IDENTIFICATION

All students are required to have a U.S. Social Security number (SSN) or an Individual Taxpayer Identification number (ITN). International students who do not have one when they arrive at Bennington should alert the International Student Advisor in the Student Life Office. Very early in the fall term, a group of students needing Social Security numbers will travel to a Social Security Office to apply. Those going must bring their visas, passports, and I-20 form. Once a Social Security card is received, a student must bring it to the Business Office so the correct number can be recorded.

Each calendar year, students who are non-resident aliens must complete IRS Form W-8BEN and/or Form 8233, government forms which specify the student's tax withholding status. The Student Life Office provides help with completion of these forms. The particular form required is determined by the student's country of residency and by whether he/she intends to work on campus. NOTE: These forms must be completed before the year's financial aid can be disbursed to the student's account.

FILING A U.S. TAX RETURN (1040NR)

Each year, non-resident aliens receiving scholarship or grant assistance must file a U.S. income tax return. They must file by April 15. For those students who received financial aid from Bennington College, the Business Office will also supply an official statement of aid on a Form 1042-S and a statement of any monies earned through on-campus work on a W-2. Both statements are used in completing the 1040NR.

For students receiving financial aid and completing the 1040NR, all or part of a grant or scholarship used to pay "qualified educational expenses" is exempt from taxation. If a student's grant or scholarship is greater than the cost of tuition, fees, and books, the portion of the grant used for room, board, and incidental expenses is fully taxable.

The U.S. Government defines "qualified educational expenses" as:

- tuition;
- fees required for enrollment in an educational organization; and
- fees, books, supplies and equipment required for enrollment in a particular course at an educational organization.

There may be special provisions to the law that apply to students from countries with U.S. tax treaties.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR FIELD WORK TERM

During the Field Work Term (FWT), which occurs in January and February, Bennington students leave campus to take jobs and internships. International students, however, are affected by certain U.S. Immigration Service regulations, which they must take into account when planning for FWT.

First Year International Students

For the first 9 months of their residence in the U.S., students with F-1 visas (non-immigrant aliens) are not eligible to work off-campus for pay, room and board, or any other form of remuneration. Options for these students include:

- working on campus;
- going home, though students are still responsible for working 30 hours per week at a FWT position at home;
- getting a volunteer position.

The FWT office staff and resources are available to provide assistance in arranging a Field Work Term experience, but securing a position is ultimately the responsibility of the student.

All Other International Students

Federal work restrictions are waived after the first 9 months of residency. Therefore, in their second year of study, international students are allowed to take paying internships and off-campus employment anywhere in the United States.

Students working off-campus for pay must see the International Student Advisor, located in the Office of Student Life, to fill out a Form I-538, update their SEVIS record, and have the Form I-20 signed and dated specifying permission to work off-campus.

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Billing

Term bills are sent by the Bennington College Business Office on approximately July 1 for fall term and on January 1 for spring term, and monthly as long as a balance is due.

The "Payment Options" form (which is sent with enrollment forms to new students and by the Business Office in November and May to continuing students) describes the different schedules available for payment of school charges. Payment in full of the balance due, or a written arrangement for a payment plan and payment of the minimum amount due must be received by the Business Office no later than August 1 for fall term and February 1 for spring term. No student will be permitted on campus until this financial obligation is met.

An international student borrowing through a supplemental loan program must have loan approval no later than August 15 for fall term (January 15 for spring term) or the student will have to make alternative arrangements to pay his/her Bennington College bill before arriving on campus.

Bennington grant aid is credited to the student's account after the aid award has been accepted by the student, (done online at **www.bennington.edu**, on the My Financial Aid pages) the student is registered for classes, and any necessary paperwork has been submitted.

New students arriving at Bennington should go to the Business Office for a loan interview and to sign the loan Promissory Note and the Bennington Loan check. Continuing students should go to the Business Office to sign the Bennington Loan check.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Students who are receiving aid and withdraw from the College must provide official notification of intent to withdraw. Refunds of tuition and other payments, should there be any, will be based on the withdrawal notification date. Official notice may be given by completing a withdrawal form and submitting it to the Dean, Barn 123G or the Office of Student Life, Barn 113. (Office hours are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm during the term; 8:30 am to 4:00 pm during FWT and the summer.) A withdrawing student also may give oral notice to the Dean or the Registrar.

