

About the University

A Letter from the Vice President for Student Life

Dear Villanovan:

I am pleased to present you with this year's edition of the Villanova University Student Handbook. Historically known as the "Blue Book," it is the official student handbook for Villanova University. We hope it will be a ready reference for information important to you during your time at the University.

By attending Villanova, you become an integral part of an academic community dedicated to the pursuit of truth through peace and justice. These values are inherent in the Judeo-Christian tradition and form the nucleus of the Augustinian philosophy of education which we have highlighted throughout this publication. In order for peace and justice to prevail and truth to be pursued, all members of the University community must know what is expected of them so they may aspire to responsible and constructive membership and be prepared for the obligations and accountability that membership requires. Accordingly, this handbook outlines the regulations for which you will be responsible.

It is a pleasure to welcome you to a new academic year, and it is my prayer that this year and the years ahead will afford you every opportunity to mature intellectually, spiritually, emotionally and socially. The Division of Student Life is eager to facilitate achievement of these goals, and with your help, cooperation, and involvement we will no doubt be successful in that endeavor.

Kathy Byrnes, J.D.
Vice President for Student Life

St. Augustine



FOUNDER OF THE ORDER

*"Late have I loved Thee,
O, Thou Beauty ever ancient, ever new,
Late have I loved Thee."
Saint Augustine of Hippo*

More than sixteen hundred years ago, the great Saint Augustine spoke about the beauty of God in a few words. These words, taken from his Confessions (Book X, 27), have excited the minds and imaginations of millions of people who read or heard them throughout the ages.

The beauty which Augustine knew and loved in all created things – sun and stars, earth and seas, flowers and beasts – old and young – led him to that source of all beauty which Augustine called God.

For many graduates remembering their college days, the Villanova experience may have given them a hint of God's beauty. Friendships begun, joys and sorrows shared, wisdom gained through knowledge – these are all parts of that beauty.

Recognized through the ages for his gigantic intellect, Augustine of Hippo has always been equally celebrated for the strength of his passionate desire for understanding. In mind and in heart, Augustine was well beyond the ordinary.

Augustine's inquiring mind and his burning heart are symbolized on the seal of Villanova University. The seal shows a burning heart pierced by an arrow and resting on a book of sacred Scripture. In his garden at Milan, the command, Tolle Lege, Tolle Lege ("Take and Read, Take and Read"), came to Augustine as a divine message to seek God in the Scriptures, recalling the moment of his conversion. As he read, these words of Scripture pierced his heart with desire for God, the source of all wisdom and beauty. Taken together, his study of Scripture and his heart's desire for its wisdom symbolize Augustine's life-long search to know and love God.

The search for wisdom and beauty continues in the life of Villanova University. It is its own great beauty, ever ancient, ever new. The words of Villanova's motto proclaim this ultimate ideal of a university education: to discover the meaning of life and the beauty of God in the search for Unity, Truth, and Charity.

St. Thomas of Villanova



PATRON OF THE UNIVERSITY

"To give treasure away as Thomas of Villanova did, is the duty of the rich and the privilege of the wise."

Villanova is a word that can stretch its meaning to enfold the unique experience of everyone who knows and loves the university. The name Villanova, meaning "new town" or "new house", symbolizes for its students a new beginning. It is a place where ideas and attitudes greet students each year as they set out on a journey of discovery with new teachers and friends.

Some students may know little about Saint Thomas of Villanova, and many know nothing at all. The typical Villanova student knows that Thomas was the saint who "gave away" his name to the university. Few are aware that he was also a sixteenth-century bishop, Augustinian monk, renowned writer, educator, and scholar.

This ignorance about the patron of Villanova is understandable. It is not important that we know so little about the life and deeds of Saint Thomas of Villanova. What really matters about Saint Thomas is that he was a good and generous man who loved the poor. That spirit of generosity is the same spirit which his name brings to Villanova University.

Pictures of Saint Thomas of Villanova tell that story well. They commonly show the saint of Valencia clutching a bag full of money, treasures, which he holds, not to keep, but to give away. For Thomas of Villanova, wealth had only one purpose. It was something he could share with the poor, with those who were in need.

That is the enduring value of education at Villanova University. Education means gathering the wealth of wisdom and learning, which students possess not for themselves, but to share with one another and, as Saint Thomas of Villanova did, to share with those who need it.

For over 175 years, the Villanova family has shared the adventure of learning. Together, they have gathered a wealth of knowledge-treasures of the mind and golden nuggets of truth.

