

FAQs about Immigration and Villanova's Campus

Dear faculty colleagues,

I am writing to share information about the University's support of our international community and to answer questions faculty have posed about the potential presence of federal immigration authorities on Villanova's campus. Please note that this information was prepared before the recent events and is not intended to address those ongoing investigations or law enforcement response to emergent situations on campus. Together with our primary educational mission, the safety and security of our University community is our top priority.

We continue to closely monitor matters that affect our international community. The Office of the Provost and Office of General Counsel have prepared the following Frequently Asked Questions regarding campus spaces and concern for international students and scholars:

Q: How is Villanova supporting international students and scholars during this time?

A: The University is committed to working with international students and scholars directly and individually. This includes monitoring the federal Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). Because each person's circumstances are different, the University is not issuing blanket guidelines, which can cause confusion. The Office for International Students and Scholars and Office of the Provost are in contact with community members to provide individual support based on their varying immigration statuses and particular countries of citizenship. Faculty and students should reach out to the [Office for International Students and Scholars](#) as needed.

Q: Who is allowed on Villanova's campus?

A: In accordance with our Augustinian Catholic values, Villanova aims to foster a community that is welcoming and accessible. We maintain an open campus that allows members of the public, such as residents of surrounding neighborhoods and other visitors, to walk through the grounds. We also host many events, including athletic competitions, lectures, and arts performances, that welcome public audiences into University parking structures and buildings. Like the public, external law enforcement officers generally may enter our campus grounds, common areas, and public events.

Q: Are external law enforcement officers permitted to enter dorms, classrooms, laboratories, or faculty offices without a valid warrant?

A: Residence halls are locked, and entry is restricted to individuals with Wildcard access. These areas, as well as laboratories, faculty offices, and classrooms in use for the teaching of Villanova courses, are considered non-public University spaces and typically cannot be entered by external law enforcement officers without a valid judicial warrant. Villanova's Department of Public Safety (DPS) and other authorized University officials may enter these University areas in the ordinary course of their administrative duties.

Q: What should a Villanova community member do if they encounter an outside law enforcement officer on campus? What is appropriate to communicate?

A: If a student, faculty, or staff member is approached on campus by someone identifying as an external law enforcement officer, such as an officer from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) or Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), they should immediately [contact Villanova's DPS](#), the University's official liaison with all law enforcement. The student, faculty, or staff member should calmly inform the external officer that they are contacting DPS pursuant to the University's protocol and, if necessary, explain that they are not an authorized official who can accept service of warrants, provide consent on behalf of the University, provide information about students or employees, or grant access to non-public areas. They may ask the external officers to wait for DPS to arrive. **For the safety of all Villanova community members, under no circumstances should any student, faculty, or staff member try to interfere with or physically obstruct external law enforcement officers.**

Note that immigration officers may be present on campus for reasons other than enforcement actions, such as routine regulatory compliance visits related to the University's international programs and visa holders.

Q: How is Villanova's DPS prepared to handle such a call?

A: The University's DPS is staffed 24/7 to respond promptly and in person to such situations. Additionally, DPS maintains 24/7 contact with the University's legal counsel and will immediately consult with counsel to evaluate the situation. This evaluation includes determining whether the officers are seeking to access public vs. non-public campus areas and the legal validity of warrants or court orders. For these reasons, it is imperative that community members immediately notify DPS so that counsel and other appropriate University officials are involved to ensure that any actions taken comply with the law and the University's policies and procedures.

Following the processes outlined above will ensure legal compliance with requests while protecting the rights, privacy, and safety of Villanova students, faculty, and staff.

Please be assured that we will continue to monitor policy changes and their impact on our campus community. I want to thank Faculty Congress, Villanova's AAUP Executive Committee, and all those who have raised questions and concerns about the wellbeing of our international students and scholars. If you are in need of support, please continue to use the resources available on campus or [reach out to me directly](#).

Very best,
Alice

Alice Dailey, Ph.D.

Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs
Professor of English
Villanova University
(610) 519-5929