The College requests that all students withdrawing schedule an appointment with the Dean (802-440-4400).

For a student withdrawing during the term, the date of withdrawal will be the date that the student officially notifies the school of his/her intent to withdraw, unless the school documents the student's participation in an academically-related activity (such as attending a class, or turning in an assignment) at a later date.

For students who attend classes but withdraw from the College by the deadlines (see below), an adjustment is made to charges. In addition, a portion of aid funds received will be returned to sources according to institutional and, where applicable, outside guidelines.

Certain charges are nonrefundable, including the transcript fee, fines (library, parking, maintenance, etc.), meal tickets, the transcript fee, the health service charge, fees for health services provided, enrollment deposits for new matriculants, tuition refund insurance (after the beginning of the term), and interest charges due to late payment.

Bennington Refund Policy

Institutional policy requires an adjustment both to charges and to institutional aid for students who withdraw before the 21st class day of the term. A student who withdraws during the first five class days of the term is charged 25 percent of the term's comprehensive fee (tuition, room and board). For students who withdraw after the first five days but before the 11th class day, the charge is 50 percent. After the 10th day but before the 21st day of classes, the charge is 75 percent of the comprehensive fee. Withdrawals on or after the 21st class day involve no adjustments to institutional charges or aid. Aid recipients will have their institutional grants, scholarships, fellowships, or loans adjusted at the same percentage rate as the charges are adjusted. A withdrawing student who is not living in College housing will have the same adjustment percentage applied to tuition costs rather than to tuition, room and board.

When a student withdraws, adjustments to charges and aid are calculated within 30 days. Any credit balance on a student's account after withdrawal adjustments are made will be applied to the student's outstanding Bennington Loan debt.

Example

Juliana, a sophomore, withdraws from the College on the 10th day of classes. She will incur 50% of her charges.

	Before withdrawal	After withdrawal	
Charges:			
Tuition, Fees, Room & Board	$28,000	$14,000	(50%)
Credits:			
Bennington Grant	($16,500)	($8,250)	(50%)
Cash payment	($10,000)	($10,000)	
Bennington Loan	($1,500)	($750)	(50%)
Balance Due	**-0-**	**($5,000) to be applied to outstanding Bennington Loan debt or if loan debt paid, refunded to student**	

STUDENT PROTECTION PLAN TUITION REFUND INSURANCE

Student Protection Plan, including tuition refund insurance, is an optional one-year insurance policy automatically offered to students on the fall term bill. A student who purchases the policy and later withdraws for medical reasons may be reimbursed for at least a portion of the term's charges incurred. Details of the plan, as well as a waiver for families who do NOT wish to purchase the plan, may be found online. (Link is https://www.salliemaeinsurance.com/tuition/waiver)

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Academic Progress and Academic Standing

To proceed successfully through Bennington, a student must meet the academic requirements listed above. Concurrently, students must progress adequately each term, move through the curriculum with broad goals for achieving a liberal arts education, and, within that context, with the more focused goals of developing both an area of primary interest and the ability to do advanced work in that area. Academic advising is central to this process and active participation in advising makes it possible for students to make appropriate choices in their program of study.

ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Academic progress at Bennington is both quantitative and qualitative and is evaluated by the Dean's Office at the end of each term in four ways:

1. By determining the number of credits a student has earned in a term, in an academic year, and cumulatively. Please see the quantitative standard below.
2. By reviewing a student's cumulative number of Pass, Marginal Pass, and Fail evaluations, and grades, if applicable. Please see the qualitative standard below.
3. By requiring satisfactory completion of Field Work Terms, generally required annually from each student enrolled for the full academic year.
4. By requiring timely submission and acceptance of a student's academic Plan.

After each academic term, student records are reviewed for academic progress as noted above. Students who do not meet satisfactory progress standards are notified (along with their families, when permitted by law.). Students who are at risk of academic progress difficulties are placed on "notice." Students facing more severe challenges to their academic progress may be placed on academic warning or may be dismissed. A student may appeal an academic dismissal as described below; if the appeal is granted, the student will be permitted to return on academic probation. Explanations for each designation of academic standing follow the sections on quantitative and qualitative standards.

Quantitative Standard

Success in meeting the quantitative standard is evaluated by measuring cumulative pace, which is the term used to describe the ratio of a student's cumulative credits earned versus cumulative credits attempted; it measures how quickly a student is progressing toward graduation within the expected amount of time.

