



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

W A S H I N G T O N , D C

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

February 6, 2025

SUBJECT: American University's Commitment to Our Community Amid Immigration Policy Changes

Immigration policies in the United States are undergoing significant changes, and recent executive orders related to enforcement actions and deportations have understandably raised concerns within our community. As always, American University remains committed to fostering a diverse, inclusive, and supportive environment for all students, faculty, and staff. At the same time, we will uphold our responsibilities in a manner consistent with the law, ensuring that our operational and administrative actions align with our mission and values.

Our approach to balancing these principles is guided by a set of commitments that were put in place in 2016. By reaffirming these commitments today, we continue our support for our community and ensure that our campuses are a space where intellectual inquiry and educational pursuits thrive. The following guidance outlines American University's commitment and approach to immigration-related matters:

- Information about application for admission and financial aid will be provided to prospective students, regardless of their immigration status.
- Admitted students will not be asked if they are undocumented, nor will they be asked to provide proof of immigration status.
- Unless authorized by the student, confidential student records of undocumented students will not be released without a warrant, subpoena, court order, or other legal requirement.
- American University police will not question, hold, or arrest AU students on the basis of immigration status alone.
- AUPD will not participate in joint immigration enforcement efforts with other law enforcement officials, unless required by law.
- The Washington College of Law can provide assistance to undocumented students as needed through our Clinical Program.
- If any law enforcement agencies arrive on campus and/or in classrooms or offices, follow these guidelines:
 - Immediately notify the American University Police Department at 202-885-3636.
 - If you are approached, it is reasonable to ask for credentials, an agency name as well as agent/officer names, and their reasons to be there. Record notes of the information. As American University is private property, law enforcement presence and/or action require warrants, subpoenas, or other legal documentation.
 - Do not interfere or obstruct. Tell the agency representative that you have notified or will make notification to the American University Police Department, who will respond and facilitate any of their lawful requests per AU policy.



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

W A S H I N G T O N , D C

We recognize the anxiety that changes in immigration enforcement may cause for members of our community. While American University does not have the authority to prevent lawful actions by the federal government, we remain steadfast in our commitment to treating all individuals with dignity, fairness, and respect. Our role as an institution of higher learning is to provide a safe and supportive environment for all our students, faculty, and staff, and we will continue to do so in a manner that aligns with both our values and our legal obligations. We encourage all members of our community to support one another during this time and to seek out university resources as needed.

We will continue to monitor developments and provide updates as necessary.