To give treasure away, as Saint Thomas of Villanova did, is the duty of the rich and the privilege of the wise. Villanovans know that this wealth of learning, like love itself, is a gift which we possess never so much as when we give it away.

Reverend Neil J. McGettigan, O.S.A., D. Min.

University Mission Statement and Community Ideals

Mission Statement

Heritage in Perspective

Villanova University is a Catholic Augustinian community of higher education, committed to excellence and distinction in the discovery, dissemination and application of knowledge. Inspired by the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the University is grounded in the wisdom of the Catholic intellectual tradition and advances a deeper understanding of the relationship between faith and reason. Villanova emphasizes and celebrates the liberal arts and sciences as foundational to all academic programs. The University community welcomes and respects members of all faiths who seek to nurture a concern for the common good and who share an enthusiasm for the challenge of responsible and productive citizenship in order to build a just and peaceful world.

Enduring Commitments:

In pursuit of this mission, we commit ourselves to academic excellence, to our values and traditions, and to our students, alumni and the global community.

To foster academic excellence, we:

- Create a diverse community of scholars, united and dedicated to the highest academic standards;
- Emphasize the liberal arts and sciences as our foundation and foster in our students active engagement, critical thinking, life-long learning and moral reflection;
- Concern ourselves with developing and nurturing the whole person, allowing students, faculty and staff to grow intellectually, emotionally, spiritually, culturally, socially and physically in an environment that supports individual differences and insists that mutual love and respect should animate every aspect of university life;
- Encourage interdisciplinary research, teaching and scholarship;
- Affirm the intrinsic good of learning, contemplation and the search for truth in undergraduate and graduate education;
- Support a curriculum that encourages both a global perspective and an informed respect for the differences among peoples and cultures.

To honor our values and tradition, we:

- Believe that the dialogue between faith and reason drives the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom, and fosters St. Augustine's vision of learning as a community ethos governed by love;
- Seek to understand, enrich and teach the Catholic intellectual tradition through our curricula, scholarship and activities in ways that engage diverse religious, intellectual and cultural traditions in a vigorous and respectful pursuit of truth and wisdom in every area of humanity;
- Provide opportunities for students, faculty and staff to seek guidance from Catholic intellectual and moral traditions, while always welcoming people from all faiths, cultures and traditions to contribute their gifts and talents to our mission;
- Respect and encourage the freedom proposed by St Augustine, which makes civil discussion and inquiry possible and productive;
- Look to the Order of St. Augustine to preserve our Augustinian character, by showing appropriate preference to Augustinians in faculty and staff appointments, and by welcoming their presence and influence in our university community.

To serve our students, alumni and global community, we:

- Encourage students, faculty and staff to engage in service experiences and research, both locally and globally, so they learn from others, provide public service to the community and help create a more sustainable world;
- Commit to the common good, and apply the knowledge and skills of our students and faculty to better the human condition;
- Encourage our students and faculty to pursue virtue by integrating love and knowledge, and by committing themselves to research and education for justice, with a special concern for the poor and compassion for the suffering;
- Respect a worldview that recognizes that all creation is sacred and that fosters responsible stewardship of the environment;
- Include our alumni as an integral part of the Villanova community;
- Value highly our relationship with neighboring communities.

Statement of Community Ideals at Villanova University

Villanova University is a welcoming community, where in the spirit of Augustine, each member greets guests warmly and acknowledges each other as colleagues engaged in mutual service to our students and their families. Respect for all is powerfully affirmed.

Villanova University is an educationally purposeful community which acknowledges that learning should be a primary goal of every activity, each interaction.

Villanova University believes that each member of our community both teaches and learns from every other. It is in this unifying context that Villanovans must approach each other. Teaching and learning in this Catholic-Christian environment are paramount.

Villanova University is a selfless community, a place where individuals acknowledge and accept their responsibility to sacrifice self interest for the common good, and where the universal values of integrity, compassion, and humility guide decision making at every level of the institution.

Villanova University is a just community, a place where the sacredness of each person is honored, where favoritism, bigotry, and discrimination are categorically rejected.

Villanova University is a caring community, a place where the well-being of each member is sensitively supported, where service to others is strongly encouraged.

Villanova University is a celebrative community, which affirms the Catholic, Augustinian charisma and our collegiate tradition.

Adapted from *Campus Life: In Search of Community*, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Steering Committee for Villanova Quality Improvement.

The Crest of the University

The crest of Villanova University is an adaptation of the seal of the Order of St. Augustine. Its design reflects the Catholic heritage of Villanova University, founded by the Friars of Saint Augustine, and dedicated to St. Thomas of Villanova, under the patronage of Our Mother of Good Counsel. The



crest displays five elements with historical significance.

