Augustinian Heritage and Catholic Mission

Experience a rich tradition that emphasizes the role of learning in its relationship to the discovery of God. Studying theology at Villanova means experiencing this relationship at an Augustinian university, the oldest and largest Roman Catholic university in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Because Catholic universities traditionally endeavor to be a place of discovery through learning and a place where the Church can do its thinking and engage its own traditions, the academic programs have been developed to help you:
• contemplate the Augustinian vision that all human wisdom is ultimately in harmony with divine wisdom;
• practice theology as “faith seeking understanding,” that is, as a critical reflection upon the life of faith;
• conduct this reflection by investigating the resources of the Christian theological tradition in light of the questions raised by contemporary culture and the continuing challenges of human life; and
• respond to Augustine’s call to the restless search for wisdom by responding to a relationship offered from beyond the boundaries of human existence.

In keeping with Villanova’s Augustinian heritage, you will experience a Christian intellectual and moral environment. The relationships between faculty and students 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.

Theology program is a success when students:
• value the sacredness of all creation;
• emphasize the moral and intellectual qualities of learning;
• pursue academic and moral 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.

Flexible Graduate Programs

The graduate program in Theology has simple, transparent structures to allow you to design your own course of study. Courses are offered in five areas of study: Systematic Theology, Biblical Studies, Historical Studies and Historical Theology, Christian Ethics and Spirituality.

You may combine programs based on your needs. For example, you may complete the MA with one or two certificates, you may take courses in other departments at Villanova, and you may transfer up to six graduate credits from other institutions.

Master of Arts in Theology

Combined Degree/Certificate Programs

The large number and diversity of Villanova’s graduate programs enable students to combine a degree in one discipline with a second degree or a certificate in another discipline, and count certain courses for both. The following combinations are of particular relevance to Theology students:
• MA in Theology with Certificate in History
• MA in Theology with Certificate in Non-profit Management
• MA in Theology with Certificate in Education
• MA in Theology with Certificate in Pastoral Ministry

Graduate Certificates

You may complete a graduate certificate on its own, in conjunction with the master’s degree, or if you already have a master’s degree. Graduate certificates are completed with five or six courses depending on the certificate. Certificates are offered in the following areas:
• Theological Studies
• Interdisciplinary Theological Inquiry
• Pastoral Ministry

Post-Master’s Certificates in:
• Advanced Theological Studies
• Advanced Interdisciplinary Theological Inquiry
Pastoral Ministry
Villanova is keenly aware of students’ desires to nourish their spiritual lives and encourages all to integrate faith into the academic, social and cultural environment of the University. Students will find ample opportunity for spiritual growth and liturgical expression on the campus. Reflecting traditions of Roman Catholic and Augustinian spirituality, campus ministry engages in every aspect of University life through prayer, liturgy, community service and pastoral care.

Why Villanova?
Quality Education: Villanova has been ranked by U.S. News & World Report as the Best Regional University in the North for two decades.

Small Classes and Outstanding Faculty: A distinguished graduate faculty dedicated to excellence in teaching and an active scholarly life make Villanova an ideal place to pursue graduate education. Engage in theological study in small classes with a faculty deeply committed to shaping the various theological disciplines by publishing books and articles, and by presenting cutting-edge papers at national and international conferences.

STUDY WITH OUR DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

Christopher Barnett, PhD
University of Oxford, UK
History of Christian Spirituality

Gerald Beyer, PhD
Boston College
Christian Ethics, Catholic Social Thought, Economic Ethics, Labor/Human Rights

Timothy M. Brunk, PhD
Marquette University
Systematic Theology (Sacraments)

Francis J. Caponi, OSA, ThD
Harvard University
Systematic Theology

Paul Danove, PhD
Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley
New Testament, Narrative, Rhetorical, and Linguistic Studies

Edmund J. Dobbin, OSA, STD
University of Louvain, Belgium
Systematic Theology

Allan D. Fitzgerald, OSA, PhD
Institut Catholique, Paris
Director, The Augustinian Institute
Systematic Theology, Augustinian Studies

Anthony J. Godzieba, PhD
The Catholic University of America
Fundamental and Systematic Theology, Philosophy of Religion

Mark Graham, PhD
Boston College
Moral Theology

Kathleen Grimes, PhD
Boston College
Christian Ethics

Judith M. Hadley, PhD
Cambridge University
Hebrew Bible, Near Eastern Archaeology

Kevin L. Hughes, PhD
University of Chicago
Medieval and Early Modern Theology and Culture; Historical Theology

Shams C. Inati, PhD
State University of New York at Buffalo
Islamic Thought

Stefanie Knauss, ThD
University of Graz, Austria
Theology and Culture, Constructive Theology, Gender Studies and Theology

Martin Laird, OSA, PhD
University of London
Early Christianity, Patristics

Joseph Loya, OSA, PhD
Fordham University
Eastern Christianity

Jessica M. Murdoch, PhD
Fordham University
Fundamental and Systematic Theology

Bernard P. Prusak, JCD
Pontifical Lateran University
Historical and Systematic Theology, Ecclesiology

Michael J. Scanlon, OSA, STD
The Catholic University of America
Josephine C. Connelly Chair of Christian Theology, Foundational and Systematic Theology

Rachel J. Smith, PhD
Harvard University
Medieval Theology and Literature, History of Spirituality, Religion and Gender

Peter Spitaler, ThD
Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich
New Testament, Pauline Studies

Suzanne C. Toton, EdD
Columbia University Teachers College
Social Ethics, Development Ethics, Justice Education

Rodger Van Allen, PhD
Temple University
Catholicism in the US, Theology of Christian Living

Fayette Veverka, EdD
Columbia University Teachers College
Religion and Education, U.S. Religious History

Carey E. Walsh, PhD
Harvard University
Hebrew Bible, Wisdom Literature

Jonathan Yates, PhD
Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium
Augustine and Augustinianism

Excellent Placement Record: Our graduates have been admitted to doctoral programs, including Boston College; The Catholic University of America; DePaul University; Duquesne University; University of Edinburgh; Emory University; Fordham University; Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley; University of Louvain, Belgium; Loyola University; Lutheran Theological Seminary; Marquette University; McMaster University, Canada; University of Notre Dame; University of Oxford, UK; Princeton Theological Seminary; Temple University; Trinity College; and Villanova University.

Affordable Graduate Education: Villanova’s graduate tuition rates are competitive and financial aid is available. All diocesan educators, ministers and administrators receive special discounted tuition in Theology courses. In addition, all primary- and secondary-school teachers receive reduced tuition rates in graduate liberal arts and sciences courses.

For more information:
610.519.4730 • graduate.theology@villanova.edu
theology.villanova.edu

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