

**Guidance on Questions regarding Executive Orders**

*Updated February 6, 2025*

The executive orders as written change daily, face legal challenges, and may or may not remain in effect long-term. Through this period of uncertainty, Montgomery College's commitment to our mission and values will not change – we remain steadfastly focused on welcoming all students and employees into a community that emphasizes belonging; and we are committed to giving every individual what they need to succeed. We are monitoring the situation closely and collaborating with experts in higher education to gain clarity and respond appropriately.

We know that many of you are receiving questions from your teams about the executive orders. The guidance below is meant to help you address questions swiftly and accurately. We will update guidance as necessary. As a reminder, please direct any media inquiries to the Office of Communications, [MCCommunications@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:MCCommunications@montgomerycollege.edu). Our guidelines for social media use by the College community and its departments can be found [here](#). We ask that employees refrain from communicating on behalf of the College regarding these matters.

Please note that we have received questions and concerns about how faculty and staff should respond to immigration enforcement presence on campus. We recommend sending a brief email to your team with the following guidance:

We recognize many members of our community have questions about how to respond if they see immigration enforcement officials (ICE) on campus.

If you observe immigration enforcement officials on campus, call Montgomery College Public Safety. You can dial 7-3333 from any campus phone or 240-567-3333 to reach Public Safety Dispatch for all campuses and locations. Please do not take any additional action until Public Safety arrives.

Thank you for your support of the Montgomery College community.

## Guidance for Responding to Anticipated Questions

### Federal Funding Freeze

- **Overarching message:** We are mindful of the questions, concerns, and confusion among our community in response to the recent executive orders, most recently the federal funding freeze. As of Wednesday, January 29, the memo has been rescinded. We continue to closely monitor the developments and will communicate any changes or updates as they become available to us.
  
- **Should I still report to work/class?**  
Yes, the College is currently operating as usual.
  
- **How will this funding freeze affect students' federal student loans/grants/work study?**  
According to the U.S. Department of Education, a funding freeze would not affect student loans, Pell grants, and federal work study programs. That said, students should consider applying for Maryland state aid as part of their approach to addressing their financial aid needs. The Montgomery College Foundation also offers [emergency aid options](#) for students in need of additional support.
  
- **Due to the funding freeze, my student lost their [food assistance/childcare/spouse's income]. Does Montgomery College have any resources to help them?**  
Montgomery College has several resources to support our students:  
[Basic Needs Assistance](#)  
[Emergency Aid for Students from the MC Foundation](#)  
[Montgomery County Resources](#)

### Immigration/Deportations

- **Overarching message:** We recognize many members of our community are feeling uncertainty, confusion, and fear over the recent executive orders and federal actions, including those aimed at immigration policy and increasing deportations. We remain steadfast in our commitment to ensuring a safe, welcoming environment centered on belonging, support, and empowerment for all students, regardless of immigration status.
  
- **What should I do if immigration enforcement officials show up on campus? Can I stop them from entering my classroom?**  
Call Montgomery College Public Safety. You can dial 7-3333 from any campus phone or 240-567-3333 to reach Public Safety Dispatch for all campuses and locations.

Please note: Montgomery College cannot prohibit federal immigration enforcement officers from entering public areas, such as classrooms and offices.

- **What would happen if immigration enforcement officials ask the College for student information about immigrant/citizenship status?**

Montgomery College protects student records in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Any requests for student information from immigration enforcement officials will result in immediate engagement with our legal team to ensure we are following all federal and state laws.

- **Will you cooperate with ICE if there is a raid on campus?**

If an ICE presence is reported on campus, we will engage our campus safety officials in ensuring the safety of all students, faculty, and staff. We will engage our legal team as needed to ensure we are following state and federal laws.

- **What should I do if ICE shows up at my home?**

We encourage every member of our community to know their rights under the Constitution if approached by immigration enforcement officials. ACLU provides [extensive guidance](#) on their website.

#### **LGBTQ+/Gender Inclusivity**

- **Should I stop using pronouns in my email signature, on Zoom, etc.?**

Montgomery College does not have any policies or guidance related to use of pronouns on email signatures, video meeting platforms, or other communications. Staff and faculty should continue using pronouns if they choose.

- **Will Montgomery College turn over student information about gender identity to government officials if requested?**

Montgomery College will continue to protect student information in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).