THE VILLANOVA TRADITION

St. Augustine (354–430 AD)
The North African-born St. Augustine was one of the most brilliant thinkers of all time, and much of what we do at Villanova is rooted in his thought. Invoking his spirit, we seek to cultivate an educational environment where intellectual understanding is grounded in values; learning develops in the context of community; and many different fields interact through the exploration of interdisciplinary connections.

The Augustinian Order
Since the Order’s founding in 1244, the Augustinians have stressed the importance of education and academic achievement. Augustinian scholars were prominent in many of the early European universities, and they began their educational mission in North America shortly after their arrival in 1796.

Villanova University
The Augustinian Order in Philadelphia founded Villanova University in 1842. They chose St. Thomas of Villanova (1486–1555) as their patron saint, an Augustinian friar who, as Archbishop of Valencia, Spain, was renowned for his brilliant intellectual achievements and dedication to social justice. Today, Villanova is a modern comprehensive Roman Catholic institution that welcomes students and faculty of all faiths and walks of life, and offers a variety of programs through four undergraduate colleges: Liberal Arts and Sciences, School of Business, Engineering and Nursing, as well as its School of Law.

We have tried to make this handbook as accurate and up-to-date as possible, but this handbook is intended as an informal guide rather than a definitive statement of University policies. Villanova is constantly adding new services and refining its policies. For up-to-date and official policies, please consult www.villanova.edu. If you do see inaccuracies or have suggestions for later versions of this handbook, please send them to us at parents@villanova.edu, or to the Office of Student Life, Villanova University, Villanova, PA 19085.

Campus Resources

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus Resources</th>
<th>Campus phone numbers begin with (610) 519-</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Admission</td>
<td>4000 <a href="http://www.admission.villanova.edu">www.admission.villanova.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>4110 <a href="http://www.villanova.com">www.villanova.com</a></td>
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<td>Campus Ministry</td>
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<td>Career Services</td>
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<td>4050 <a href="http://www.studentlife.villanova.edu/counselingcenter">www.studentlife.villanova.edu/counselingcenter</a></td>
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<td>Dining Services</td>
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<td>Financial Assistance</td>
<td>4010 <a href="http://www.finaid.villanova.edu">www.finaid.villanova.edu</a></td>
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<td>Health Center</td>
<td>4070 www1.villanova.edu/villanova/studentlife/healthcenter.html</td>
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<td>Math Learning Resource Center</td>
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<td>6572 <a href="http://www.villanova.edu/mrc">www.villanova.edu/mrc</a></td>
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<td>Music Activities</td>
<td>4075 www1.villanova.edu/villanova/studentlife/multiculturalaffairs.html</td>
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<td>New Student Orientation</td>
<td>7214 <a href="http://www.music.villanova.edu">www.music.villanova.edu</a></td>
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<td>Office of Health Promotion</td>
<td>7208 <a href="http://www.orientation.villanova.edu">www.orientation.villanova.edu</a></td>
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<td>Public Safety</td>
<td>7407 <a href="http://www.villanova.edu/healthpromotion">www.villanova.edu/healthpromotion</a></td>
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<td>Registrar’s Office</td>
<td>6979 <a href="http://www.publicsafety.villanova.edu">www.publicsafety.villanova.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Residence Life</td>
<td>4030 <a href="http://www.villanova.edu/enroll/registrar">www.villanova.edu/enroll/registrar</a></td>
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<td>4155 <a href="http://www.reslife.villanova.edu">www.reslife.villanova.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Telecommunications</td>
<td>4550 www1.villanova.edu/villanova/studentlife/studentdevelopment</td>
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<td>VEMS (Villanova Emergency Medical Services)</td>
<td>7820 <a href="http://www.villanova.edu/medicalservices">www.villanova.edu/medicalservices</a></td>
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<td>6808 <a href="http://www.vems.villanova.edu">www.vems.villanova.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wildcard Office</td>
<td>6202 <a href="http://www.villanova.edu/wildcard">www.villanova.edu/wildcard</a></td>
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Colleges:

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<td>College of Engineering</td>
<td>4940 <a href="http://www.engineering.villanova.edu">www.engineering.villanova.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Nursing</td>
<td>4900 www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing.html</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Business</td>
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Where to find it:

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<tr>
<td>ATM Machines</td>
<td>Connelly Center, Dougherty, Bartley Halls &amp; St. Mary’s Kennedy Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bursar’s Office</td>
<td>Dougherty Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dining Services</td>
<td>Kennedy Hall</td>
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<td>Financial Assistance Office</td>
<td>Dougherty Hall</td>
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<td>Wells Fargo Bank</td>
<td>Kennedy Hall</td>
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<td>Residence Life</td>
<td>Kennedy Hall</td>
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<td>University Bookstore</td>
<td>Kennedy Hall</td>
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<td>Wildcard Office</td>
<td>Dougherty Hall</td>
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Dear Parent,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you and your son or daughter to Villanova University—an academic community where students learn to think critically, act compassionately and succeed while serving others.

At Villanova, students take part in an educational experience rooted in the Augustinian ideals of Veritas, Unitas, Caritas—Truth, Unity, Love. Rigorous academics, personal attention, a strong community and a shared commitment to service help each student form a foundation for lifelong success. Villanova prepares students to become ethical leaders who ignite positive change everywhere life takes them.

This handbook is designed to introduce you to the University, its offices and services. In it you will find valuable information about the many opportunities on campus, typical challenges faced by new students and the resources available to address those challenges. Villanova faculty and staff view parents as partners and we look forward to working with you to create a rewarding and memorable experience for your son or daughter.

I hope this handbook provides an understanding of the daily life of a Villanova student. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Welcome to Villanova!

Sincerely,

Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, PhD
President
If you wish to reach a higher level of self-understanding, you must allow yourself to be dissatisfied with where you are. For when you are satisfied, you make no progress.

St. Augustine, Sermon 169, 18

BECOMING AN ADULT
The college years are a wonderful and fascinating time of growth and maturation in the lives of young people. Sons and daughters leave their parents’ houses as overgrown children and, somehow, four years later, look and act like young adults. The investments of time, energy and love that parents give their children become obvious as the students emerge from the last awkward stages of late childhood into young adulthood. This maturation progresses smoothly for many, while some may hit a bump or two along the way. This chapter points out possible challenges and gives some pointers for parents who may feel like they’re watching from the sidelines.

Letting Go
As a parent, you recognize the struggle between wanting to be there for your child and knowing when to let go, so that the child may learn life’s lessons firsthand. The college years just extend that familiar process. You most likely will develop a new relationship with your son or daughter as he or she continues the process of growth and self-discovery.

In college, students learn how to manage their own lives. The structure provided by parents and teachers drops significantly, while the number of distractions jumps even more dramatically. Students must learn self-management, and how to identify and solve their own problems.
Great Expectations and Predictable Problems

Students and their parents have high expectations for the college years. College also can be a time of ups and downs, so in this section we will focus on some of the challenges students face and the resources available to help.

• Normal life issues that affect college students: In the four years of college, students encounter the same issues that the rest of us do. They get the flu or sprain an ankle, have problems paying their bills, have conflicts with their friends, or grieve the death of a friend or relative. College students form close friendships with rather large groups of people and, as a result, are much more likely to be affected when friends in their groups have issues as well. College students can experience more emotional turbulence in their lives since they deal with their own issues and with the issues of a surprisingly large network of other young people.

The good news is that students have a lot of support on campus, from their circles of friends and from the resources provided by Villanova. Students often share common everyday concerns with their Resident Assistants. For more significant concerns, including life decisions, relationship breakup, anxiety and depression, students may schedule an appointment at the Counseling Center. Services are free and confidential and provided by trained, caring psychologists who specialize in the concerns typical of college students. For faith-based issues, students may consult with Campus Ministry.

• Typical college-years issues: Some issues are unique to college students. During their time in college, students struggle with identity issues. They may lose touch with their childhood religious faith or become much more actively involved. Sometimes they question traditional values or seek to pull away from the family. The clean-cut young man who looked so wonderful in his high school prom tux may be a little less appealing as a sophomore existentialist with scruffy clothes, purple hair and an earring (or maybe three).

Realistically, the college years are a time when young people have to make many of their own decisions regarding alcohol, sex and possibly even drugs. Some students will violate our code of student conduct and will need to connect with people in the Dean of Students Office. Peer pressure also is a big issue for college students.

• At the extreme: As with any population larger than a certain size, a few students each year do encounter more serious problems, ranging from major health problems, to serious personal or emotional problems, to academic or behavioral issues that put the student at risk of probation or suspension. The University offers support services to the student and parents during these difficult times.

What to Watch for

Since you aren’t on the scene, you may have a hard time watching for trouble signals in your son or daughter. At the same time, you know your son or daughter better than anyone else, so often you will be the first to pick up warning signs. Obviously, you should keep your eye out for dramatic changes that seem to be more than simple youthful experimentation or indiscretion. If he or she is suddenly exhausted all of the time, his or her grades take a turn for the worse, or his or her attitude seems dramatically different, you need to pay attention. It is a good sign if the student identifies the problem and asks for help. We tend to worry more about students who seem disconnected from the community and who don’t look for the help they need. You can call the Dean of Students Office at (610) 519-4200 for advice on the situation.

Some Words About College Drinking

As parents, you probably have heard a lot about college drinking. The good news is that the actual situation is probably less serious than the media makes it out to be. The research shows that most people—students, staff and faculty—tend to overestimate the amount of drinking that happens on their own campuses. Many of our students either do not drink at all or drink moderately.
Pennsylvania state law and Villanova’s policies forbid the purchase, possession, consumption or transportation of alcohol by anyone under 21 years old. Having said that, it is true also that there are young people who use their newly increased freedom to abuse alcohol or (more rarely) other drugs. Realistically speaking, it must be said that your son or daughter will confront choices about alcohol while in college. You want them to make wise choices and so do we. Sometimes a poor choice can impact a student’s life long after the party is over. Talk with your son or daughter about choices and the consequences of those decisions. Remember, excessive drinking is not normal and students have a good time at Villanova without abusing alcohol.

Dealing with Confidentiality
For the most part, since we consider part of our job is helping students learn to manage life on their own, we prefer to deal directly with students about all but the most serious problems. In addition, the federal government also has created strict rules for when we may and may not share student information, even with parents. Your main source of information will be what your son or daughter tells you, which may not be a whole lot.

For example, Villanova does not mail grades home. Students get their grades from the Web, and they may or may not volunteer to share them with you. Before a member of our faculty or staff even can have an extended conversation with you about a student, we have to make sure that the student has signed a waiver giving us permission. If you are unable to reach your son or daughter, especially in emergency situations, you may call the Dean of Students Office at (610) 519-4200 or, after hours, you may call the Department of Public Safety’s 24-hour emergency line at (610) 519-4444.

Specific Issues
So far we have talked in more general terms. Now it’s time to turn to more specific problems and offer a few words of wisdom about responses and resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>What to Do</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic problems</td>
<td>Encourage your son or daughter to seek help from the professor or from support services like the Writing Center, Math Learning Resource Center or from friends who are doing well in the class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor time management or study skills</td>
<td>Encourage your son or daughter to go to the Learning Support Center, which can include help with test taking, study skills and time management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions about administration rules and regulations</td>
<td>The student should first approach the relevant office to resolve the situation. If no progress is made, the parent may call the appropriate office for more information.</td>
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The student should first try to work it out with the professor. If that doesn’t work, the student should approach the faculty member’s department chair (confidentiality will be preserved). There is a formal process for adjudicating grade disputes. www.vpaa.villanova.edu

The Dean of Students Office handles such issues. For violations, sanctions range from warnings and fines to probation, and suspension or expulsion from the University. The Code of Student Conduct states the rules and regulations.

The college years are full of “growing pains.” Students are encouraged to use the Counseling Center, where they can confidentially discuss relationships, adjustment issues, emotional style and many other concerns. www.studentlife.villanova.edu/counselingcenter

Campus Ministry staff offers retreat programs, liturgies, and meets individually with students. Many students also explore these questions in their academic classes. www.campusministry.villanova.edu

The Health Center handles routine health issues; more serious problems are referred to nearby Bryn Mawr Hospital. See chapter on “Staying Healthy” for more information.

