

**From:** [Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning](#)  
**To:** [Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning](#)  
**Subject:** Academic updates for the spring  
**Date:** Thursday, January 4, 2024 6:45:27 AM

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Faculty Colleagues,

Happy 2024. I hope everyone is ready for another amazing and exciting spring semester. We have a few academic pieces of information that we ask you review before the start of classes. As always please reach out with any questions at any time.

### **Artificial Intelligence**

Please refer to the email sent on 1/3/2024 with an update on A.I. at Villanova. Faculty now have access to a secure [Microsoft's Copilot](#) chat application which is built off of Open A.I. Information uploaded to Copilot remains private and is not used to train the base model.

### **Masking**

Villanova has revised the masking policy to be consistent with current health care practices.

Beginning with the Spring 2024 Semester, Villanova will no longer offer the option to require students to wear masks in classes, laboratories, or offices. The policy will continue to allow anyone who wants to wear masks to do so. Everyone is expected to put Community First and be respectful of others' masking decisions. The reasons why individuals may choose to wear a mask can vary widely, so everyone is expected to show respect in these situations.

### **Academic Freedom, Events and Speakers, and Language Use/Non-Stereotypical Communications Policies**

This is a reminder that the Faculty Handbook includes clear policies on Academic Freedom, Events and Speakers, and Language Use/Non-Stereotypical Communications. These policies are intended to support faculty and provide guidance; quick links to all three can be found [here](#). If you have questions about these policies or others that may have bearing on the conduct of faculty activities, please consult the Faculty Handbook or contact Dr. Alice Dailey, Director of Faculty Affairs, or Dr. Craig Wheeland, Senior Vice Provost for Academics.

### **New Procedures for Lecture Capture Classrooms**

Faculty assigned to [Lecture Capture Capable](#) classrooms outside the Law School received an email on 1/2/24 with directions on how to select your classes for automatic recordings. These recordings will remain private in the [MyMediasite](#) library of the lead professor. *This spring these classes will not be automatically recorded, you will need to opt in to the recordings.* To request the recording of your classes, please visit [villanova.edu/recordmyclass](http://villanova.edu/recordmyclass)

### **Learning Management System (LMS) Update**

As we announced earlier, Villanova will be moving to D2L's Brightspace LMS for all credit

courses in the summer of 2026. We are building our Brightspace system and have started a [website](#) that shares timelines and other information.

### **Undergraduate Student Personal Days**

In support of student wellness, the Academic Policy Committee, Council of Deans, Provost, and President have approved student personal days. These days have been added to the official University [attendance policy](#) and apply generally for undergraduate students under specific circumstances. Please make sure you are familiar with this updated policy before the start of the spring semester. Personal days do not excuse students from required work.

### **New Scholarly Communications Librarian**

[Nancy Foasberg](#) can help you and your students with any questions about open access, scholarly publishing, research visibility, copyright, or related issues. Feel free to [contact Nancy](#) for a consultation or a workshop. There are also two events in February as part of [Love Data Week](#), one on [citation metrics](#) and one on [Gale's Digital Scholar Lab](#).

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