Bennington students must complete their undergraduate degree in 10 terms (160 credits) or fewer. * In order to assure that this will be the case, a certain cumulative pace must be maintained from term to term. Each term, a full-time student is expected to take and complete 16 credits. When calculating cumulative pace, therefore, the number of credits attempted per term is always set at 16 for full-time students, even if a student has registered for more or fewer credits in a given term. The only exception to this is for students who have been granted, by the Dean's Office, an accommodation of a disability in the form of a reduced course load (see Accommodation for Students with Disabilities). Students granted an accommodation in the form of a reduced course load are still expected to complete their undergraduate degree in 10 terms (160 credits) or fewer, unless this is specifically waived in the form of an additional accommodation.

If a student completes fewer than a certain percentage (between 75% and 80%, depending on term standing) of the total expected credits, he or she will not maintain the necessary cumulative pace to graduate within the maximum amount of time allowed. When this happens, the student will lose his or her good standing. The chart below details the minimum number of credits needed at the end of each full-time term at the College in order to maintain the necessary cumulative pace.

Term	Credits required to maintain Minimum Cum. Pace
1	12
2	24
3	36
4	48
5	62
6	74
7	90
8	103
9	116
10	128

In addition, at the conclusion of any term, any student earning a pace of 50% or below (e.g. earning 8 or fewer credits in a single term) may be placed on academic warning or dismissed.

Upon approval from the advisor and the Dean's Office, a full-time student may be permitted to take a reduced course load of 12-15 credits for an occasional term, with the understanding that credits will be made up in future terms. Of course, a student's cumulative pace towards graduation is affected when fewer credits are taken in any given term.

Students may apply for part-time status. This status means that a student is registered for fewer than 12 credits in a term. For these students, the number of credits attempted for the purposes of calculating cumulative pace is the number of credits for which a student has registered at the end of the term's drop-add period.

Credits earned before attendance at Bennington or elsewhere while in attendance at Bennington and transferred in count as both credits attempted and credits earned in the pace calculation.

Please note: Any withdrawals, regardless of the reason, after the term has started will result in zero credits earned out of 16 attempted and Cumulative Pace calculations will have to be adjusted accordingly.

**This limit does not mean that a student cannot take a leave or withdraw for a period of time; it simply means that a student cannot attend for more than 10 full-time terms.*

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Qualitative Standard

- A Pass (P) reflects satisfactory work and is equivalent to a range of performance from C- to A+.
- A Marginal Pass (MP) does not reflect satisfactory progress, but the student will receive credit for the course. An MP is the equivalent of a D grade.
- A Fail (F) means that the student will not receive credit for the course.

A student will generally lose his or her good standing (see below) or be dismissed from the College if he or she fails six or more credits in a given term (for full-time students) or half a program (for part-time students). A failure in a four-credit course combined with a marginal pass in one or more other courses in a given term will also generally result in the loss of good standing or dismissal from the College, as will a term containing 6 or fewer credits of full passes (e.g. 10 credits of MPs and 6 credits of Ps). A student's performance over the course of his or her time at the College will always be taken into consideration when assessing whether or not he or she meets the qualitative standard.

Any student who has academic difficulties in any course should discuss the problem with the instructor as soon as possible. The student also should bring the problem to the attention of his or her faculty advisor. The student also may discuss these difficulties with the Dean's Office.

In addition, students are required to submit Plan essays on time and to pass an academic Plan by the end of their fourth term; therefore, timely submission and approval of a student's academic Plan is considered when evaluating qualitative progress. A student will generally lose his or her good standing if a Plan is not approved, a Plan is deferred twice, he or she completes the 4th term without an approved Plan (e.g. conditionally approved in 3rd term and failure to meet the conditions set forth in the 4th term), or a plan is not progressing well. A student who fails to submit a required Plan essay in any given term will also generally lose his or her good standing (see below).

Students are expected to have a cumulative average of C or above (or the equivalent) by the end of their sophomore year; this generally indicates readiness to begin advanced work in an area of study. However, a student may have passed several courses in a particular area of study but still not be deemed able to pursue advanced work in that area; these decisions are made through the Plan process and with individual faculty members. In such cases the student will be advised to propose another area of study and/or will be advised that one or more extra terms are necessary for graduation or he or she will be dismissed from the College.

