FAITH ENGAGING CULTURE

We are a multidisciplinary academic faculty within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Villanova University, the oldest and largest Roman Catholic university in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Rooted in an Augustinian heritage we investigate Christian and non-Christian religious practices, beliefs, and traditions as we explore faith, reason, and culture in their many, textured relationships. Moreover, we emphasize the study of Catholicism in dialogue with other Christian traditions and world religions. With this endeavor, the Department serves as a resource for the University community, the extended local community, the national and global communities, and the Church.

We are committed to the Augustinian vision of “understanding what we believe” (On Free Choice of the Will 1.4). Just as Augustine engaged the cultural, intellectual, and religious traditions of his time to elucidate the nature of faith, we seek “the wisdom of truth” (veritas) in dialogue with learners different from ourselves (unitas) and with care for the world and its peoples (caritas). In so doing, we pursue a distinctively Augustinian way of knowing and loving God and neighbor that is holistic, integrative, and transformational.

We involve students of every religion, culture, and worldview in examining the enduring quest of faith seeking understanding. This quest is Christianity’s gift to a liberal arts education and a cornerstone of the Villanova experience. Furthermore, we regard religious, theological, and cultural literacy as the mark of a person educated in the Augustinian tradition and an indispensable resource for transforming global society into one enlightened by compassion, justice, and peace.

Our diverse programs endeavor to be a place where the people of God can do their thinking and engage their traditions in community. We draw upon the legacy of St. Augustine whose pursuit of wisdom inspires our own quest for knowledge in open, rational, responsible and mutually respectful interaction of points of view.

Our students value the sacredness of all creation; pursue academic excellence; are committed to the gospel values of service, stewardship for the common good, and the “preferential option for the poor;” are wise critics of the society in which they live; and sustain a social consciousness that transcends economic barriers and questions of race, gender and creed.
PROGRAMS FOR THE 3RD MILLENNIUM

Our programs use building blocks of foundational courses, concentrations, and electives that permit students to move from one program to another based on evolving interests. We offer day and evening classes, making it easier to juggle coursework, job, and home life.

Certificates (15-18 Credit Hours).
We offer certificates in Theological Studies; Interdisciplinary Theological Inquiry; and Pastoral Ministry. Complete a certificate on its own or in conjunction with a master’s degree within or outside of our department.

Master of Arts (30 Credit Hours).
Our basic master’s program. You may develop a concentration in one area of study.

Joint M.A./Certificate in Pastoral Ministry (42 Credit Hours).
This innovative program prepares for lay ministerial leadership. It broadens understanding of the dynamic interaction between theology and ministry.

Other Joint Programs (39-48 Credit Hours).
You may combine programs across disciplines, for example, the M.A. in Theology with a Certificate in History, Non-profit Management, Education, or Gender and Women’s Studies, Peace and Justice Studies. We also offer joint master’s degrees with History, English, Church Management, and Public Administration.

Master of Theological Studies (48 Credit Hours).
Our most advanced master’s program. Students pursue their theological interests through additional course work and prepare for further academic studies.

Doctorate (Ph.D.) in Theology.
Like all our programs, the doctorate addresses faith and culture, relating faith, reason and culture for our time as Augustine did in his. In this way, it embodies the Augustinian tradition, and by requiring specialization in two theological fields, it confers not only a breadth of intellectual inquiry, but a distinctiveness to Villanova’s program.

WHY VILLANOVA?

Quality Education. Our graduates are directors of religious education, campus ministers, primary/secondary school teachers, chaplains, youth directors. They also study in leading doctoral programs in the U.S. and in Europe.

Affordable Education. Theology students receive special discounted tuition (25%). Augustinian Volunteers receive 50% reduced tuition rates; primary/secondary school teachers, diocesan educators, ministers, and administrators receive discounts of 20%-40%. We also offer assistantships and internships.

Research Funding. Students who present their research are eligible for summer research fellowships and conference travel funding.

Committed Students. We welcome men and women from all walks of life, with diverse educational and professional backgrounds and equally diverse professional goals.

Small Classes. Our small seminars (average size of 10 students) allow everyone to network easily with peers and faculty.

Spiritual Growth. Our students create ample opportunity to nourish their spiritual lives and integrate their faith into the academic, social, and liturgical environment of Villanova.

Convenient Location. Our tranquil campus sits on 254 acres in the heart of historic Main Line, a beautiful suburb 12 miles west of Philadelphia. All the city has to offer - museums, libraries, architecture, restaurants, concerts, performing arts—is easily accessible by public transportation.

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