Sometimes students who were physically active in high school do not get enough exercise in college. Students should join with some friends to start an exercise program at one of our fitness facilities or participate in the intramurals program.

Weight loss can indicate a variety of problems, including health or emotional issues. Some college students struggle with eating disorders. Contact the Student Health Center or the Counseling Center for help. See chapter on “Staying Healthy” for additional information.
Issue

What to Do?

Alcohol and other drugs

The Office of Health Promotion provides interactive presentations, the online AlcoholEdu for College® course and the POWER Peer Education program, in order to assist students with making healthy choices regarding alcohol and other drugs. See www.villanova.edu/healthpromotion for more information on college issues and resources for students. In addition, the assistant dean of students will intervene with students who have violated policy to educate and link students to support services. If your son or daughter is making risky decisions with alcohol, he or she can meet voluntarily and confidentially with a Health Promotion staff member to identify safe and responsible strategies that will reduce their risk for a variety of alcohol-related consequences. If your son or daughter is having difficulty with alcohol or drugs, he or she also can meet confidentially with a psychologist in the Counseling Center to address his or her concerns.

Cheating and plagiarism

Cheating is not a big problem at Villanova, but occasionally students will plagiarize papers or get unauthorized help on graded projects. The problems are handled by the Academic Affairs Office. www.vpaa.villanova.edu

Cheating and plagiarism

Keeping in Touch

Sending a son or daughter off to college prompts the family to form a new communication style. Face-to-face conversation must be replaced by contact via the phone, e-mail and even the postal service. Some of our students tell us that they call home every day, but a few of them act like they are in the witness protection program and seem to vanish from parental reach completely! Here are our tips for communications in the 21st century:

• You’ve got mail. Our students love e-mail and texting. This is a great way to communicate with them and the University.

• Use the Web and Fresh@News. One of the big questions facing you is knowing what questions to ask your son or daughter. If you have not subscribed already, you should subscribe to our e-mail newsletter for parents and friends of the freshman class. To sign up, please complete the information at http://news.villanova.edu/forms/freshsignup.html. For example, Fresh@News usually posts an interview about choosing Spring Semester classes at just about the time that students are getting ready for registration. While this is an important task for students, sometimes they forget to mention it to their parents. A well-chosen question about spring courses might lead to a productive discussion of all kinds of topics. This service is just for freshman parents, and you will be automatically taken off the list at the end of the year.

• Check the Parents’ Website at www.parents.villanova.edu.

• Ask open-ended questions. Some students don’t respond very well to highly specific questions (“Where were you last night?”) and may respond better to general inquiries such as, “How is your weekend going, any exciting activities?”

• Ask about their friends. Friends, roommates and hall mates are very important to students, and parents might want to have a sense of who is who in the life of their student. More importantly, sometimes students will talk more freely about issues in their friends’ lives than they will about issues in their own lives. The broader question, “How are the students in your wing dealing with alcohol issues?” might lead to a more productive discussion of alcohol issues than the direct question, “Do you drink?”

• Call out the relatives. Unfortunately college students often want to separate from parents just at the time that they are starting to deal with a new set of issues for which parents can be an important resource. Students often will talk more freely to trusted adults other than parents, especially if they feel that they can expect confidentiality. So this is a time to encourage other adults who are close to the student to keep in contact.

• Do not forget the mail. In this high-tech age, we sometimes forget that students like mail from home just as much as ever (even though they don’t often write letters themselves). Students often love to get funny cartoons, clips from their local newspapers or photos from home. While you don’t have to keep up with the mom who sent her daughter (and the daughter’s two roommates) gifts timed to arrive on the 12 days of Christmas, little gifts and care packages are very much appreciated by all students.

• Sign up for Nova Alert. This alert system quickly contacts you during a major crisis or emergency (or for weather related school closings/updates) and delivers important information, notifications and updates to any or all devices you choose to register. Nova Alert is your personal connection to real-time updates —instructions on where to go, what to do or what not to do, who to contact and other important information. Registration is simple and we encourage parents to sign up if they are interested. Information on how to subscribe is available through our Department of Public Safety at www.alert.villanova.edu.
education is different from what is offered at other institutions. At Villanova, we strive for a special approach based on some of these characteristics:

• **Smaller classes:** Very few classes consist of more than 35 students, and faculty members, rather than graduate students, teach classes.

• **Humanities instruction:** All students, even those enrolled in our professional schools, receive heavy exposure to the humanities, including Augustinian themes and classical texts.

• **Augustinian principle of the “Unity of Heart and Mind”:** Learning focuses on the ethical and human—not just the technical—dimensions of all subjects.

• **Student cooperation:** Students in similar fields usually know and support each other, and often work in teams.

• **Learning Communities:** First-year residential students are housed together with the other students from their freshman seminar classes. Having students live with their classmates facilitates discussion of academic issues outside of the classroom. Villanova also offers several themed learning communities that students may opt into, on a space-available basis.

• **Teachers as mentors:** The Villanova learning environment fosters a community in which teachers relate to students on a more personal, one-on-one basis.

Making the Adjustment from High School to College

We have called this handbook Transitions because, for so many students, the college years mark one of the biggest transitions in life. Just about everything seems to change: friends, family relationships, philosophical assumptions, diets, expectations, and often, geographical locations. All of this happens just as young people are going through some unique developmental stages. Many of the most important decisions of a lifetime—where to live, choices for a career, spiritual identity—can present themselves during these crucial years.

One of the biggest transitions involves the change in a young person’s main occupation—learning and being a student. By the time they get to Villanova, most of our students are accustomed to being “big fish” in their high school’s “small pond.” As the students soon discover, college is very different from high school. Some of the differences are outlined in the table on the next page.

For the affection of a mind that is in harmony with another is so great that as our students are moved because we speak, so we are moved because they are learning. In this way we come to dwell in each other. Thus they say in us what they hear from us, and in some way we learn in them what we teach them.

St. Augustine, *Instruction of Beginners*, XII, 17
Especially in the first year, many students are overwhelmed by adjustment issues or are too distracted by their newfound freedom to see what wonderful opportunities they have and how much they can grow from them. Some students still have a high school mentality and think of their courses as obstacles to jump over, rather than as opportunities to enhance learning. Here is where parents can help. By your conversations and questions, parents can gently help keep the focus on academics and on building excitement about learning. Don’t hesitate to ask your son or daughter to share a paper, or to tell you about the ideas that are discussed in class. You might even want to visit the department home pages for some of the courses your son or daughter is taking. Often you will find links to faculty homepages, listing their research interests and their publications.

Learning Outside the Classroom

In high school, students spend most of their time either in classes or working at home by themselves. College is different. Students spend much less time actually in the classroom, and much more formal learning takes place in a variety of settings. Villanova has a number of resources to help students maximize their learning. Students hear all about these resources both in New Student Orientation and in their classes, but parents also should be aware of them as well.

Here are some of the resources:

• Professors: Many of our classes follow a lecture/discussion format in which students have opportunities to talk about the material. Often students need extra time with their professors to clarify questions, ask for advice, or discuss ideas for papers or projects. All Villanova faculty members keep regular office hours during which students can meet with them, and professors also are available at other times by appointment. Sometimes, first-year students can be a bit shy about going to see professors, so the parent can sometimes suggest this in a tactful way.

Computing at VU

Information technology (IT) has an important role in realizing the mission of the University’s teaching, learning, research and administrative endeavors, enhancing the student experience, simplifying collaborations and communications, and empowering our community. Incoming students are expected to own a laptop that meets the requirements as outlined by their enrolled college. Students have access to a secure private wireless and wired network across campus, a Villanova branded GMAIL account, and MyNOVA, a single location for all content related to the student experience.

For more information please visit http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/unit/studentservices.html or contact UNIT at 610-519-7777, support@villanova.edu, or chat with us at unit.villanova.edu.

High School | College
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**Living** | Students live at home with family and long-time friends. | Students are in different, unfamiliar location, surrounded by new faces from all over the country and world, with family and high school friends less easily accessible.

**Competition** | Most Villanova students were ranked in the top 25% of their high school class. | By statistical necessity, half of Villanova students will be ranked in the bottom half of their class.

**Academic schedule** | Students spend most of the day in classes structured by fixed schedules. | Students spend fewer hours per week in classes across different campus locations and varying time schedules.

**Time spent** | Students spend more time in classes than studying. | Students spend more time studying than in classes (typically 15 hours of classes means at least 30 hours studying).

**Supervision** | Students respond to deadlines created by teachers and parents. | Students must learn to manage their own time.

**Knowledge** | Learning depends mostly upon memorization. | The learning process emphasizes analysis and critical thinking.

**Writing** | Papers mostly summarize topics. | Papers require original thinking, analysis and extensive documentation.

**Exams** | Exams occur weekly or at the end of each unit. | Exams occur less often and are more comprehensive. Some classes will only have one or two per semester.

**Freedom** | Parents and teachers guide students’ choices. | Students make important decisions on their own and must learn to ask for help when they need it.

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Public Computer Labs Locations:

• Tolentine
• Mendel

Tech Support Locations:

• Vasey 101
• Ceer 209
Parents can assist greatly by helping their son or daughter to focus on learning rather than on grades, and to remember that a student can learn a lot more from a tough teacher who ties high grades to high expectations than from an easier teacher who poses less of a challenge. This being said, grades can indicate how your son or daughter is doing in general.

Grades are given to students online at midterm and at the end of the semester. The University does not mail grades home, so be sure to check with your son or daughter at Fall Break, Spring Break and the end of each semester to see how he or she is doing academically. Midterm grades, which are posted in the middle of each semester, are not calculated in the student’s G.P.A. but indicate how students are progressing in the class.

**Academic Advising and Course Scheduling**

Every undergraduate student at Villanova is enrolled in one of our four colleges: Liberal Arts and Sciences, Engineering, Business or Nursing. The student’s college is his/her academic home at Villanova. For most students, the Registrar schedules the first semester of classes. Students can make changes after they arrive on campus and have an opportunity to meet with their advisor. By Orientation, each college assigns new students an academic advisor with whom students work to schedule classes in future semesters.

Usually, the students register for the spring courses in October and for the fall courses in March. For second semester and beyond, students will register for classes using the online system after meeting with their academic advisor to obtain a PIN number. The advisor helps the student understand degree requirements, but fulfilling the requirements is ultimately the student’s responsibility.

Some students will wish to transfer from one of Villanova’s colleges to another. No one can guarantee admission to another college, and a student who transfers may need to take additional courses. In this case, some will choose to go to school in the summer in order to graduate with their class. When considering these options, students should meet with their advisors to ensure that they will graduate on time.

**Making the Grade**

One of the least favorite questions we hear among students is, “Whadyaget on the test?” True, grades are important; however, they often are more significant as a symptom of other things than as an end in themselves.

Sometimes, students believe that the goal in college is to get the highest grade for the least amount of work. This perception often arises from the pressure to do well that they feel from themselves and others, causing them to look for easy courses so they can boost their G.P.A. In the short term, the strategy might work, and they might be able to report high grades. Ultimately, however, employers and professional schools look not only for students with good grades, but also for students who can write, speak and demonstrate mastery of their chosen subjects.

Parents can assist greatly by helping their son or daughter to focus on learning rather than on grades, and to remember that a student can learn a lot more from a tough teacher who ties high grades to high expectations than from an easier teacher who poses less of a challenge. This being said, grades can indicate how your son or daughter is doing in general.

Grades are given to students online at midterm and at the end of the semester. The University does not mail grades home, so be sure to check with your son or daughter at Fall Break, Spring Break and the end of each semester to see how he or she is doing academically. Midterm grades, which are posted in the middle of each semester, are not calculated in the student’s G.P.A. but indicate how students are progressing in the class.

