Important Notices for Online Prospective and Current Students
Regarding State Authorization for Online Programs

Villanova University is committed to offering online programs to a geographically diverse population of students. To do so, it must seek approval where necessary and applicable to offer online education to students residing outside of the state of Pennsylvania.

This page provides information on the status of the University’s authorization for its online programs as well as the complaint process for online students. Our team continues to monitor this complex and dynamic environment and will update the below guidance as new information becomes available.

Authorization Details

Villanova University is approved by the state of Pennsylvania to participate in the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements. NC-SARA is a voluntary, regional approach to state oversight of postsecondary distance education. As of August 2020, there are 49 member states (all but California) plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For more information on the reciprocity agreement, please visit the NC-SARA website.

Participation in NC-SARA enables students in all member states and territories to enroll in online programs offered by the College of Engineering, the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, the College of Professional Studies, the School of Business, the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing and the Charles Widger School of Law, subject to any state professional licensure board/agency requirements (see section on Programs Leading to Professional Licensure). Given its private, non-profit, accredited status, Villanova is also exempt from approval in the state of California. As such, Villanova can accept online students in all its colleges from this state, subject to any state professional licensure board/agency requirements (see section on Programs Leading to Professional Licensure). Applicants located outside of SARA states and SARA U.S. territories or California should inquire with the individual program departments regarding eligibility to enroll in specific programs of interest.

International Students

International students who are considering enrolling in a Villanova online program should thoroughly research the laws and regulations of the country, in which they will be located at the time of study, regarding online enrollment prior to beginning a course of study. Select countries have specific authorization guidelines and tax implications and others do not formally recognize online degrees from foreign countries – conditions which could have implications on future employment, educational or professional licensing opportunities. It is a student’s responsibility to research and seek the appropriate guidance regarding any pertinent non-U.S. laws and regulations or special requirements pertaining to online degrees prior to enrolling.
Relocation

Prospective or current students who plan to relocate while enrolled in an online program should discuss their plans with a program administrator to assess any potential impact on their course of study. Students who relocate to a state, territory or country in which their respective program is not currently authorized (by the state, territory, country, applicable professional licensing boards/agencies and/or other requisite organizations) may experience a delay in their studies, an impact in their eligibility for Title IV funding and/or may not be able to complete the program in which they initially enrolled. It is a student’s responsibility to seek guidance from his/her program administrator prior to relocation.

Programs Leading to Professional Licensure

Educational and professional requirements for attaining specific licensures and/or certifications may be governed by state, territory and country boards/agencies and therefore may vary by location. Prior to enrolling in a program of study, students interested in obtaining a professional licensure and/or certification should understand the educational and professional prerequisites for obtaining the specific licensure and/or certification in their desired location of practice. To assist with this research, Villanova has created a specific website with this information for the programs it offers which typically lead to U.S. state or territory-based professional licensures and/or certifications. For each area of study, an assessment is provided on whether the curriculum of Villanova’s respective program meets the educational requirements for the licensure and/or certification in the U.S. state/territory. If available, a link is also provided to a third-party source with additional information. This Villanova professional licensure / certification resource website is periodically refreshed, but please note the “Last Updated” date in each subject area. In addition, while this information has been provided to assist with a student’s decision making process, it is highly recommended that they do not solely rely on this information and supplement it with their own independent research.

In addition to state boards/agencies, some professional licensures and/or certifications are governed by regional/ national / international organizations. If applicable, please visit the website of the specific Villanova program of interest for more information on the requirements of these organizations.

Complaint Process for Online Students

Online students should follow the University’s established internal complaint process.

Students residing in SARA member states and territories who are not satisfied with the outcome of the institutional process can appeal the decision to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the PA SARA portal entity, using the provided form. Please note that complaints about grades and student conduct are governed entirely by Villanova’s institutional policy.

Students can also contact the appropriate agency in their home state or territory. For a complete list of consumer complaint contact information by state or territory, please reference this list.