

Fall 2024 Academic Updates

Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning <vptl@villanova.edu>

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To: Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning <vptl@villanova.edu>

Faculty Colleagues,

Happy August! I hope the summer was restful, rejuvenating, as well as productive. 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.

Textbook Access Program (non Law, EMBA, Grad Tax, or study abroad)

Students in credit programs are part of the textbook access program which provides students all of their required course materials for a fixed fee. Required materials must be entered into the Follett Discover Tool in Blackboard for your course. Students can opt out of the program through an email they receive near the start of the semester. If you have digital materials for your course, the bookstore will email you with instructions of how to add them to your Blackboard page so students can access them. Details on the program can be found [here](#) and all questions should be addressed to villanovaushop@villanova.edu.

New Name, Same Great Service

The Office of Disability Services (ODS) has changed its name to better represent all that it does. The newly named [Office for Access & Disability Services](#) (ADS) will continue to work with [Learning Support Services](#) (LSS) to provide students with academic accommodations. All students receiving accommodations must be registered with one of these offices (or the Law School). Feel free to use this in your syllabus: "It is the policy of Villanova to make reasonable academic accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. All students who need accommodations should go to Clockwork for Students via myNOVA to complete the Online Intake or to send accommodation letters to professors. Go to the LSS website <http://learningsupportservices.villanova.edu> or the ADS website <https://www1.villanova.edu/university/student-life/ods.html> for registration guidelines and instructions. If you have any questions please contact LSS at 610-519-5176 or learning.support.services@villanova.edu, or ADS at 610-519-3209 or ods@villanova.edu"

New University Proctoring Center

Due to the increased demand for test proctoring for students with testing accommodations, as well as for students who miss class due to NCAA competitions or other University approved absences, LSS has developed a secondary Test Center: The Tolentine Test Center. LSS (Falvey Test Center) and ADS (ADS Test Center) will continue to operate their testing services for students with approved accommodations. All three test proctoring centers will be using [ClockWork](#) and will have access to uploaded tests. For the new Tolentine Test Center students will first need permission from their professors and then need to email tolentine.testcenter@villanova.edu to schedule a test. Check out the [Villanova Test Centers webpage](#) to learn about the differences between the Test Centers.

Artificial Intelligence

Please refer to the email sent on 5/22/2024 with an update on A.I. at Villanova. Previous communications can be found [here](#). All faculty, staff, and students 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. A new task force on A.I. is also being launched to address this emerging technology.

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.

Lecture Capture Classrooms

Faculty assigned to [Lecture Capture Capable](#) classrooms outside the Law School, will receive an email roughly 2 weeks prior to the start of the fall semester 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 fall, classes will not be automatically recorded. You will need to opt in to the recordings.*

Learning Management System (LMS) Update

This summer we had 11 faculty, representing all the Colleges, build courses in Brightspace and test our training materials. Department chairs/program directors can schedule meetings this fall for their faculty to get a demonstration of Brightspace, see training materials, ask questions, and get access to sandboxes. Remember we will be moving to D2L's Brightspace LMS for all credit courses in the summer of 2026. Here is a [website](#) that shares timelines and other information.

Undergraduate Student Personal Days

These days remain unchanged for the fall 2024 semester and are in the University [attendance policy](#). Please make sure you are familiar with this policy before the start of the semester. Personal days do not excuse students from required work. OSPEI ran a survey for faculty and students about these days. The Academic Policy Committee will be reviewing the results and may propose changes to these in the future.

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