I. PURPOSE
This policy sets forth the requirements for coaches and coaching staff members to understand their restrictions in contacting faculty members and other academic administrators regarding a student-athlete’s academic pursuits. Though well-intentioned, these coach-initiated contacts may be perceived as exerting pressure to make an academic concession on behalf of a student-athlete which may, in turn, compromise the academic integrity of the institution and jeopardize both the student-athlete’s academic experience and NCAA requirements.

II. SCOPE
This policy applies to all coaches and coaching staff members and all student-athletes of Villanova University. The policy applies to contacts directly related to a student-athlete’s academic pursuits, and does not include contacts that are general in nature. This policy is created in an effort to make sure that all coaches and their staff act responsibly, ethically, and with integrity.

III. DEFINITIONS
“Directly related to a student-athlete’s academic pursuits” refers to instances of the academic experience of the student-athlete while attending Villanova and includes topics such as grades, exams, quizzes, assignments, coursework, course progress, coursework deadline extensions, laboratories, group projects and all matters of academic standing and academic integrity.

A “student-athlete” for the purposes of this policy is defined as a Villanova student who is a member of any of the institution’s NCAA Division I intercollegiate men’s and women’s varsity athletic programs.

IV. POLICY STATEMENT
Villanova University, its faculty, and its Athletic Department have enjoyed a long and productive working relationship that has benefitted generations of student-athletes. The Athletic Department values the relationships that have been built and recognizes that such relationships help to build a strong community of support for our student-athletes.

The Office of Academic Support for Athletics, along with Villanova University’s Faculty Athletic Representative, have the responsibility of communicating with academic administrators, faculty members and associated instructional staff on matters directly related to a student-athlete’s academic pursuits. If a coach or coaching staff member has a need to initiate contact with an academic administrator or faculty member directly related to a student-athlete’s academic pursuits, the coach or coaching staff member must communicate through the Office of Academic Support for Athletics.
It is not permissible for coaches or coaching staff members to initiate contact directly related to a student-athlete’s academic pursuits in any form – verbal, written, electronic or otherwise – with Villanova academic administrators (deans, vice presidents, etc.), faculty members or associated instructional staff (advisors, teaching assistants, etc.).

Please note that contact initiated by academic administrators, faculty members or associated instructional staff with a coach or coaching staff member is permitted. If this contact includes discussion of matters directly related to a student-athlete’s academic pursuits, the coach or coaching staff member must refer such contact to the Office of Academic Support for Athletics immediately.

V. RELATED INFORMATION
Villanova University Code of Academic Integrity
NCAA Bylaw 14.02.1 Academic Misconduct – Post-Enrollment
NCAA Bylaw 14.02.10 Impermissible Academic Assistance – Institutional Staff Member or Representative of Athletics Interests
NCAA Bylaw 14.02.11 Institutional Staff Member
NCAA Bylaw 14.1.2.1 Pre-Enrollment Academic Misconduct
NCAA Bylaw 14.9 Post-Enrollment Academic Misconduct

VI. HISTORY
Policy Effective Date: February 20, 2017, although Villanova University has had procedures in place that pre-date the policy effective date.

VII. RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY DIVISION/DEPARTMENT
Office of the Provost
Tolentine Hall, Room 103
800 Lancaster Avenue
Villanova, PA 19085
Phone: 610.519.4520
Fax: 610.519.6200

VIII. RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT
Office of Academic Support for Athletics
Andrew J. Talley Athletic Center
800 Lancaster Avenue
Villanova, PA 19085
Phone: 610.519.7719
Fax: 610.519.6884