Terms and Conditions for Use of the Augie HPC Cluster

March 7, 2021

These Terms and Conditions of Use are the rules and conditions under which HPC Cluster services may be used. By agreeing to an HPC account you automatically agree to the Terms and Conditions of Use.

1. Acceptable Use

The Augie High Performance Computing Cluster (HPC Cluster) is part of the information technology resources made available to the Villanova University community, and as such is covered by the University's Information Technology policies. These policies include, without limitation, the Employee Acceptable Use Policy, Network Policy, Remote Access Policy and Password Policy (collectively, the "IT Policies"). Further, use of the HPC Cluster for the collection, storage, processing and/or transmittal of data that falls within the definition of "Protected Information" set forth in the University Data Classification Policy is expressly prohibited. All users of the HPC Cluster, including non-Villanova persons granted access, are required to adhere to the IT Policies, in addition to these *Terms and Conditions of Use*.

You should read and familiarize yourself with the IT Policies. They include the following provisions which might be particularly applicable to users of the HPC Cluster, but the list below is NOT exhaustive, and you are bound by all relevant IT Policies:

- Sharing of passwords, PINs, tokens or other authentication information is strictly prohibited. Each individual is responsible for their account(s), including the safeguarding of access to the account(s) (*see Employee Acceptable Use Policy*)
- The use of Villanova resources to access, further or otherwise participate in activity which is inconsistent with the mission of the university is prohibited (*see Employee Acceptable Use Policy*)
- The use of Villanova resources to conduct business for personal financial gain is prohibited. (*see Employee Acceptable Use Policy*)

Additional acceptable usage terms specific to the HPC Cluster are as follows:

- Users are responsible for using the HPC Cluster in an efficient, effective, ethical and lawful manner.
- Users shall not attempt to access any data or programs contained on the HPC Cluster for which they do not have authorization or explicit consent of the owner of the data/program.
- Users shall not make copies of system configuration files for unauthorized personal use nor shall they provide such information to other people/users.
- Users shall not purposely engage in activities to circumvent computer security or system administrative measures.
- Users shall not download, install or run security programs or utilities which reveal weaknesses in the security of HPC Cluster.
- Installation of system-wide, general-use software on HPC systems requires prior approval from CC Star Committee supporting the HPC Cluster.

You are required to promptly comply with all direct requests from the CC Star Committee regarding the use of the HPC Cluster. This may include requests to reduce disk space consumption or refrain from particular actions. We purposefully endeavored to keep these Terms and Conditions as short as possible in order to facilitate the use of this research tool in novel and creative ways. However, when the CC Star Committee encounters behavior or practices which are interfering with the ability of others to use this shared resource, the Committee, in consultation and coordination with UNIT Office of Information Security as needed, will step in and require your prompt compliance with such requests.

2. <u>User Eligibility and Accountability</u>

The HPC Cluster is provided for the use of Villanova faculty, staff and students. If you are not a current employee of the University and are not currently enrolled for classes at the University, you are in general not eligible to have an account on the HPC Cluster.

Because it is recognized that there are research and academic collaborations between people at Villanova and persons at other institutions, there is a process for granting access to the HPC Cluster to persons not formally associated with Villanova when they are working with researchers at Villanova. Non-Villanova user requests must be submitted via [the HPC website] and must be reviewed and approved by the CC Star Committee.

Because approved non-VU users are not in our employment or student records, we cannot use that information to determine when the non-VU user's account is no longer needed. Accordingly, every non-VU user account will have an expiration date of [a maximum of one year]. If an account is needed for more than one year, access can be renewed annually thereafter.

For all users (Villanova and non-VU persons) once a user account is disabled, access to the HPC Cluster will be disabled. In such cases, we ask that you transfer any data you wish to save off the system before your account expires --- any remaining data will be disposed of pursuant to HPC policies.

HPC users are accountable for their actions. Violations of IT Policies, these Terms and Conditions of Use or any other procedures and security rules communicated to users by the University may result in administrative sanctions, up to and including suspension or revocation of user access, and/or legal actions depending on the circumstances.

3. <u>Training Requirements</u>

All users must complete a mandatory one-day training workshop before they will be permitted access to their HPC account. The training will discuss the most updated configuration of the cluster, quotas, qurocedure to connect and transfer data to/from the cluster, job submission, the "rules of the road", common mistakes (e.g., running jobs on the login node) and how to avoid them, among other topics. The mandatory one-day training will be offered monthly, or as needed. In addition, users must take an online refresher training course once per year on proper system access. Typical training topics will include batch system concepts, job scripts, job submission, and scheduling policies and limits. The HPC cluster website will contain all required training documentation for users to use as a reference.

4. <u>Data and Security Considerations</u>

Users are <u>not</u> permitted to use the HPC Cluster to collect, store, or transmit regulated data of any sort at any time, including, without limitation, export-controlled data subject to Export Administration

Regulations (EAR) or International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and Protected Health Information (PHI) subject to the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Additionally, users are not permitted to use or store on the HPC Cluster data that are covered by a data use agreement (DUA) unless and until the DUA has been approved by the Office of Research Protections and UNIT in accordance with appropriate University review procedures.

The security of the HPC Cluster and all data stored on the cluster is extremely important. Users bear individual responsibility for maintaining such security and are expected to follow standard security practices to ensure the safety and security of their accounts and data. This includes, without limitation:

- Using strong passwords
- Setting permissions appropriately on data files and directories
- Never sharing passwords or other login information
- Following the terms of any Data Use Agreement that covers the data.

Users shall promptly report any weaknesses in IT security and incidents of possible misuse or violation of these *Terms and Conditions of Use* and/or IT Policies to the CC Star Committee and/or UNIT.

5. Acknowledgments

All users will provide an acknowledgement statement in their publications. Any of the following three options, or variations therein, are allowed:
- Option 1: "This work used the Augie High-Performance Computing cluster, funded by award NSF 2018933, at Villanova University."
- Option 2: "Computer time allocations at Villanova's Augie cluster, funded by award NSF 2018933, are acknowledged".
- Option 3: "All simulations were run on the Augie High-Performance Computing cluster, funded by award NSF 2018933, at Villanova University."

Users shall provide the CC Star Committee with Digital Object Identifier (DOI) links for all publications that use these acknowledgement statements.