**Academic Advising and Course Scheduling**

Every undergraduate student at Villanova is enrolled in one of our four colleges: Liberal Arts and Sciences, Engineering, Business or Nursing. The student’s college is his/her academic home at Villanova. For most students, the Registrar schedules the first semester of classes. Students can make changes after they arrive on campus and have an opportunity to meet with their advisor. By Orientation, each college assigns new students an academic advisor with whom students work to schedule classes in future semesters.

Usually, the students register for the spring courses in October and for the fall courses in March. For second semester and beyond, students will register for classes using the online system after meeting with their academic advisor to obtain a PIN number. The advisor helps the student understand degree requirements, but fulfilling the requirements is ultimately the student’s responsibility.

Some students will wish to transfer from one of Villanova’s colleges to another. No one can guarantee admission to another college, and a student who transfers may need to take additional courses. In this case, some will choose to go to school in the summer in order to graduate with their class. When considering these options, students should meet with their advisors to ensure that they will graduate on time.

**Advising Centers**

The colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Business, and Engineering all have advising centers that coordinate advising for their colleges. The College of Nursing coordinates academic advising through the dean’s office. The advising centers work with students directly, but they also supervise the faculty advisors and student peer counselors in each college.

If parents have specific concerns about their son or daughter, they should call the dean’s office. For more general questions about topics such as possible majors or the relationship between majors and careers, parents could certainly call the advising center in the appropriate college. The numbers are on the inside of the back cover.
Encourage your son or daughter to ask questions about careers rather than to have the answers. Also, take a look at the “Finding a Career” section of this handbook.

Changing Majors

Many of our students change their ideas about a major several times. This is normal enough, especially for liberal arts students. The liberal arts curriculum offers a little more flexibility and more majors to choose from, so students in that college usually can explore a couple of different approaches.

When a student is interested in a particular major, he or she should go to the department office and make an appointment with an advisor or with the department chair to learn more about what the major entails.

Double Majors

Many students also become double majors, and this can allow them to explore different interests. Some of our students seem to think, however, that if they load up with multiple majors, minors and concentrations, they will look better to employers. This is a good approach if the student is genuinely interested in those areas and has a reason for pursuing them, but it also reduces flexibility. As we stress in our “Finding a Career” chapter, employers are likely to be more interested in a student who is excited about courses than about a student who has two majors, two minors, and a concentration, simply for the sake of having them.

Taking It on the Road

Although classroom learning is critical to a Villanova education, the University also emphasizes the importance of real-life applications such as internships or study abroad. These opportunities are for second-, third- and fourth-year students, although we do encourage first-year students to start thinking early about these options.

Studying in another country is a wonderful opportunity for a student, especially in today’s global market. While study abroad enhances a résumé, it is most important to the student’s development as a learning experience. Most students do not go overseas until their junior year, but interested first-year students should attend one of the information sessions conducted by the Office of International Studies. Likewise, most students don’t pursue an internship until they have a major, so until students decide what their major is, they don’t need to focus on this issue quite as much.

Students can have an internship in the summer, or even during the school
Each Villanova student is in one of four undergraduate colleges—Liberal Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering or Nursing. Each college is directed by a dean and the college determines the academic requirements and policies for students in that college.

Every faculty member at Villanova is in a department (Physics, Chemical Engineering, Finance, etc.), and the department chair supervises those faculty members and the students who are majoring in that department. Students who have a problem or concern should first speak to the faculty member, then to the chair. Parents with questions should go either to the dean or to the chair, not to the faculty member.

Most departments at Villanova offer a major that consists of a program of studies in that discipline. Most departments also offer a minor, which usually consists of five or six classes.

A concentration is usually in an interdisciplinary program of study that includes courses in several different departments.

This office coordinates student records and transcripts. They also provide verifications to show that your son or daughter is a full-time student, which you may need for your health insurance provider.

Students log in to the secure area to register for courses and get their grades, but parents can also visit the site to view all sorts of non-secure information.

Each course has a syllabus, usually handed out during the first class of the semester, which provides the basic expectations between the teacher and the student regarding grades, assignments, required books, and course goals.

Academic integrity refers to doing work honestly, as opposed to cheating, plagiarizing, falsifying data, or seeking unauthorized help.

The catalog spells out the fundamental academic contract between the student and the University, and also describes the various programs and courses. It is available at www.catalog.villanova.edu.
The Room
Later this summer, you’ll get detailed instructions about move-in, so let’s go right to that moment when you and your son or daughter open the door to home for the next year and meet the new roommate(s). For parents, seeing the student’s college room can set off several different associations. For some parents, the whole scene evokes nostalgic memories of “good old college days.” Other parents may have forgotten or not realized how small college rooms are. This usually does not concern the student as much. Students worry most about sharing a room for the first time with a complete stranger.

The Roommate
New residents are assigned to halls and roommates based on gender, date of admission deposit, enrollment in designated learning communities—and when possible—preferences specified in a questionnaire that accompanies the Housing Application. Students—not parents—should complete this questionnaire. Incoming students will have the option to identify a preferred roommate on the Housing Application. Residence Life makes a reasonable effort to accommodate requests to room with a particular student provided that the interest in sharing a room is mutual, each resident has designated the other as a preferred roommate in the Housing Application and the request is received by June 1.

Room assignments will be posted online in late July and will contain:
- Room and building assignment
- Roommate’s name, address, telephone number and e-mail
- VU mailbox number and combination

Roommates are encouraged to contact one another prior to arrival so that they can “break the ice” and share information about the items that each intends to bring.

The Resident Assistant
The Resident Assistant (RA) plays an important role in the life of a resident student. The RA is an upper-class student who lives in the building to supervise and coordinate the daily functions of residential living. We choose our RAs through a comprehensive selection process and provide them with intense training. The RA serves as friend, advisor, problem-solver, and generally acts as the University’s front-line representative on everything from maintenance issues to health and safety. The RA is also responsible for enforcing the code of student conduct and promoting healthy behavior in the residence hall.

The RAs are trained to help residents solve problems and to know when to refer students to professional staff members for more complex issues. You will meet some of the RAs when you are on campus for move-in. While they are happy to answer any questions that you might have, if you find that your son or daughter is experiencing problems after classes have begun, you should contact the Office for...
Residence Life for assistance, rather than calling your son or daughter’s RA. This will ensure that a member of the professional staff can coordinate an appropriate response to your concern.

What If There Is a Concern with the Room?
Residence Life is happy to assist in resolving any concerns that you have regarding your son or daughter’s room upon your arrival to campus. Should you encounter a problem requiring immediate assistance during check-in, please report the concern directly to the RA. The RA will contact the Office of Residence Life in an effort to expedite your request. At the initial floor meeting held during the first week of school, the RA will introduce the students to the online maintenance request system, where students can file and follow up on their own facilities-related requests.

What If the Student Is Homesick?
During the first few weeks of school, some students feel homesick and beg their parents to pick them up or fly them home for the weekend. Students miss their parents to pick them up or fly them home as much as possible and, given the sadness you feel regarding your son or daughter’s room, the RA can assist in resolving any concerns that you have regarding your son or daughter’s room upon your arrival to campus. Should you encounter a problem requiring immediate assistance during check-in, please report the concern directly to the RA. The RA will contact the Office of Residence Life in an effort to expedite your request. At the initial floor meeting held during the first week of school, the RA will introduce the students to the online maintenance request system, where students can file and follow up on their own facilities-related requests.

What If There Is a Problem with a Roommate?
Adjusting to a new roommate is a big transition that can bring challenges as well as joys. Even the best of roommates have to work through some issues to reach a compatible living relationship. Most students have always had their own room at home and sharing a room can be a bit intimidating. A few roommates become best friends but more often they simply become good acquaintances who learn how to live together effectively while they pursue close friendships outside the confines of their room. As with most relationships, getting to this point requires respect, civility, compromise, patience and communication to get beyond the inevitable differences that arise when people share common living spaces.

The most common roommate problems stem from differences in lifestyle and personal habits: One roommate sleeps lightly, while the other prefers noise; one prefers to study in the room, the other wants the room as a social gathering place.

Living in close quarters with limited privacy is an adjustment. As parents, you may hear things like, “My roommate is such a slob!” “She makes so much noise in the morning, I can’t take it!” “My roommate has guests in the room all of the time, and I can’t get anything done or get to sleep.”

Don’t assume that the roommate is always the “bad guy.” There are two sides to every story! Students may feel apprehensive about confronting roommates or hall mates since many of them are still trying to make friends.

As a result, they may avoid facing the problem. When the student calls home with roommate complaints, encourage him or her to discuss these issues with the roommate. Often encouraging the students to clarify personal expectations, and to agree on compromises, can solve the problems. If the roommates have difficulties working the issue out, encourage them to consult the RA. The RA can assist the residents as they develop roommate contracts that clarify expectations and compromises and can be helpful in mediating conflicts.

Sometimes the roommates really do have more serious problems that cannot be resolved through mediation. If that occurs, your son or daughter may ask the RA to help them complete and submit a “room change request” to the Office for Residence Life. Room changes are contingent on vacancies being available in the buildings where your son or daughter might be willing to move and may not be immediately available. Alternately, there may be other students in the same building willing to switch roommates. This is acceptable, provided that all students involved are agreeable to a switch and willing to formally sign off on the new arrangement with the Office for Residence Life. The RA can also be helpful in this regard.

If both roommates have made friends in the hall, do not want to move out of the building, and cannot arrange for a roommate switch, often each will feel that the other is more at fault for any conflicts between them and should be the one required to move out of the room. Parents should know that when such conflicts arise, Residence Life does not designate which roommate should be moved. Rather, the staff counsels each roommate to consider the relative value of the current room assignment in light of their academic, social and emotional priorities and encourages them to consider the negative trade-offs they may be making by not being willing to relocate. We encourage parents to ask their son or daughter to do the same.

Our best advice to parents when it comes to helping their son or daughter manage a roommate conflict is to keep in mind that these situations are often powerful learning experiences. Frequently, freshmen need guidance, encouragement and support to manage the conflict. Your first inclination may be to call the University and try to solve the problem. However, we encourage parents to allow the student to solve these problems themselves. Solving these problems can be facilitated with the assistance of the RA or the Residence Life Professional Staff.
# Common Roommate Complaints: Possible Response:

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<tr>
<th>Complaint</th>
<th>Possible Response</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Visitation policies are in place to protect the needs of students. Students should be honest with their roommates when they feel uncomfortable about how much time guests are spending in the room. In the beginning of the year, students develop roommate living agreements. This is a good time to review expectations. If the problem persists, the student should consult the RA.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Each residence hall has quiet hours and noise restrictions. Encourage your son or daughter to work it out with their neighbors or seek assistance through the RA.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Advise your son or daughter to set up guidelines with the roommate in the beginning of the year. Keep the lines of communication open.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Both roommates are entitled to be in the room at any given time. When roommates have different study habits, communication is necessary for students to make reasonable sacrifices. For example, if a roommate is on the phone, one roommate may compromise and go to the study lounge.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Roommates should be considerate of one another when having friends over. As a rule, students should check first before inviting guests over.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Many students carry around stereotypes about people from different backgrounds. Living with and around people who are different for the first time can be challenging. Suggest that your son or daughter practice tolerance and understanding toward people’s differences. Encourage him or her to base opinions about a person on merits and not cultural background.</strong></td>
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**Special Delivery?**

Sending flowers, balloons, and other deliveries to students for special occasions is coordinated by our Department of Public Safety. Prior to arriving on campus, the company should contact the Public Safety Office at (610) 519-6979 and hit “1” to speak with a dispatcher. The company should inform the dispatcher about the delivery and should provide the student’s name, residence hall and room number. A Public Safety Officer will meet the delivery person at the assigned hall and escort them to the student’s room. If the student is unavailable, the Public Safety Officer will not enter the student’s room. The delivery will be left outside of the student’s room. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Office for Residence Life at (610) 519-4154.

**Cars on Campus**

Freshman and sophomore resident students are not permitted to have cars on campus because there are not enough parking spaces to accommodate under-class resident students. A number of activities are planned on campus throughout the weekend for students. In addition, students can hop on the local train to get to the surrounding community or Philadelphia.

