

*As of 4/13/25, 2 VCU students and 1 recent VCU graduate have had their visas revoked.
This is unacceptable!*

We are asking students, staff, faculty, and others with community/VCU ties to send an email to demand HANDS OFF OUR STUDENTS. We are demanding VCU provide legal support for any students, faculty, staff, or recent graduates who are facing the possibility of getting their visas revoked. We demand that VCU fight for its students by establishing a sanctuary campus and resisting the fascist attacks nationally and locally. This is only the beginning of democratizing University decision-making. View our set of demands [here](#) and join us in the fight for liberation!

Who to email:

Board of Visitors - bov@vcu.edu

Chelsea Gray, Assistant Secretary and Board Liaison - cgray8@vcu.edu

Michael Rao, President - president@vcu.edu

Fotis Sotiropoulos, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs - provost@vcu.edu

Marlon Levy, Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and CEO of VCU Health -
VCUHealthSVP@vcuhealth.org

Meredith Weiss, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer -
svpfinaadmin@vcu.edu

Email Template

(feel free to make this more personal to you and your opinions, values, and experiences)

To: bov@vcu.edu, cgray8@vcu.edu, president@vcu.edu, provost@vcu.edu,
VCUHealthSVP@vcuhealth.org, svpfinaadmin@vcu.edu

To whom it may concern,

My name is _____ and I am a (student at VCU, faculty member at VCU, staff member at VCU, alum of VCU, a relative of a student, a Richmond community member, etc.). **I am writing to condemn the recent revocation of visas from two VCU students and one VCU graduate.** I am disappointed to find out that VCU is not providing legal support for these students and the alum considering their lives and education in the United States are being uprooted.

Our community members have been stripped of their right to learn and to exist safely at VCU, the institution to which they entrusted their lives and education. I am disturbed by VCU contributing to the pattern of intimidation taking place nationwide where students' visas are being revoked. Whether or not it was because of these individuals' political beliefs or actions (on, or offline), it is clear that revoking visas is meant to instill fear that makes immigrant students feel like anyone, at any time, can be targeted, ultimately discouraging them from engaging in political discussion, despite the university's supposed role in "free" thought.

Last week, Students for Justice in Palestine at VCU held a press conference where they publically re-established their [demands](#), the first of which was to '**Resist Fascist Attacks and Establish VCU as a Sanctuary Campus**'. Had VCU engaged seriously with this effort, there is a possibility that steps could have been taken to provide our students and alumni with the material support and resources that are necessary to navigate this unnerving time.

I am emailing you to reiterate this demand stating that **VCU must not collaborate with ICE** as universities should be *sanctuaries* for learning, not gateways to surveillance and deportation. Additionally, **VCU must provide legal as well as academic support for the affected students and alumni** and publicly commit to protecting all members of the VCU community from state repression (including students, faculty, staff, and alumni). VCU offered counseling services as part of the response to the visa revocations, but this is not enough; **they need legal support.**

Students should not have to fear retaliation for simply existing or exercising free speech. While we may not yet know the official reasons for each visa revocation, we do know the political climate we're in— *this did not happen in a vacuum*. This direct attack on college students nationwide significantly highlights the bridge between the lack of protection on immigrants' rights, the growing violence by the occupation in Palestine, as well as the extent to which the US government is willing to facilitate the genocide of the Palestinian people; **from sending arms to Israel to sending our own students and community members into exile**, there is no limit to the depravity of this system.

These students are the future.

We ask that VCU reject these intimidation tactics being weaponized against students. VCU is being confronted with the choice to be "*UNcommon*" in the way that they've branded themselves to be. The choices are clear: to comply with this national pattern of

authoritarianism, or to forge a path that prioritizes the protection of students by establishing a sanctuary campus.

Sincerely

[Name]