The motto of the University, “Veritas, Unitas, Caritas” or truth, unity, and love are the special virtues to which the University aspires and seeks to inculcate through every endeavor.

The book is symbolic of Augustine’s dedication to learning, and the Book of Scriptures through which Augustine began his conversion to Christianity. In *Confessions*, written by Augustine, he recounts

hearing a voice which instructed him to take up and read, “Tolle lege, tolle lege.” At this invitation, he took up the Book, opened to the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans, Chapter 13, and began his search for self-knowledge through a relationship with Christ.

The flaming heart symbolizes love of both God and neighbor which so characterized the life of Saint Augustine. The cross above the Book is symbolic of Augustine’s conversion and commitment to Christianity. The laurel wreath which frames the central elements is symbolic of the victory that can be gained through the pursuit of knowledge in the context of shared community.

The institution was established in 1842. The official school colors are navy blue and white.

Our Community of Respect: A Personal Pledge

My Pledge:

As a member of a Catholic and Augustinian University, each Villanovan is responsible for creating a community, where mutual love and respect for individual differences guide our community life. Therefore, I pledge:

1. I will create a welcoming, safe, and supportive community where the dignity of each person is valued, respected, and celebrated. I will confront and reject all manifestations of discrimination, including those based on perceived race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, religious or political beliefs, status within or outside the university.
2. I am committed to an educational environment where teaching and learning are at the center of who I am and what I do inside and outside of the classroom. I will listen for understanding, share ideas, raise questions, and express differences of opinion in a respectful manner and without fear of reprisal, insult, or denigration.
3. I will embrace selfless action in the interest of the common good with integrity, compassion and humility guiding my decisions and behavior.
4. I will not remain silent when someone is disrespectful. I will carefully interrupt when and where appropriate to speak out when disrespectful behavior is displayed.
5. I acknowledge that respect, justice, and love define us as a community and are the standards by which I measure the success of my interactions. I will be attentive to uphold the dignity of others in all my communications, whether verbal, written or digital.
6. I will build Community through active participation in campus life and service to others and through the way in which I live with others in residence halls and apartments.
7. I acknowledge that Villanova University’s Catholic and Augustinian identity calls me to integrate these ideals into my daily life. Each of us has an obligation to the community of which we have chosen to be a part, so I will strive to build a true community of spirit and purpose based on mutual respect and caring.

Resources:

Outreach & Development

Office of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
Tolentine Hall, Room 202

610-519-5719

Email: diversity@villanova.edu

<https://www1.villanova.edu/university/diversity-inclusion.html>

The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI) addresses issues of justice equity, diversity and inclusion within the Villanova community. ODEI works with appropriate offices across the University to monitor policies, practices and processes to accomplish this goal. Additionally, ODEI offers a variety of workshops, discussions and lectures for faculty, staff or students that encourage self-reflection, understanding and individual growth.

Office of Intercultural Affairs

Dougherty Hall, Room 214

610-519-4550

Email: interculturalaffairs@villanova.edu

<https://www1.villanova.edu/university/student-life/intercultural-affairs.html>

Maintaining these community ideals is the responsibility of every member of the University community. Through their behavior, students, staff, and faculty should reinforce the ideals expressed in this document and should encourage all members of the community to do likewise. In support of this, the Office for Intercultural Affairs assists the community in providing an inclusive educational experience grounded principles. The Center's task is to promote a respectful environment, intercultural awareness, and community outreach.

Office for Mission & Ministry

Corr Hall and St. Rita Hall

Email: missionandministry@villanova.edu <https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/mission.html>

SafeZone and LGBTQIA+ Resources

VU Pride and OASIS are LGBTQIA+ ally groups on campus where all are welcome. OASIS is a confidential group for the LGBTQ+ student community.

Email: vupride@villanova.edu and oasis@villanova.edu

Safe Zone is a visible presence on campus supporting the LGBTQIA+ community that provides education and training related to LGBTQIA+ topics and issues. Safe Zone trained community members display a Safe Zone logo on their door or backpack showing their support of the LGBTQ community. Faculty, staff, and students across the university are among our Safe Zone members. Additionally, resident assistants, members of VU Pride and Health Promotion's POWER peer educators are known as allies and are Safe Zone-trained.

<https://www1.villanova.edu/content/university/student-life/intercultural-affairs/lgbtqia.html#safezone>

University Counseling Center

Patricia B. and Gary M. Holloway University Counseling Center

Health Services Building

610-519-4050

With a variety of services and resources, the Counseling Center helps students function optimally regarding emotional, academic, social, and psychological issues.