The Department of Public Safety also provides off-campus transportation to neighboring communities including a stop at Bryn Mawr Hospital. This shuttle also runs on campus during the week making stops throughout campus. For more shuttle service information, check the Public Safety home page at www.publicsafety.villanova.edu.

**Housing During University Breaks**

The residence halls and dining service operations close when the University is not in session. The Office for Residence Life tries to accommodate students who ask to stay on campus during the break periods (as deemed reasonably appropriate), but dining services are not available.
For reasons of safety and security, students may be asked to consolidate to designated halls during low occupancy break periods. Students must register with and receive approval from Residence Life to stay on campus during a break period. The residence hall opening/closing schedule is available on the Residence Life home-page (www.reslife.villanova.edu) as well as the Parents Web site (www.parents.villanova.edu).

Housing Selection Process for Sophomore Year

After students finally adjust to their freshman home, their attention soon turns to a new question: “Where will I be living next year and with whom?” This becomes a major topic of discussion when students return to campus after Spring break.

In March, freshmen receive detailed information from Residence Life about their housing options for sophomore year and instructions about participating in the room selection process.

Students will first need to confirm their intent to reside on-campus during their sophomore year by completing the Housing Contract online. Students who complete the housing contract will be issued a computer-generated random selection time. It is important to note that factors such as previous housing assignments, assignment to a “triple,” difficulties with roommates, academic standing, participation in special activities and other factors are not considered when generating selection times. Students will then be able to choose their housing assignment and roommate online at their designated housing selection time.

As is often the case, the demand for residence in certain halls exceeds the capacity of those halls. It is possible that students with a later selection time may not secure their first or second choice of housing. It is important that students have thought about other housing options beyond their first or second choices.

Roommate Selection

Students begin thinking early about choosing a roommate for the following year, and will often pair up with classmates or other friends who live on their hall. You might encourage your son or daughter to select someone who shares similar lifestyle preferences and study habits.

Emotionally, roommate selection is a touchy subject for many freshmen. They worry about how to break the news that they would rather live with someone else than a friend or current roommate who expects to be their roommate next year. Under those circumstances, parents might advise that the bad news does not get any better with time, and that the kindest thing to do is communicate the reasons for the decision privately, openly and honestly with the other person.

If, on the other hand, your son or daughter is among the 25% of rising sophomores that don’t select a preferred roommate during the room selection process, he or she will be paired with someone else who also hasn’t specified a roommate. There is certainly nothing wrong in going this route, especially if a freshman is strongly interested in making new friends during sophomore year.

Upper-Class Housing

During sophomore year students live in coed residence halls, where men and women are housed on alternate floors and wings.

By junior year many students move to the West Campus Apartments, where they enjoy a more independent form of living. As with the previous year’s housing process, students are issued computer-generated random housing selection times, so not all juniors succeed in obtaining placement there. Consistent with the University’s three-year housing guarantee, students will still have the opportunity to remain in the residence halls. Consequently, if your rising junior informs you that he or she is being “required” to move off campus, you should know that the decision is a matter of choice, not necessity.

Finally, as seniors, almost all of our students move into the local community because we do not have the space for them on campus. Through this experience, seniors learn how to deal with “real world” issues involving landlords, leases and all of the responsibilities that come with fully independent living. The Dean of Students Office publishes a Student Guide to Living Off Campus, which is very helpful for juniors and seniors who move off campus. Our hope is gradually to expose our students to greater freedom, independence and responsibility, while still providing support at each stage of the process.

Commuter Students

A smaller population of students (about 60 in each class) commutes from home to Villanova. Commuter students experience different transitional issues from residential students. While residential students can run back to their rooms in between classes, commuter students need to find a place to hang out and meet friends. The Connelly Center, Dougherty Hall, Bartley Exchange and the library are all possible choices.

The first few weeks of school can be very difficult for commuters as they learn to feel comfortable on campus. Many commuter students feel left out since they don’t live on campus and often stay off campus during the weekends. On the other hand, resident students envy the commuters because they have cars and the feelings of independence that come with that.

The best advice we offer to commuters is to get involved. Commuter students need to make the extra effort to meet people on campus. Getting involved in Orientation and in campus activities are the best ways to do that! We offer many co-curricular activities, including campus organizations such as the Blue Key Society, Special Olympics, Campus Activities Team or Campus Ministry.

The Commuter Forum, a committee of the Campus Activities Team, and the Leadership Experience Learning Community for commuters, are
specifically designed for commuter students. Both of these organizations allow commuter students to make connections with people who have common interests and to learn more about Villanova.

If you are a parent of a commuter, we can guarantee that your relationship with your son or daughter is going to change. Although he or she still lives at home, new challenges involving issues of independence will develop. Try to take some time to speak with one another about your expectations for each other.

Personal Safety
In survey after survey, Villanova students have reported considerable satisfaction with their sense of personal safety at the University. While this is certainly good news, it also means that students can easily become complacent about taking basic precautions to ensure that they and their belongings remain safe. For example, students should lock their room doors when leaving, even if only for a minute; refuse to share their Wildcard, room key or combination with others; and refrain from propping open residence hall doors to bypass the card access system. Outside of their hall, they should never walk away and leave personal items like book bags, laptops, purses, unattended in public areas like cafeterias, the library, lounges and laundry rooms.

Students concerned about walking through the campus late at night should consider using the evening shuttle service, which operates from 6 p.m. through 1:30 a.m. Monday through Friday (see www.publicsafety.villanova.edu for detailed shuttle schedule). The University’s Department of Public Safety also operates a campus escort service when classes are in session.

For additional information about safety and security, parents are encouraged to visit the Department of Public Safety’s Web site at www.publicsafety.villanova.edu.

Fire Safety
The University places great importance on fire safety, especially in the residence halls. The Office for Residence Life’s goals for fire safety procedures include prevention, education, early warning, rapid response and fire containment.

In terms of education, students receive fire safety information including procedures and policies when they arrive on campus. The RA' s review this information with students at the first floor meeting.

In addition, Fire and Health Safety inspections are conducted for every residence hall room three times during the year. Candles are a fire hazard and must be left at home. Students who violate fire safety policies are subject to fines. The University conducts unannounced fire drills throughout the year.

For specific information about the fire safety enforcement, equipment and procedures, check the Residence Life Web site at www.reslife.villanova.edu.

GROWING IN SPIRITUALITY
In talking about spirituality in the college years, it may be helpful to begin by talking about an individual, in this case a young man named Gus. His mother was a devout Catholic, but his father was more concerned with worldly matters. Both parents, however, had ambitions for their son. The boy really had the “gift of gab” and his parents saw a brilliant career for him in a field like public relations or communications. Leaving home was a big transition for him; once he left the family home, he went a bit wild for a while and perhaps went to more parties than he should have. He got very involved with a young woman who was a nice person, but not the kind of girl his parents had in mind for him.

The most striking thing about Gus, however, was that he really wrestled with what we call spiritual questions. He was attracted to the Catholicism that was so important to his mother but he couldn’t understand how an all-powerful and loving God could allow the existence of suffering and evil in the world. Gus also struggled deeply with questions of self-identity and purpose in his own life. He tried to understand how his ambitions (and his parents’ ambitions for him) related to his own values. He was also attracted to the power and beauty of one of the Eastern religions, but ultimately he did not find his answers there either.
Today we know Gus by his more formal name, St. Augustine. He did, in fact, eventually convert to Catholicism in 386 A.D. Villanova students read St. Augustine’s *The Confessions* in their Augustine and Culture Seminar (ACS) each year. They discuss his enormous influence on Christianity, both Catholic and Protestant, in their theology classes. At Villanova we are particularly interested in Augustine’s life and work because the Augustinian order founded our University. The Augustinian tradition and the many Augustinians and Augustine scholars on campus continue to hold a deep influence.

In this chapter we’ll focus on the struggles a young person, like Augustine, faces when trying to answer the basic questions of God, meaning and purpose in life, freedom, evil and values. As students work through these questions, some continue in the religious practice they grew up with, while others search for new answers. In high school they may have attended religious services because their parents expected them to do so, but in college they will make their own decisions about their religious practices and beliefs.

At Villanova, we think this process is extremely important and valuable. Instead of dismissing these questions as youthful distractions, we encourage them, nurture them, and try to create an environment where students take these questions seriously.

**Something for Everyone**
When we talk about growing in spirituality we don’t just mean Catholic spirituality. At Villanova we feel that everyone has a spiritual dimension and we seek to nourish all members of our community to participate in the exploration of their own spiritual development. We welcome all faith traditions. The diversity and collaboration of individuals from many traditions are part of what makes Villanova such a vibrant spiritual community. World Religions Day celebrates diverse religions on the campus through a Fair and Forum each fall, which educates and informs the University community of various religious traditions and faith opportunities open to all.

While we welcome individuals of all faiths, Villanova is a Catholic and Augustinian University, and, of course, many of Villanova’s students, faculty and staff are Catholic. For many people at Villanova, Catholicism provides the setting in which to ask spiritual questions, and it offers meaningful answers. Many Villanovans are attracted to some of Catholicism’s main tenets, such as its emphasis on the goodness of all creation, its focus on meaningful answers. Many Villanovans are attracted to some of Catholicism’s main tenets, such as its emphasis on the goodness of all creation, its focus on the ultimate harmony between faith and reason. As an educational institution, we also cherish Catholicism’s insistence that critical thinking is a part of spiritual development.

**Campus Ministry**
Villanova’s Campus Ministry offers a wide variety of experiences for members of the University community. The professionals who work in Campus Ministry provide pastoral counseling, including helping people deal with value conflicts, grief, spiritual discernment, and many other issues connected with faith.

Campus Ministry has four main Centers that work together in addressing the ministerial needs of the campus population while at the same time offering distinct services. The four Centers are: Center for Worship, Center for Service and Social Justice, Center for Spirituality and Discernment, Center for Pastoral Social Justice, and its insistence on the ultimate harmony between faith and reason. As an educational institution, we also cherish Catholicism’s insistence that critical thinking is a part of spiritual development.

**Weekly Service Opportunities Through Community Outreach of Villanova:**

- St. Agatha/St. James Soup Kitchen
- St. Francis Inn (Soup Kitchen)
- St. Barnabas (homeless shelter)
- Habitat for Humanity
- RUBIAL Challenge
- Best Buddies
- Project H.O.M.E.
- Northern Home for Children
- LaSalle Academy

Ministry Education and Internship. These four centers work toward serving the entire community of students, faculty and staff representing varied religious backgrounds. We invite you to tour the Campus Ministry Website at: www.campusministry.villanova.edu.

**Center for Worship**
The Sunday evening Masses in the Campus Church of St. Thomas of Villanova are living witnesses of the heart of worship at Villanova University. Students participate in the Masses as ministers of hospitality, ministers of the Eucharist, Pastoral musicians, singers, and lectors and active members of the congregation. The Augustinians who preside and preach at the Masses are Villanova faculty or administrators who work with the students in preparation for these Masses. There are also two daily Masses during the week to allow members of our University community to participate in Mass on a daily basis. Along with the Mass schedule, the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered in the Campus Church twice a week and also by appointments made in the Center for Campus Ministry.

While the Catholic liturgies are popular with our students, many of our students attend services at churches, synagogues, and mosques in the area. A list of area places of worship can be found on our website. The Center for worship prepares the ministers by offering education and training on the theology of the ministries they perform and also on the sacraments in general.
Center for Service and Social Justice

Saint Thomas of Villanova, the patron saint of the University, dedicated his life to serving the poor. Following St. Thomas’ example, service to others is central to the mission of Villanova. Recognizing that ‘to know God is to do justice’ (Jeremiah 22: 15-16), the University maintains a wide array of community partnerships with local, national and international organizations so that students might easily engage in service and advocacy work.

Nearly 300 students per week work at local soup kitchens, homeless shelters, after school programs, and nursing homes throughout the year. Justice education programs such as the Catholic Relief Services Ambassadors Program, Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week and Advocacy Week educate students about social issues and contextualize this knowledge within the social teachings and ethics of the Catholic faith. The Center for Peace and Justice Education works closely with Campus Ministry offering academic courses that often include local service work as part of the curriculum. Every attempt is made to integrate the work for justice with faith and academics.