ACADEMIC STANDING

The Dean's Office determines each student's academic standing after considering academic progress as described above. Any student whose work is not satisfactory or who has not submitted a Plan on time and obtained timely approval of a Plan, or who has not successfully completed the FWT requirement, may be placed on academic warning or dismissed from the College. Typically, students are placed on warning at the conclusion of a term, but a student may be placed on warning at any time. Students who cease attending class for two consecutive weeks for any reason may be dismissed during the term. Students who have failed at least half of their program before the end of the term may be dismissed during the term. Dismissal decisions are made by the Associate Dean of the College, in consultation with the faculty. Students who have been dismissed must have permission, in advance, from the Dean of Students to visit campus.

Good standing

All students enter Bennington in good standing. However, a student will be placed on academic warning or dismissed from the College if satisfactory cumulative pace is not maintained, or a satisfactory number of classes and Field Work Terms are not passed, or Plans/Plan essays are not submitted and approved when required.

Notice. Students may be placed on "notice" in order to alert them and their advisors that they need to pay particularly careful attention to their academic progress. Students on notice are still considered to be good academic standing.

Good Standing – SAP Plan (Satisfactory Academic Progress Plan). Students who successfully complete a term of academic probation but are unable to regain the required minimum cumulative pace after just one term will continue on a SAP Plan until they regain a satisfactory pace. Students who only minimally meet the expectations to return to good standing from academic warning may be placed on a SAP Plan for the term following warning. Students who fail to meet the terms of their SAP Plan while in Good Standing—SAP Plan will be dismissed from the College.

ACADEMIC WARNING

In order to be returned to good standing, students placed on academic warning are expected to pass 16 credits with no marginal passes, D's, or F's, and, if applicable, they are expected to submit their Plans on time and have them approved during the term, as well as satisfy FWT requirements for the term. Students on academic warning must also have a satisfactory cumulative pace to be returned to Good Standing at the end of the term.

Students who do not return to good standing following a term of academic warning will be dismissed. Students who have been dismissed may submit an appeal to return for a term of academic probation, which shall be determined by the Faculty Advising Committee in its discretion. The Associate Dean of the College will advise the student in writing of the Committee's decision, which is final, with no further appeal. Appeals must be submitted within one year from the date of dismissal.

Circumstances that may provide the basis for such a request include serious injury or illness, or the injury, illness, or death of a parent or sibling. The appeal to return on probation must explain why the student did not achieve satisfactory academic progress as well as what has changed in the student's situation to allow him or her to achieve satisfactory academic progress during a term of probation. If an appeal is not taken or is not granted, the student is dismissed. Students are normally limited to one such appeal during their time at the College.

Students cannot be on academic warning for two consecutive terms and are rarely granted a second non-consecutive term of academic warning after returning to good standing. Therefore, students who fail

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to meet either qualitative or quantitative standards in a term of good standing and have previously been on academic warning will normally be dismissed.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

Students whose appeals have been granted are placed on academic probation for the following term and are required to work with the Dean's Office, their advisors, and the Faculty Advising Committee to complete a Satisfactory Academic Progress Plan (SAP Plan) for regaining and maintaining satisfactory academic progress. These SAP Plans must be drafted before students return for their term of probation and given provisional approval by the Dean's office. The SAP Plans must be reviewed (and may be revised) by the Dean's Office, faculty advisor, and the Faculty Advising Committee at the beginning of the term of probation and must be signed by the student after such review/revision.

Students who fail to complete a SAP Plan for probation, whose SAP Plans are not approved, or students who do not successfully complete the requirements set forth in the SAP Plan will be dismissed from the College.

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Time away from Bennington

STUDY AT OTHER SCHOOLS

Some students design their academic plans to include academic work off-campus to be applied toward the Bennington baccalaureate degree. A student enrolling as a visiting student at another institution will not be able to transfer his/her Bennington financial aid to help pay for the term(s) elsewhere. To cover administrative costs, a "transcript evaluation fee" is charged per term to returning Bennington students who request transfer of credits earned elsewhere.

Note: As time away from Bennington may affect an international student's visa status, plans should be discussed with the International Student Advisor.

