

 <b>VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>Title:</b> Contact between Coaches and Academic Administrators/Faculty Members on Academic Matters	
	<b>University Division/Department:</b> Office of Academic Support for Athletics, Office of the Provost, Athletics Department	
<b>Policy Number:</b>	<b>Effective Date :</b> February 20, 2017	<b>Page:</b> 1 of 2

**I. PURPOSE**

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

**II. SCOPE**

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

**III. DEFINITIONS**

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

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

**IV. POLICY STATEMENT**

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

The Office of Academic Support for Athletics, along with Villanova University’s Faculty Athletic Representative, have the responsibility of communicating with academic administrators, faculty members and associated instructional staff on matters directly related to a student-athlete’s academic pursuits. If a coach or coaching staff member has a need to initiate contact with an academic administrator or faculty member directly related to a student-athlete’s academic pursuits, the coach or coaching staff member must communicate through the Office of Academic Support for Athletics.

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It is not permissible for coaches or coaching staff members to initiate contact directly related to a student-athlete's academic pursuits in any form – verbal, written, electronic or otherwise – with Villanova academic administrators (deans, vice presidents, etc.), faculty members or associated instructional staff (advisors, teaching assistants, etc.).

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

**V. RELATED INFORMATION**

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

**VI. HISTORY**

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

**VII. RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY DIVISION/ DEPARTMENT**

Office of the Provost  
 Tolentine Hall, Room 103  
 800 Lancaster Avenue  
 Villanova, PA 19085  
 Phone: 610.519.4520  
 Fax: 610.519.6200

**VIII. RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT**

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