Each year, during Fall, Winter and Spring Break, nearly 800 students travel domestically and internationally to work in solidarity with communities in struggle through organizations such as Habitat for Humanity. While the work these students do on these Break Experiences is important, equally important is the reflection and education about poverty and other social issues that occur as part of this work. Like the local service projects, these Break Experiences often have a transformative impact on students’ lives. Many students are moved by their service work to make a commitment to serve the poor through their career choice—whether that be through social work, education, medicine, engineering or business. Villanova has one of the highest rates of students in the country who go on to commit to a year of service after graduation through programs like Augustinian Volunteers, Jesuit Volunteers, or Inner City Teaching Corps.

Villanova aims to graduate students who see attention to the world’s social issues and the poor as part of their responsibility. Through academic and experiential education, the Center for Service and Social Justice hopes these students will follow St. Thomas of Villanova and go on to make a positive impact in the lives of the impoverished and the marginalized.

Center for Spirituality and Discernment

In addition to the service projects and formal worship times, many students participate in groups sponsored by the Center for Spirituality and Discernment for reflection, discussion and building friendships. Retreats are extremely popular and there are approximately 25 offerings per year. These are usually held on weekends in a relaxed setting at the ocean or another scenic area. Students can get away from the hectic campus schedule and pause to think about life and its challenges and opportunities. Sometimes the retreats are built around an activity like camping and canoeing, while others, like the Search Retreat, help students to explore who they are, where they are going in life and how faith and community contribute. Other topics for retreats are social justice, dealing with transitions and growing in faith.

We also have the Busy Person retreat which is held on campus and fits into any student’s schedule. All of our retreats are designed to help students learn more about themselves and to explore their relationships to God, to the community and to the broader world.

Some students participate in weekly faith sharing groups called Get Real. It is a chance to meet in a small group setting, usually led by Campus Ministry Interns, and to discuss the challenges of college life. This is especially helpful as a way for students to find a supportive place to search together for meaning in their everyday life. College presents some challenging questions and Get Real offers them an opportunity to search together in the Augustinian tradition.

There are many other opportunities that help students to grow spiritually. The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is appropriate for students who want to continue their exploration of faith and sacramental
When we show someone for the first time imposing and beautiful sights in the city or the countryside, which we who see them all the time pass over without taking any pleasure in them, isn’t our own sense of delight frequently awakened again by their delight in what is new to them?

St. Augustine, Instruction of Beginners, XII, 17

EXPLORING

When you look at Villanova’s mission statement, you will see that it stresses the development of the total person: intellectually, emotionally, spiritually, culturally, socially, and physically.

There are really two things to notice here. One is that intellectual development is the first on the list, as it should be, but it isn’t the only thing on the list. This broad view reflects our Augustinian focus on both heart and mind, on both individual and community. It also reflects common sense. Research tells us that in order to succeed at college, students need a range of activities both in and out of the classroom. With this in mind, Villanova provides many opportunities for students to get involved in co-curricular activities, all of which enrich campus life and their own development.

In this chapter, you’ll learn about the various types of clubs and activities at Villanova, a little about what’s happening on and off campus, and some ways that you, as a parent, can assist in the transition from high school to college by encouraging your son or daughter to get involved at Villanova.
The Transition from “Big Fish”

One adjustment for new students is learning to start over. Many of our new students were very involved leaders in high school. They were the captains of their sports team, class officers and active participants in their local communities. Now, people surround them who were just as involved as they were! No one told them that when they came to Villanova, they would have to start all over again!

One parent told us about a conversation with his son during the first week of college. The parent said, “You have to remember that at college you are going to be at the bottom of the heap for awhile.” The son replied, “I wouldn’t mind that, but my problem is that I can’t even find the heap.”

All of this can intimidate many students. It won’t always be so, but new students need to be patient. They should be prepared to have some setbacks before they can succeed as they did in high school. Sometimes the fact that there are so many different organizations to join can be overwhelming. During the first week of school, students are invited to an Activities Forum at which they have the chance to meet with upper-class students to find out more information about specific clubs and organizations.

Sometimes, students hesitate to go to a meeting where they won’t know anyone, but parents can gently encourage them. Getting involved with student activities is a great way to meet other people, to learn valuable leadership and communication skills, and to gain opportunities for personal growth and development.

Many students at Villanova are natural-born “joiners.” Sometimes they sign up for a number of clubs without realizing how busy school work will keep them. Often our most academically successful student leaders are also heavily involved in student activities. However, students sometimes lose their focus and have trouble balancing school work and co-curricular activities. When grades, health and sleep start to suffer, it may be time for the parent to suggest a modest divestiture of activities.

Clubs, Organizations and Volunteer Programs

To foster the goal of developing the total person, Villanova offers over 250 student clubs and organizations. These include the Campus Activities Team, Special Olympics, the Student Government Association, academic organizations, sports and recreational organizations, service organizations, multicultural organizations, honor societies, political organizations, professional societies, media organizations, Peace and Justice organizations, Campus Ministry organizations, Rays of Sunshine and Music Activities.

The list seems endless, but there is definitely something for everyone! Being active in the community outside of the classroom gives students the opportunity to learn valuable communication, time-management and leadership skills. Participating in co-curricular activities helps to build a great résumé. If students have specific questions about how to get involved, they should go to the Office of Student Development in 214 Dougherty Hall, (610) 519-4210.

Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life

Villanova has 14 sororities and 14 fraternities that compose what we call “the Greek community.” Approximately 25% of the undergraduate population belongs to a Greek organization. At Villanova, we do not have fraternity and sorority houses. Members of Greek organizations live in the residence halls with other students.

Most students get involved in Greek Life because it provides them with opportunities for leadership, service, improved scholastic resources and lifelong friendships that will last decades beyond college. Members of our Greek organizations are educated about the dangers of alcohol abuse and hazing is absolutely prohibited.

Recruitment is the selection process for new members and occurs during the beginning of the spring semester for freshman students. Students must have a grade point average of 2.6 in order to participate. Greek Life may not be for everyone, but it can be one way for students to meet new people. Getting involved in the Villanova Greek Community is a positive experience that expands a Villanova student’s horizons and enables them to be involved in many facets of the University.

A Warning About Underground Fraternities and Sororities

We feel good about the opportunities that the University Greek Life system presents for its members, but we caution new students and parents about “underground” fraternities and sororities. The University does not recognize these organizations, and as a result, they do not adhere to University guidelines and policies.

In some cases, they were once part of the University Greek system, but they abused their privileges and the national chapter or the University no longer supports them. Sometimes new students join these groups and don’t realize they are not part of the University system.

If your son or daughter is joining a fraternity or sorority, especially in the fall semester, check the official listing of approved fraternities and sororities on the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life Web site at www.greek.villanova.edu/ or call (610) 519-7280.
Multicultural Affairs
In the Center for Multicultural Affairs (CMA) we believe that how students transition from high school to college will determine their future academic success. We recognize that college is about negotiating many different kinds of changes: living away from home, managing new friends, dealing with challenging academic expectations, determining future goals and the steps necessary to achieve them.

CMA offers comprehensive integrated services to all incoming students. In addition to academic tutoring, counseling and course advising, we can also help you select and get involved with a wide array of engaging extracurricular activities.

A.C.T.I.V.E. stands for Advising, Counseling, Tutoring, and Information to enhance the Villanova Experience. The A.C.T.I.V.E. Retention Program is in place to ease the transition of first and second year students into the Villanova Community.

While all of our programs are open to all students, we actively seek students for our programs who identify with a “cultural” population or NOS (Not otherwise stated). While all of our programs are open to all students, we actively seek students for our programs who identify with a “cultural” population or NOS (Not otherwise stated). Students can apply by contacting the Center for Multicultural Affairs. Students accepted into the program gain access to all of the services mentioned above. The requirements are the student must:

- attend a minimum of one (1) professional/personal development workshop
- attend one (1) social outing per semester
- meet with their assigned Graduate Assistant or Advisor biweekly to discuss academic progress, personal-social, and career-related issues; ascertain the services needed to achieve these goals; review progress made
- meet with an assigned tutor or tutors to improve academic performance, if recommended by faculty/staff
- follow a personalized academic plan if GPA falls below 2.5.

In addition to meeting friends and learning valuable leadership skills by getting involved in various clubs and organizations, students have the chance to meet and interact with diverse groups of individuals.

The Center for Multicultural Affairs seeks to enrich the undergraduate learning experience by making available to all students the opportunity to engage in intergroup dialogue and activities promoting cross-cultural awareness and understanding. The Center for Multicultural Affairs accomplishes this task by offering learning resources and structured learning experiences for students, faculty and staff. In addition, the Center provides support to students and student organizations.

The Center is a place where students can report incidents of bias or discrimination. We hope that your daughter or son never encounters this type of situation; however, please know that if she or he does, the Center for Multicultural Affairs is here to help. Our ultimate goal is to help all Villanovans learn to live empathetically in community with one another. We believe that through our collective efforts, Villanova will be a welcoming, caring, just and educationally purposeful community for everyone.

Athletics and Intramural Sports
The Athletic Department offers a number of competitive athletic activities for all students. These include intercollegiate teams and many club programs. While many students were actively involved in high school sports, most do not play competitively for Villanova. However, a large number of students take advantage of intramural sports that the Athletic Department offers. The sports include billiards, basketball, flag football, indoor and outdoor soccer, softball, tennis, track, volleyball and wiffle ball. Students can sign up with friends or hall mates. Intramurals is another way to meet people and stay active!

So What Do Students Do on the Weekends?
Students arrive on campus ready to go! They can’t wait to experience their newfound freedom and independence. College is going to be fantastic—tons of new people, venturing into the city; the possibilities are endless! Yet, students are responsible for their free time, and they will need to decide how they want to fill this time. Early freshman year, some feel homesick or lonely, so free time can feel scary.

The University offers a number of activities on campus for students. On a typical weekend, there is a band, movies, a comedian or some other form of entertainment for students. The entertainment is student-run and is offered at a low cost or is free. Since many students aren’t ready to go out until at least 9 p.m., Late Night at Villanova offers weekend activities beginning at 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights in the Connelly Center. FAST (Fun and Sober Times) is a social network of students who do not drink and are looking for ways to connect on and off campus throughout the year. To find out what FAST is organizing every week, encourage your student to join the e-mail listserv (FAST@villanova.edu), to follow them on Facebook (Villanova FAST) and on Twitter (@VillanovaFAST).

A Warning About Off-Campus Parties
Students occasionally venture to off-campus parties hosted by upper-class students. The University does not supervise these parties. The University spends a great deal of time educating our first-year students about making safe choices and providing them with on-campus social events. One message we stress, especially to new students, is to be careful and always to travel in groups. While the Villanova area is viewed as a safe environment, we wouldn’t want anyone to be stranded off campus. During the first few weeks of school, it’s difficult to judge who to trust, so it’s wise for students to be cautious when going off campus. In addition, the local communities do not tolerate underage drinking, and they are aggressive in enforcing the law and issuing citations.
Traveling Off Campus

Villanova is served by an excellent public transportation system, especially to nearby Philadelphia. Students should take advantage of Villanova’s close proximity to area towns and Philadelphia. Some of the most common places to visit in Philadelphia are the Art Museum, Independence Hall, South Street, Old City (a lot of galleries and restaurants), Society Hill and the historic district, Chinatown, the Avenue of the Arts and University of Pennsylvania.

When you come to Villanova to visit, you might think about taking your son or daughter to the city. You certainly will enjoy the wonderful restaurants, shopping and sights, and it may give your son or daughter more interest and confidence about making the trip.

Since freshman and sophomore resident students are not permitted to have cars on campus, they eventually learn to hop on the Paoli-Thorndale line, which runs directly through campus and heads eastbound into Philadelphia’s 30th Street Station, Suburban Station and Market East station. The Norristown High-Speed line, also runs through south campus near Stanford Hall. The R100 runs east to the 69th Street Terminal where students can catch the subway into Center City. Students can also take the R100 west to Gulph Mills to catch a bus to the King of Prussia Mall, the biggest mall on the East Coast.