A CHECKLIST FOR STUDENTS STUDYING AWAY

1. Work with your academic advisor and the Dean's Office to include the courses to be taken elsewhere as part of your degree program/academic plan.
2. Consult the International Student Advisor in the Dean of Students Office to find out how time away may affect your visa status.
3. Discuss the financial impact of your term away with those helping you pay college bills. Note the different costs and unavailability of Bennington financial aid.
4. Budget for the "transcript evaluation fee," charged when you re-enter Bennington.
5. Ensure that an academic transcript from your term(s) away are sent to the Dean's Office no later than August 1 (for fall term return to Bennington) or February 1 (for spring term return).

LEAVES OF ABSENCE AND WITHDRAWALS

Students who decide to withdraw or take an approved leave of absence should make an appointment for a loan exit interview in the Business Office.

Aid students returning to Bennington after a period away must be in contact with both the Dean's Office and the Financial Aid Office at least three months prior to re-entry.

Reapplying for financial aid

A student's eligibility is recalculated each year. After the new year, the Bennington Aid Renewal Application and the International Student Financial Aid application are available at **www.bennington.edu** on the My Financial Aid pages. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that required forms are on file by the deadline.

The student must reapply for need-based financial aid each year.

Financial aid will be allocated to returning students in the order in which complete applications are received by the Financial Aid Office. Aid funds are limited so late applicants may receive awards in which the grant amount is smaller, and in extreme cases, receive no grant at all.

Change in circumstances

APPEALS COMMITTEE

Any student who has applied for financial assistance has the right to appeal decisions regarding the allocation of financial aid. Questions about financial aid, as well as notification of dramatic changes in family circumstance, should be directed to the Financial Aid Office.

Should a student wish to appeal, he/she must submit a written request to the Financial Aid Appeals Committee (generally made up of representatives from the offices of the Dean, Student Life, Business, Admissions, and Financial Aid) stating specifically the basis of the appeal. All statements should be supported by appropriate documentation. Appeals concerning the determination of financial need must contain new or additional information which was not considered when the financial need was determined. June 30 (fall term) and January 15 (spring term) are the deadlines for filing appeals.

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International student loan statement of rights and responsibilities

Your Bennington College Loan is a serious legal obligation. Therefore, it is extremely important that you understand your rights and responsibilities. When you, the student borrower, sign this statement it means that you do understand your responsibilities, and you agree to honor them.

1. I understand that I must, without exception, report immediately any of the following changes to Bennington College; Business Office; Bennington, VT 05201;
   Phone: (802) 440-4353, Fax: (802) 440-4350,
   E-mail: business@bennington.edu
   (a) If I withdraw from school
   (b) If I transfer to another school
   (c) If I drop below half-time status
   (d) If my name should change (for example, because of marriage)
   (e) If my address, or my parents' address changes
2. I understand that when I graduate or withdraw from Bennington College I must arrange for an Exit Interview by contacting the Business Office.
3. I understand that my first monthly payment will be due six months from the time I cease to be at least a half-time student at Bennington College.
4. I understand that my minimum monthly payment will be at least $25.00. It may be more if the amount borrowed is sufficient to require larger payments.
5. I understand that the ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE will be charged on the unpaid balance and that it will begin to accrue six months after I cease to be enrolled as at least a half-time student at Bennington College. The rate is 8 percent.
6. I understand that if, after I graduate from Bennington College, I return to at least half-time study in a graduate or professional school or pursue advanced professional training, including internships and residencies, I may request that the payments of principal on my College loan be deferred if approved by the College. I understand that any request for a post-graduation principal payment deferment must be made in writing to the Business Office. I further understand that I must provide the Bennington College Business Office with proper verification of registration for each term of study during the deferment period.
7. I authorize Bennington College to contact any school which I may attend to obtain information concerning my student status, my dates of attendance, graduation, or withdrawal, my transfer to another school, or my current address.
8. I understand that if I withdraw early in the term and an adjustment is made to Bennington charges and financial aid, any resulting credit balance on my account will be applied to my outstanding Bennington Loan debt.
9. I understand that if I fail to repay any loan as agreed, the total loan will become due immediately. I further understand that my loan may be sent to an outside collection agency; at such time, collection costs will be added to my amount due. Should I fail to make arrangements for payment, legal action could be taken against me.
10. I understand that I will promptly answer any communication from Bennington College regarding the loan.
11. I understand I may prepay at anytime. I further understand that future interest will be reduced by making such payments.
12. I understand that if I cannot make payment on time, I must contact Bennington College Business Office to discuss possible arrangements.