<https://www1.villanova.edu/university/student-life/health-services/counseling-center.html>

Reporting, Accountability and Resolution

When the pledge is not upheld/met, each person in the community is affected and the value of every member is diminished. In situations where adherence to these ideals set forth is in question, the following resources are available and are responsible for resolution of concern and complaints.

Affirmative Action

789 Lancaster Avenue, Suite #260
Villanova, PA 19085
610-519-7900

Email: hr@villanova.edu

Website: <https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/hr/employment/affirmativeaction.html>

The Affirmative Action Office coordinates the University-wide affirmative action and equal employment opportunity efforts for all administration, faculty, and staff. The Associate Vice President of Human Resources monitors compliance with applicable laws and University policies and practices, works with hiring departments to develop creative recruitment strategies, and provides information and technical assistance to departments in fulfilling their affirmative action responsibilities.

Additional responsibilities of this office include diversity training and workshops, sexual harassment training and preparation of the University's comprehensive Affirmative Action Plan.

Department of Public Safety & Resolution

Garey Hall, intersection of Spring Mill Road and County Line Road

Emergency Number: 610-519-4444

Non-Emergency Number: 610-519-5800

During a phone outage: 610-527-3293

Off-Campus Emergency: 911

The Public Safety Department provides a variety of services to the University community. These include proactive and preventative patrol, investigations, parking enforcement, residence hall protection, building/facility security, fire safety/prevention, crime prevention programs, crime prevention surveys and special event security.

Report Climate Concern

<https://www1.villanova.edu/university/diversity-inclusion/report-climate-concern.html>

Sexual Harassment

Title IX Office

Tolentine Hall, Room 204

610-519-8805

Any student, employee or applicant for employment or admission to the University who believes that they have been discriminated against based on sex, in violation of Title IX, or has been a victim of sexual misconduct under the University's Sexual Misconduct Policy, may file a complaint with the Title IX Coordinator or a Deputy Title IX Coordinator:

Ryan Rost, Title IX Coordinator

Email: ryan.rost@villanova.edu

See also Title IX Notice at: <https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/studentlife/health/promotion/sexualassault/resources.html>

Villanova University Internal Student Complaint Reporting Process

Villanova University strives to provide an environment in which student concerns are heard, discussed, and resolved in a manner that fosters respect and growth for all individuals involved. The University offers students multiple avenues, both informal and formal, for raising concerns or complaints, depending upon the nature of the concern or complaint.

<https://www1.villanova.edu/content/dam/villanova/president/Villanova%20University%20Student%20Complaint%20Reporting%20Process%2011-02-2017%20.pdf>

Violations of the Code of Student Conduct

Dean of Students Office
Dougherty Hall, Room 213
610-519-4200

The Dean of Students Office is committed to supporting and assisting students in their overall development and as members of the greater Villanova community.

Student Bill of Rights

Villanova University seeks to reflect the spirit of St. Augustine by cultivating an environment “that supports individual differences and insists that mutual love and respect should animate every aspect of University life” (University Mission Statement). Out of our collective pursuit of this ideal, we acknowledge that students at Villanova University have certain inalienable rights. These rights include:

1. Right to reasonable notification of student responsibilities (i)
2. Right to reasonable personal privacy (ii)
3. Right to basic human dignity and to be respected as an individual
4. Right to review one’s own official University records (iii)
5. Right to peaceably assemble (iv)
6. Right to form a student organization within the University guidelines
7. Right to form a student government within the University guidelines
8. Right to reasonable process as set forth in University guidelines
9. Right to representation in the formulation of the University budget (v)
10. Right to amend this Bill of Rights (vi)

Any student who believes their rights have been violated should notify the Office of the Vice President for Student Life or the Student Government Association, who will provide assistance.

i Students are expected to know the information contained in the Student Handbook (Bluebook), publications of their college, and other material made available to them by the University.

ii A student’s personal privacy should be maintained at all times unless the University has reason to suspect that a dangerous situation exists or that violations of University policy have occurred or are occurring. It is acknowledged that prior permission is not required. This right is not intended to conflict with the policies or procedures set forth by the Office for Residence Life.

iii While a student is guaranteed this right to review their own Official University student records in accordance with the Student Records Policy, the student is not guaranteed the right to copy them.

iv In accordance with the University’s regulations for On-Campus Assemblies and Demonstrations.

v Student’s representation exists through the Student Government Association as members or participants on relevant University committees.

vi All amendments to this Bill of Rights must be passed by a 2/3 vote of the Student Life Committee of the Villanova University Senate before being submitted for approval.