If students aren’t interested in going into the city or as far as King of Prussia, they can take the train into any of the surrounding communities such as Ardmore, Bryn Mawr, Rosemont or Wayne. Although the University plans on-campus entertainment, sometimes students just want to get off campus to see a movie, do some shopping or go out to dinner. The weekends are a perfect time to explore the local surroundings! There are many stores and restaurants within a mile or two, so students can even walk to them.

To assist students in their travels, the University’s Department of Public Safety operates an on- and off-campus shuttle service daily, as well as Friday and Saturday night shuttles to the King of Prussia Mall area where students can shop, get a bite to eat or see a movie. More detailed information about the shuttle service can be found on the Public Safety Web site at www.publicsafety.villanova.edu.

What’s Happening on Campus?

**New Student Orientation — August**

St. Thomas of Villanova Celebration — September

Parents Weekend — September

Special Olympics Weekend — November

The Orientation Program is four days prior to the first day of classes. Orientation consists of a series of programs, workshops, presentations and activities designed to familiarize new students with academic and student life, as well as with the University in general. Students will be assigned to a small group of new students with a student Orientation Counselor who will help provide information, resources and direction to your son or daughter.

St. Thomas of Villanova Celebration is an opportunity for students, faculty and staff members to celebrate the values of Villanova’s patron saint, St. Thomas, and his strong commitment to serving the poor. The celebration includes the Villanova Community participating in a day of service throughout the Philadelphia area.

During the Fall Semester, Villanova invites parents and family members to campus for a weekend filled with opportunities to learn more about life at Villanova. It’s a good idea to make hotel reservations early!

Villanova proudly hosts the annual Pennsylvania Special Olympics Fall Festival. With the help of over 2,000 volunteers, the campus community offers specially-challenged children and adults the opportunity to participate in a variety of athletic competitions.
The Freedom School is offered in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday. The workshops, speakers and lectures focus on issues of justice and racism, and are developed and delivered by faculty, staff and students to promote Dr. King’s Dream.

Midterms usually occur right before Fall Break and again in March, right before Spring Break. Most professors will post a mid-term grade on MyNova, the online student information system. This grade indicates how the student is doing but it is not permanent.

Mid-terms — October & March

Finals are scheduled for the week after classes end. Depending on the student’s schedule, the exams are scheduled throughout the week. Final exams are usually cumulative and last for one to two hours.

Finals Week

Students typically have one Reading Day after classes end and before exams begin to prepare for finals. Residence halls strictly enforce quiet hours during exam time. Following exams, students must go home for winter break or pack up for the summer. The final exam schedule is posted in the beginning of the semester. Students should check the schedule before making travel arrangements.

Future Events

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<tr>
<td>Parents Weekend</td>
<td>Usually Mid-September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homecoming</td>
<td>Usually Mid-October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Wildcat Weekend</td>
<td>Late January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baccalaureate and Commencement</td>
<td>Mid-May</td>
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The Academic Calendar is available at www.villanova.edu/vpaa/office/calendar.htm

STAYING HEALTHY

If you have raised a child to the age of 18, you are probably on a first-name basis with your pediatrician and orthodontist. You’ll find, however, that sending a child off to college raises different health issues. When your son or daughter lived at home, you made the critical health decisions (should I call the doctor?), but now the young person must make these decisions. In this chapter, we’ll answer some frequently asked questions regarding Villanova’s health care resources.

The Good News

In general, we have a very healthy population of students at Villanova. However, they are bound to get sick now and again, especially when they “burn the candle at both ends.” When they do become ill, we have an excellent Student Health Center with a well-trained staff and easy access to some of the finest doctors and hospitals in the country. As a parent, it is natural to worry about your child’s health, but you should know that your son or daughter is in good hands.

Healthy Lifestyles

We strive to empower our students to make healthy choices, whether it be eating healthy, exercising, or even using alcohol legally and responsibly. When you come to visit, your son or daughter may want to eat off campus at one of the many restaurants in the area. It isn’t a bad idea, however, to eat at least once in one of the student dining halls. The dining halls offer many different meal choices with lots of healthy dishes, and plenty of possibilities for vegetarians or people with more specific diets.
There are ample opportunities for exercise with three fully-equipped weight rooms, two pools, intramural teams, basketball and tennis courts, a baseball field, and some lovely running and biking routes and a 3.1 mile campus trail. For some students, it just takes time to learn how to manage their own health. Services offered to help maintain a healthy lifestyle are personal training sessions at the Davis Center or consultations with a Health Promotion staff member about sleep management, stress management, nutrition, smoking, and alcohol use.

**Office of Health Promotion**

The Office of Health Promotion provides information and resources for students to allow them to make informed choices. Health Promotion addresses topics such as: Nutrition, Exercise, Sleep, Alcohol and other Drugs, Healthy Relationships, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), Sexual Assault, Tobacco Cessation and more.

In addition to the professional staff, Health Promotion trains students, known as POWER Peer Educators, to provide educational programs to their peers in the residence halls, classrooms, and anywhere on campus by request.

If your son or daughter has questions about alcohol and other drugs, is seeking alcohol-free activities, and/or wants to get involved in alcohol and drug abuse prevention, he or she can speak with a Health Promotion staff member or consult [www.villanova.edu/healthpromotion](http://www.villanova.edu/healthpromotion) for new opportunities to get involved through the internship program, POWER peer education, Fun And Sober Times (FAST) student organization and free courses like the Challenge Course and SmokeFree.

**Parent Education**

We encourage parents to take advantage of the opportunities through Health Promotion to learn more about a variety of college student health issues and concerns by participating in the following:

- **AlcoholEdu® for Parents**
  Demo the required alcohol education course that your Villanova student takes prior to their arrival on campus. Use the course as a means to a conversation with your student about making responsible decisions when it comes to alcohol. Please contact healthbytes@villanova.edu for course login instructions.

- **Influencer Series for Parents**
  Listen to a variety of recorded webinar presentations on topics ranging from alcohol to healthy eating to prescription drug use. Webinar presentations are facilitated by expert presenters on Villanova’s campus and provide parents with information and resources to become positive influences on their Villanova student’s health. For more information on this valuable resource, please visit [http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/studentlife/health/promotion/influencer.html](http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/studentlife/health/promotion/influencer.html).

- **Student Health 101 e-magazine for Parents**
  Receive a monthly e-magazine focused on relevant college student health issues, the resources and services available at Villanova to address those issues, and start a conversation with your Villanova student!

**University Counseling Center**

The Holloway Counseling Center provides counseling and psychological services to all students who seek our services. The student may schedule an appointment to discuss normal developmental concerns, such as homesickness, relationship issues, managing emotions, and clarifying personal values. The student may also seek help with anxiety, panic, depression, eating disorders, loss of a loved one, trauma, sexual assault, as well as any other concern. We are able to offer a limited number of sessions to each student, and we find that most students’ needs are met within the session limit. Sometimes students need more extensive counseling, in which case we help the student, in collaboration with parents and health insurance, to find appropriate, affordable off-campus treatment.

**CONFIDENTIALITY—Counseling Center**

Counseling Center contact is completely confidential, as required by law. The release at the Student Health Center does NOT cover the Counseling Center. If you wish to speak to a counselor who has met with your student, please request that your son or daughter sign a release at the Counseling Center, specifically allowing us to speak to you. If we judge your student to be in danger, we will contact you whether or not we have a release – as there is an exception to confidentiality when there is imminent danger to self or others.

**CONSULTATION WITH PARENTS**

We encourage parents to consult us when they are concerned about their student’s emotional and psychological well being. We do NOT need a release to consult with you about your concerns. Often, parents call to consult about students who have never been to the Counseling Center (although confidentiality precludes our confirming whether or not we have seen your student). So we will be revealing nothing we may know from confidential contact with your student. If your student is receiving counseling, we will be sure that you consult with a different psychologist than the one providing counseling to your student (unless, of course, we have a release). We can advise you based on what YOU are observing that is arousing concerns for you. You know your student best, and it is usually parents who first notice when their student is having emotional problems.

**Common topics of consultation are:**

- “How do I get my daughter to go to the Counseling Center;”
- “At what point is weight loss considered an eating disorder;”
- “My student is homesick. Is it best to allow him/her to return home on weekends, or will (s)he adjust more quickly by staying at school?”

Please feel free to consult us by scheduling an appointment to talk on the phone or in person. We look forward to helping you help your student.
The Student Health Center serves all of the functions that family doctors serve for students when they are home. Just as you would expect from your family doctor’s office, our staff of physicians (who are also associated with local hospitals), nurse practitioners, RNs, and other professionals deal with most minor problems, and refer more serious issues either to specialists in the area or to local hospitals. In addition to having excellent training, these professionals also have a lot of experience dealing with the health problems associated with college-age students.

Additional Services:

- **Allergy shots.** The Student Health Center administers allergy shots for students. The student should bring the serum from his/her allergist at home.
- **Women’s health issues.** The Student Health Center addresses most of the normal gynecological issues affecting young women and provides gynecological examinations. In accordance with our Catholic mission and heritage, we do not provide birth control therapy. We work with students who are on birth control for medical reasons.

### Chronic Illnesses

Some of our students suffer from chronic illnesses such as diabetes, Crohn’s disease, seizure disorder or other diseases that are serious, but controlled. If your son or daughter has such an illness, he or she may check in with the Health Center for consultation about local referrals and resources. These illnesses should be disclosed on the student’s health record.

**Prescriptions.** Frequently college students’ prescriptions run out. Usually the Student Health Center doctor or nurse practitioner can write a new prescription (or check with the physician at home). Please call the Student Health Center with questions regarding renewal of prescriptions, as some medications should continue to be prescribed by the provider at home. There is a local pharmacy within walking distance of campus.

### When to Go to the Student Health Center

Students often are not used to managing their own health because parents called the doctor, made the appointments, and generally kept on top of things for them. Managing their own health is a new skill for students, and it sometimes takes them time to learn it. If your son or daughter is ill, he or she should definitely go to the Student Health Center, especially if there is a fever, a stiff neck, a sore throat that lasts for more than a few days or any illness that does not pass quickly. As a general rule, if poor health interferes with the ability to perform the normal daily routine for more than a day or two, the student should probably visit the Student Health Center.

Parents also may call the Student Health Center for advice about health issues, (610) 519-4070.

### Major Emergencies

Because the safety of everyone in our community is so important to us, Villanova has developed contingency plans for various institutional emergencies that we hope will never happen, including medical crises. In a crisis, critical information is posted on the University’s home page, recorded updates are available on the Emergency Hotline — (610) 519-4505, and broadcast e-mails and voicemails are used to communicate with students. In addition, students are encouraged to sign up at www.alert.villanova.edu to receive NOVA Alert, which allows us to send important emergency alerts, notifications and updates to students on their cell phones via text message. Parents who have concerns may also call the Dean of Students Office at (610) 519-4200.

### Common Myths and Misunderstandings

Often, students have questions about the services the Student Health Center provides. Here are some of the more common student misconceptions:

- **I’ll wait to deal with this until I get home.** Some students think that only their own doctors at home can deal with their health issues and they postpone treatment until they are home for vacation. Sometimes this strategy works well, but realistically, Villanova is the student’s home for much of the next four years, and it makes more sense to use the medical resources that are here.
- **I have to see a specialist but I can’t get there without a car.** The University provides transportation for visits to specialists in the area. Check with the Student Health Center or the Public Safety Web site for more information.
- **The Student Health Center can’t deal with serious issues.** The Student Health Center serves as the gateway to a range of medical services and deals directly with many ailments. Referrals are made when necessary.

### Concerns

Most of what we have discussed so far is pretty routine and requires common sense on the part of the student and the parent. However, there are some health problems that are more serious.

