

Supplemental FAQs

How does the new policy differ from our current policy?

The difference is that we are moving away from a cumbersome, manual process. Currently, visitors to the main campus stop, check-in at the gate, leave their names, and have their license tag number written down. The new process will allow for easier and more efficient access to campus for invited guests. Only visitors who have not received a parking pass in advance will be required to show an ID. Invited guests who have received a parking pass in advance will not have to show an ID (see next question).

Is an invited or pre-registered guest (such as a guest speaker for a class or a registered participant in a Meeman Center class) required to show their ID at the gate?

No. Anyone who has been invited to campus for any reason or preregistered for an event on campus can receive a parking pass via email in advance of their visit. The faculty or staff member who wants to invite someone to campus simply needs to send the name of the visitor, their license plate number, and the date of their visit to security@rhodes.edu at least 48 hours in advance of their visit. Campus Safety will send a PDF of a parking pass to the faculty or staff member, who can forward it to the guest. If the visitor displays the visitor pass on their dash, they will bypass the visitor check-in process and be waved through by the Campus Safety officer. The visitor's ID will not be checked.

How will we handle undocumented visitors to campus?

If an undocumented person is a pre-registered guest to campus, they would follow the pre-registered guest process outlined above. They would not need to show an ID.

If an undocumented person is a guest of the College but has not pre-registered for a campus visit, the College will make every effort to work with whatever identification they have to allow entry to campus. After we have exhausted all means to identify or verify a person without any identification, we can manually enter their information, name, date of birth, destination and add a note of who they are visiting then print a visitor badge.

In the event that an ID check does need to occur, what databases will be searched?

In terms of government databases, the Raptor system is only integrated with the Sex Offender Registry. The system has the ability to be integrated with other databases, but the College has opted not to purchase access to any of those other databases. No visitor information will be provided to the Department of Homeland Security or any other government agency. And because IDs will not be checked for invited pre-registered guests, no identification data will be collected by Rhodes other than the name of the guest, their license plate number, and the person they are visiting.

In addition, the College maintains an internal Trespass List, which will be integrated with the Raptor system. Any person on the Trespass List has received official communication from the College that they are not permitted to enter campus. This distinction is reserved for individuals who have exhibited serious threatening or harassing behavior toward a member of our community or have committed a crime on our campus. This is currently a manual process. The new system allows us to automate the process.

What happens if the system flags someone from the Sex Offender Registry or Trespass List?

They will not be permitted to enter campus.

Why does the College need this system?

Student safety is paramount. We are a residential campus – our students live here, and we require them to do so for three years. We have students residing on campus 365 days per year. The functions that have primary responsibility for student safety, Campus Safety and Student Life, operate 24/7/365. We routinely have questions and concerns raised by students, their parents, parents of prospective students, staff, and alumni about safety and whether we are doing enough to secure our campus. Parents and students have expressed support for enhanced campus access measures.

The goal of the new check-in process is to automate our processes and have better and more easily accessible information to identify known bad actors (those on our trespass list and the Sex Offender Registry). We also need to know who is on our campus in the event of a campus emergency for evacuation or accounting for all persons on our campus premises. The aim is not to deny access to the general public. This system ensures that invited guests with parking passes move through quickly, but uninvited guests will have their ID scanned into the Raptor system and visitor badge printed for them to wear throughout their visit.

What about events in McNeill Hall that are open to the public?

We are meeting with faculty who regularly host such events to hear their feedback, adjust the policy as necessary, and ensure we collectively do everything we can to have successful events.

What about West Campus visitors?

Again, invited guests to West Campus can receive a parking pass in advance, just like visitors to the main campus. We want all visiting guests to have parking passes, so that their vehicles are not confused with those of students who have not properly registered their vehicles or paid their parking permit fee.

What is the faculty's role in setting policy regarding campus safety?

Faculty have no formal role in determining campus safety policy. According to [Section Two of the Faculty Handbook](#), campus safety is an area “where the Faculty serve in a consultative or advisory role but where primary expertise and decision-making responsibility remain with the administration and/or Board of Trustees.”

When is the new visitor check-in process going live?

It will go into effect on Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

If you have additional questions about this new process, please contact me or LA Webb. You can also reach out to a member of the [Campus Safety Advisory Board](#).