### Meningitis

Meningitis is a very serious disease that sometimes infects college students. The typical symptoms are stiff neck, fever, headache and fatigue. Pennsylvania law requires that students living in residence halls have the meningococcal vaccine prior to move-in. Those with medical or religious issues may waive the vaccine.
Parents@villanova.edu

www.parents.villanova.edu

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Emergencies
Emergencies can and do happen. We have a 24-hour emergency medical service called VEMS (Villanova Emergency Medical Service) comprised of students who are trained EMT staff. These students, who are often headed for medical careers, are dedicated to their work. They provide round-the-clock emergency ambulance service with a fully-equipped emergency vehicle. We also have access to on-call paramedics who can be on campus within minutes to deal with more serious issues. In addition, Bryn Mawr Hospital is a short distance away.

Confidentiality — Student Health Center
Students over 18 have the right to confidentiality with regard to their medical records and treatment unless the student signs a waiver allowing parents access to this information. From a medical point of view, the Student Health Center believes it is good practice to respect a student’s confidentiality. When a student needs more than minor medical care, we encourage the student to call the parents. If your son or daughter is sent to the hospital, we usually ask the student to call you first, then we speak on the line later to answer questions. In those rare instances when the student is in serious danger, we will call you regardless of whether the student has signed a waiver.

Financial Issues
The Student Health Center resources are available for all of our students, and the health fee covers most of the services. There is no charge for seeing the doctors or the nurse practitioners, or for routine medical services such as allergy injections.

The Student Health Center charges students for some medications and supplies, as well as any laboratory testing. There is no charge for overnight stays.

Health Insurance
All students are required to have health insurance. The University does offer a student health insurance plan. To waive coverage under this plan, the student must complete a questionnaire and be approved for the waiver. Information is sent home many times throughout the summer to guide the student and family through this process.

In most cases, students maintain coverage through their parent’s plan. You should call your health insurance company to get an idea of what kind of services are included, and what you need to do to get out-of-area services covered. Make sure your son or daughter has a copy of his or her health insurance card before coming to campus and understands how to get a referral and use the prescription plan if applicable.

FINDING A CAREER
For many students (and parents), preparing for a job and career largely motivates the decision to attend college. Because this topic is so important, parents and students give it a lot of thought. In this chapter, we’ll give you a concrete four-year plan for your son or daughter to follow to prepare for a good career. As you’ll see, many of these ideas are also available on the Career Center home page at www.careers.villanova.edu.

Some Myths
Before we get to the four-year career plan, let’s dispel some myths about career planning. Here are the most common misconceptions we hear:

• Myth: Your major is your career. The biggest fallacy that we hear is that what you major in determines what your career will be. In fact, people often end up with careers that are not directly connected to their course of study. We urge students to pick a major that interests them and which they learn and do well, rather than picking a major that they think will get them a job. A student’s academic and co-curricular success, rather than a specific major, impresses most employers.

• Myth: You should know what you are going to do when you arrive at college. Even before students go to college, they encounter a lot of pressure to answer this question: “So what are you going to do after you graduate?” For students going into specialized fields like nursing or engineering, the answer comes very easily. But for most students, it’s alright to remain undecided when arriving at Villanova.
Students often don’t know where their talents and interests lie, and they can explore different options throughout the early college years.

- **Myth: Students should prepare themselves for the “hot careers.”** Many of you might remember the movie “The Graduate” and the scene in which the friend of the main character’s family gives a single word of advice to the young Dustin Hoffman: “Plastics!” People are always advising young students to enter one field or another. But what might be a hot career when someone is a high school senior isn’t necessarily going to be as popular four years down the road.

- **Myth: Starting salary determines lifetime earning potential.** Many parents want their son or daughter not only to have a job, but also to have a job with a high starting salary. It is, of course, reasonable for a parent to expect the child to be self-supporting, but it probably isn’t wise for a parent to define what that support will be. Many of our students are initially drawn to careers in the service sector that don’t pay as highly as their parents’ jobs. Also, there are many fields—such as advertising, media or public relations—in which young people are expected to work at lower starting salaries and to “pay one’s dues” for a few years before realizing their full earning potential.

- **Myth: Liberal arts majors don’t have marketable skills.** Sometimes friends, family and even other students pressure liberal arts students because they don’t understand the relationship between liberal arts and careers. The mere fact that a student is not preparing for a specific job does not mean that the student isn’t prepared for any job. Our liberal arts graduates have received excellent training in a number of skills that employers find very attractive. They do very well in the job market. The Career Center can help students make connections between their skills and talents, and potential career options.

**The Realities**

First, remember that the vast majority of our students find excellent jobs after they leave Villanova and have very satisfying careers. Although it sometimes may be hard to believe, in a few short years your son or daughter is going to acquire credentials that look very appealing to an employer or graduate program. In any given year, about half of our students have either a job or admission to a graduate school by the time they graduate from Villanova. By the December following graduation, over 90% of our students will have found a good placement.

Generally speaking, Villanova students possess a great reputation with employers. As one employer told us, “I like hiring Villanova students because they don’t have their heads in the clouds; you start with good kids, give them a good foundation, and they do well for us in the workplace.” In addition to having good skills, employers tell us that our students work hard and are eager to learn.

Employers typically are looking for a number of things when they interview a college student:

- **A variety of experiences.** Internships, summer jobs, campus activities and international study are extremely important parts of a student’s portfolio. These opportunities can demonstrate important qualities of leadership, as well as experience in working with teams and handling a variety of situations.

- **Success in school.** Most employers see college as the student’s current job and feel that a student who does well in college will do well in employment for them. Indicators of success include grades, success in upper level classes, recommendations from faculty members, and resources or independent studies.

- **Communication skills.** So much of today’s workplace involves all types of communication: teamwork, giving presentations, writing, and speaking in public and on the phone. Good communication skills are always in demand.

- **Technical skills and languages.** Technical skills are important. Some jobs are concerned only that a student can use standard applications (Microsoft Office and Social Media), while others may require more specific abilities. Competence in a second language is increasingly important in a global community.

- **Choices that make sense.** Employers typically are more interested in the “why” rather than the “what.” An employer in a technical field may be very interested in hearing about an art history course that grew out of an interest developed during a student’s semester overseas. A technical course taken merely to fulfill a requirement may impress the same employer much less.

**When Should a Parent Worry?**

- **No momentum.** It is normal for students to be unsure about career opportunities. Parents should not pressure students into premature decisions. It is a concern, however, if the student does not seem to be thinking about careers at all. There should be some kind of forward motion, leading from exploration and testing in the first two years to more concrete planning as juniors and seniors.
**When choices don’t seem to make sense.** Students make a lot of choices in their college years and it is important for parents to respect those choices and to support their son or daughter. As we have said, the student will be working, so it is critical for the student to choose a career path that he or she will find fulfilling.

However, students sometimes appear to be making choices for no apparent reason or for superficial reasons. This is most obvious in the selection of courses. Students may take courses that surprise the parent, but that interest the student. What is disturbing is when the student seems to choose courses for no apparent reason or because the course is scheduled at a convenient time, and the teacher is supposed to be an easy grader.

Likewise, summer employment can vary from internships to baby-sitting. Often the reasons why students are choosing the employment can be equally important as what the students are doing. Employers are looking for choices that make sense for a student and his/her future career path.

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### The Four-Year Plan

#### Freshman Year — Inquiry and Awareness

A student’s first task is to work hard and do well in his or her courses. Establishing good work habits is very important for a first-year student. Students should also establish a personal relationship with one or more faculty members. During their freshman year, students should feel comfortable asking a lot of questions without thinking they have to have answers.

At this time, students also should start to attend career and professional development activities. A number of “Freshman-Friendly” employers come to the Career Fairs. One of the things students need to learn is how to ask questions of adults. It’s never too soon for students to have “information interviews” with friends of the family who have interesting careers, to find out why they chose their career and what educational background is required. Students also should explore part-time job opportunities, either on campus or in the area.

Freshman year is also an important time for getting involved in campus activities. These activities teach important skills such as leadership that academic classes may not fully develop. Summer jobs are always important and, for the freshman year, the content of the job is not as important as in later summers.

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### The Four-Year Plan

#### Sophomore Year — Assessment and Exploration

By sophomore year, the student should have developed strong academic skills and begun the process of selecting a major. It’s also a good time to start thinking about a minor or concentration, although we caution students to be careful about selecting two or more majors, and several minors.

Students should revise their resumes and continue to attend career fairs and programs. Summer employment should demonstrate increased responsibility. Sophomore students also should start to make initial inquiries about international study, a valuable learning experience for any field. By now, the student should also be establishing more responsibility in co-curricular activities.

#### Junior Year — Testing Career Choices

Junior year is a time for students to step outside of the confines of Villanova, if possible. Some students study for a semester in an overseas university. Virtually all fields have become internationalized, and Villanova offers outstanding overseas programs for all majors and colleges. Students finalize their résumés and file them in the Career Center database.

Internships are also important activities for juniors. These can range from formal internships (where the student actually gets academic credit) to part-time or summer jobs in which the student is working in a field of potential interest. Students with interest in graduate or professional school should explore the various requirements and possibilities. This year’s summer job is important and should show an even higher level of responsibility.

#### Senior Year — Making an Impression

Senior year involves a very intense focus on the future. Many students register for on-campus interviews with the hundreds of companies that come to Villanova each year. This is the time to check the Web job listings or apply to graduate school.

By now, students should be working closely with the Career Center to review their résumé, find contacts and do practice interviews.
PAYING FOR IT

Thinking about how you’re going to pay for college generates many fears and uncertainties. One parent told us, “The easy part was getting my daughter into Villanova. The hard part was figuring out how to pay for it.”

In this chapter, we’ll try to give you some general information about some of the costs and expenses, and some strategies for dealing with them.

The Bursar’s Office and Office of Financial Assistance

There are two offices with which you’ll soon become familiar. You already may have had some contact with the Office of Financial Assistance, which helps students and parents in understanding the various sources of aid, eligibility requirements, the application process and financing options available. Students can access their financial aid information through the MyNova. The Financial Assistance Office’s home page www.finaid.villanova.edu is another great resource for parents. The other office you will have contact with is the Bursar’s Office, which manages the cashiering, billing, collection and student accounts. Their Web site is www.bursar.villanova.edu.

Paying the Bills

Your bills are presented to you electronically. Students can access the E-Bill through our Web site www.bursar.villanova.edu. You will be prompted through the sign up process, and you have the ability to register others (typically parents) to view and pay your bill online. You will have the ability to sign up for E-Bill after June 1. The billing for the Fall Semester is prepared the second week in July and should be available online.

“We had to actively seek out what Financial Aid was available to us. It’s just something that you have to do. Unless you’ve been saving for your child all of your life, you need to find out about the alternative financial options and that’s all very stressful! The good thing is that there are a lot of avenues out there available for parents to get their children through school. There are many options, but you need to do the research to find out what is the best financing alternative for your family.”

Parent of Villanova Graduate

We also suggest you register through MyNova for direct deposit of any refunds. Often, payments on a student account come from a variety of sources (scholarships, student loans, payment plans, etc.). With these various sources of payments, it is difficult to calculate to the penny, and often there are excess funds on a student account that create a credit refund. You can choose to have the funds deposited to your checking or savings account, or to the account of a third party (typically a parent).

Information from the Office of Financial Assistance, including deadline reminders, is sent to the student directly. In other words, this information is sent by U.S. Mail to the permanent home address during the summer prior to the student beginning their education at Villanova, and to the Villanova email address after the student enrolls. The tuition bill is always presented electronically to the student and all parties designated by the student.

Both offices occasionally send official notifications to students via e-mail. The Office of Financial Assistance no longer sends paper award notices to students once they begin their enrollment. An e-mail notifying the student the award is complete will be sent to the student, and the student can then view his/her award in MyNova. It’s important that you always communicate with your son or daughter to make sure he or she shares this information with you.

Working

More and more students try to balance the demands of a part-time job, academic coursework, co-curricular activities and socializing with friends. Recent studies have shown that more students have taken part-time jobs as part of their undergraduate experiences. While there are pros and cons to working while in school, the reality is that more students than ever before are working during college.

Many students find jobs on campus through the work-study program. The Office of Financial Assistance also publishes a list of on-campus jobs where students can find position openings. Often, many students find off-campus baby-sitting jobs, which are usually pretty flexible. People from the community looking for employees post signs on campus, or even publicize openings in the Villanovan, the weekly campus newspaper, and in the Career Center Office.
One benefit of working on campus is that most offices realize students are busy during midterm and final exams. These offices are usually flexible with students’ work schedules. It’s important to talk with your son or daughter who will be working. How many hours a week does he or she plan on working? Will the jobs interfere with academic performance? These are questions that only the individual can answer.

Meal Plan
There’s no denying it, food is an important part of the college experience! While new students worry about gaining the freshman 15, the first question we hear from parents is, “So, how’s the food?” Don’t worry, the food is great, and there are a number of places to eat on campus. From dining halls to late-night delivery calls to Campus Corner (a local pizzeria), students quickly find their favorite meals on and around campus.

Resident freshmen are required to have a meal plan during their freshman year. There are a number of plans to choose from, depending on your son’s or daughter’s needs. You can also check out the many options at the Dining Services Web site at www.diningservices.villanova.edu. The meal plan cost is added to the tuition bill. However, those deliveries from off campus are not included! Students can expect to have relatively low food costs, depending on how often they order out or go off campus.

The Wildcard
The Wildcard is the official identification card for Villanova University and is your son’s or daughter’s key to Villanova. It is mandatory that all students submit individual photos to the Wildcard Office by early July in order to receive their Wildcards when they check into their residence hall. Commuter students will receive their Wildcards during orientation.

The Wildcard will give students access to: their residence hall, meal plan and meal points, restricted areas around campus, the library, and athletic events. It is also their Wildcard debit account.

Your Wildcard also accesses your student’s Nova Bucks account. Nova Bucks is a restricted debit account that allows students to enjoy purchasing power all across campus and in the surrounding community without carrying cash or checks. Each time students use their Nova Bucks, the amount of the purchase will automatically be deducted from their account. Students can also use their Wildcard to buy books in the Villanova University bookstore and receive a 5% discount on the total purchase.

For information about adding funds to your student’s Nova Bucks account, and other services offered by the Wildcard, please visit www.villanova.edu/wildcard.

Laundry
Each residential area (with the exceptions of St. Rita’s and Austin Halls) has Wildcard-operated laundry facilities and only accepts Nova Bucks as payment and does not except cash. Students are able to access a laundry program online and through their smart phones that allows them the convenience of seeing what washers and dryers are available in their residence hall laundry room. They can also request an e-mail or text message be sent to them when a machine becomes available and place a 5 minute hold on a machine.

For more information about this service, visit www.villanova.edu/wildcard.

Dry cleaning services are available within walking distance of campus and Nova Bucks can be accepted as payment.

Bank Services/Check Cashing
A Wells Fargo Bank is located on the first floor of Dougherty Hall. There are a number of ATM machines conveniently located on campus in Dougherty, Bartley Hall, the Connelly Center and St. Mary’s Hall. The hours of operation for the branch office in Dougherty are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

“As a student, the last thing on my mind was financial aid. I knew nothing about it and wanted to know nothing about it. Sure I knew I would have school loans, but I really wasn’t thinking about how much I would be paying back when I graduated. I was more concerned about being a freshman and starting my college experience. Looking back, I would encourage parents to sit down and go over the financial aid information with their sons/daughters. It’s very confusing, but it has to be done!”

Villanova Graduate

Telecommunications
Each residence hall room is equipped with a wired data jack. The data jack connects students to the university systems and the Web. This service is included in the room charge for each student. There is also wireless access in the Residence Halls.

There is no University-provided dial tone in any residence hall rooms and most students come to campus with cell phones. Every residence hall floor has an “emergency phone,” which can be used to place on-campus calls. Students can also use these phones to make off-campus calls if they dial a toll free number or use a prepaid calling card.

Telecommunications also provides basic cable television service to resident students. This service is contracted with Comcast Cable and this charge is also included in the room charge. There are over 70 channels from which to choose.
Upcoming Expenses

Once you and your student have taken care of the tuition and financial aid information, there are a number of other costs associated with college. Here are a few of the upcoming expenses that you can anticipate.

Books and School Supplies: The cost of books and school supplies varies depending on your son’s or daughter’s major. The average cost is about $475 per semester.

New students learn how to use the University Shop during Orientation. Many students purchase their books with the Wildcard to receive a 5% discount in the bookstore. Students sometimes are able to purchase used books as well. As parents, you may be anxious to purchase the books before you leave, but often upper-class students recommend that your son or daughter go to class first and then purchase the books.

Credit Cards

It’s incredible how many credit card advertisements are sent to college students. If you ask young adults how many credit card advertisements they receive in a week, they’re sure to tell you it’s too many! Credit cards can be great for students to learn how to budget money and to establish credit, but they can also lead many students into a great deal of debt.

Talk to your son or daughter about budgeting his or her money while at school. Many parents will give their students a credit card for emergency purposes. Make sure your son or daughter realizes that front row seats for a concert do not count as an emergency!

Frequently Asked Questions

When do I get the tuition bill?

The bill for the Fall Semester is electronically presented in mid-July, and is usually due in early August. The bill for the Spring Semester is electronically presented in mid-November and is due in early December. The bills show charges for tuition, room, board and some smaller fees. The bill also should show the financial aid funds, which are deducted from your charges. (Remember: Work Study earnings are never deducted from your child’s account. Their earnings are presented in a paycheck as hours are worked.)

Does Villanova accept credit card payments or offer a payment plan?

Villanova doesn’t accept credit card payments for the student bill. An outside company, Tuition Management Services (TMS), offers a payment plan. TMS will send you information. The monthly payment plan begins on June 1, so parents who are interested in using the payment plan should get the details as soon as possible, rather than waiting for the bill. Information on the payment plan is on the Bursar’s Web site www.bursar.villanova.edu.

Does the invoice need to be paid in full by the due date?

Yes, the balance due should be paid in full by the due date in order to avoid late charges and restrictions on the student’s account. Unpaid bills can result in registration holds for the student and future semesters may require payment of anticipated charges prior to a student being allowed to register.

Does Villanova have financing plans, over and above the financial aid package that was offered?

Even families who do not qualify for financial assistance often want to finance the cost of a Villanova education, and the Office of Financial Assistance can provide additional resources for loans either to the parents or to the student. Please visit the Office of Financial Assistance website at www.finaid.villanova.edu or contact our office at (610) 519-4010 for further information.
If you have a major problem in your financial situation (such as the loss of a job), you should contact the Office of Financial Assistance right away.

Students who receive financial assistance must be making satisfactory academic progress to continue receiving assistance. The satisfactory academic progress policy is found on the Villanova Financial Assistance web site and it outlines the conditions required to keep financial assistance. It also outlines the process for appeal should special circumstances occur.

At this time, University merit grants are not available for returning students. Merit grants are awarded on the basis of high school performance rather than academic record at Villanova. However, every effort is made to assist students in locating outside sources of assistance based on notifications received in the Office of Financial Assistance. Such notices are placed on the Financial Assistance web site www.villanova.edu/enroll/finaid/scholarships_grants/others.htm. There are literally hundreds of scholarships given by a wide variety of organizations. The Office of Financial Assistance encourages students to search for private scholarships listed on the Financial Assistance web site www.finaid.villanova.edu. There is a possibility that receiving an outside scholarship might reduce the Villanova University aid package, but usually getting an outside scholarship helps reduce loans or provides additional resources.

The Office of Financial Assistance posts job openings online. Usually jobs for the Fall Semester are posted the week before school begins. The Job Directory is updated as new jobs become available or as positions become filled. Students contact the departments directly to obtain more information about the position. The name and phone number of the contact person is listed in the Directory.

Students can track their individual financial aid information on MyNova to learn if their application is complete and also to see the award package. Some students share their MyNova username and PIN with their parents, so that the parents can also keep track of the financial assistance application and award.

Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

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<th>How will the student’s work-study be factored into the bill?</th>
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<td>Work-study is part of the financial aid package, but it works a little differently than loans or grants. Loans and grants are taken off the bill. Since we don’t know in advance how much the student will earn at the work-study job, we don’t credit it into the bill. Instead, we pay it directly to the student who uses it, hopefully, for books, supplies and other expenses.</td>
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<th>Will I get the same financial aid package next year?</th>
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<td>You need to reapply for your need-based financial aid each year. All returning students must submit the FAFSA and the College Board PROFILE form. In addition to these forms, student and parent federal tax returns and W-2 forms must be provided. The deadline for submission of all required forms is April 30. Filing deadlines are very important, so make sure you don’t miss the deadlines.</td>
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<td>Villanova’s goal is to maintain a consistent level of financial support each year. The financial aid award should stay the same from year to year, as long as the family’s financial picture stays the same (i.e., similar income and asset levels, same number of family members in the home and same number of children attending college on a full-time undergraduate level). The Office of Financial Assistance may make adjustments based on changes in financial need from one year to the next. Each student has a financial aid counselor in the Office of Financial Assistance. Usually the financial aid process runs so smoothly that most students never have an occasion to talk to the counselor. Students are assigned a counselor alphabetically. Check the website for a list of counselors and their assignments. However, when problems arise, the counselor is the contact point. Students or parents should call the Office of Financial Assistance (with the student’s VU ID number) to talk to their counselor.</td>
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UNIVERSITY AND LOCAL INFORMATION

Have a specific question? Have a comment about the handbook? Not sure who to contact? Send an e-mail to parents@villanova.edu or check out the Parents Website at www.parents.villanova.edu for more information on:

- Shopping Malls/Local Stores
- Area Restaurants
- Transportation to, from and around Villanova
- Hotels

Suggestions for your next visit:

**Shopping**
- Main Street in Manayunk
- Downtown Wayne
- King of Prussia Mall
- Suburban Square, Ardmore
- Liberty Place: 17th Street, Philadelphia
- South Street

**Take a Ride**
- Historic New Hope
- Peddler’s Village
- Chaddsford Winery
- Longwood Gardens
- Brandywine River Museum

**In Philly**
- Philadelphia Zoo
- Academy of Natural Sciences
- Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell
- Constitution Center
- Philadelphia Museum of Art
- Betsy Ross House
- Carpenters’ Hall—1774 Site of the First Continental Congress
- Penn’s Landing

**See a Show**
- Academy of Music
- The Mann Center for the Performing Arts
- Forrest Theatre
- Villanova Theatre—Vasey Hall
- Merriam Theatre
- The Wilma Theatre
- Walnut Street Theatre
- Society Hill Playhouse
- The Philadelphia Orchestra at the Kimmel Center

**Grab Tickets to a Game**
- Phillies Baseball
- Sixers Basketball
- Eagles Football
- Flyers Hockey
THE VILLANOVA TRADITION

St. Augustine (354–430 AD)
The North African-born St. Augustine was one of the most brilliant thinkers of all time, and much of what we do at Villanova is rooted in his thought. Invoking his spirit, we seek to cultivate an educational environment where intellectual understanding is grounded in values; learning develops in the context of community; and many different fields interact through the exploration of interdisciplinary connections.

The Augustinian Order
Since the Order’s founding in 1244, the Augustinians have stressed the importance of education and academic achievement. Augustinian scholars were prominent in many of the early European universities, and they began their educational mission in North America shortly after their arrival in 1796.

Villanova University
The Augustinian Order in Philadelphia founded Villanova University in 1842. They chose St. Thomas of Villanova (1486–1555) as their patron saint, an Augustinian friar who, as Archbishop of Valencia, Spain, was renowned for his brilliant intellectual achievements and dedication to social justice. Today, Villanova is a modern comprehensive Roman Catholic institution that welcomes students and faculty of all faiths and walks of life, and offers a variety of programs through four undergraduate colleges: Liberal Arts and Sciences, School of Business, Engineering and Nursing, as well as its School of Law.

We have tried to make this handbook as accurate and up-to-date as possible, but this handbook is intended as an informal guide rather than a definitive statement of University policies. Villanova is constantly adding new services and refining its policies. For up-to-date and official policies, please consult www.villanova.edu. If you do see inaccuracies or have suggestions for later versions of this handbook, please send them to us at parents@villanova.edu, or to the Office of Student Life, Villanova University, Villanova, PA 19085.