Overview: Faith and Learning Scholars are Villanova undergraduates, who see unique advantages to studying in an environment where each member of the community is free to express a faith tradition and explore how faith informs learning.

Faith and Learning Scholars are sponsored by the Center for Faith and Learning, which structures conversation among student scholars and faculty mentors. Through opportunities sponsored by the Center, scholars and mentors together will:

- Discuss what it means to be engaged in a search for truth and dedicated to the intellectual life
- Explore ways to balance contemplation and activity
- Consider one’s future potential for service to society, the academy and the Church
- Pursue intellectual and personal growth through acquisition of knowledge and wisdom

Selection Criteria: Students may apply to be a Faith and Learning Scholar or may be nominated by a member of the Villanova University community. Eligible students must:

- Have Sophomore class status
- Possess and maintain a minimum GPA of 3.25
- Demonstrate interest in faith-informed scholarship
- Engage in an application process and interview in the spring of their First Year.

Program Design -- Augustinian-styled dinner dialogues: The Center for Faith and Learning will provide structure and oversight for a variety of scholar-mentor interactions. At a minimum, five meetings are planned for the first year.

- Students will be assigned a faculty mentor, and attend an Orientation together prior to the first dinner-dialogue.
- Student scholars and faculty mentors meet twice a semester for dinner and dialogue to discuss assigned reading relevant to the nature, purposes, and challenges of faith and learning.
- Students will be offered the opportunity to continue in the program and have a mentor for three years.

Program Aspiration

Villanova University seeks to prepare the next generation of young adults to integrate faith and learning into their emerging adult life. In addition, the Center for Faith and Learning hopes to encourage young scholars to consider advanced degrees and life in the academy as a future vocation.

Application Process and Program Commitment: Please complete and submit the following application by the deadline. You will be invited to sign a commitment to the Faith and Learning Scholars community. It is an extraordinarily rewarding program that requires significant commitment from both its scholars and mentors. You will be expected to attend and contribute to learning in a community of scholars. Activities include two dinner/discussion meetings per semester (four per year), and an Orientation event when you join the program.

Shortly after the deadline, an interview visit time will be set for you. The interview visit is an opportunity for us to meet and discuss your interest in being a Faith and Learning Scholar, and for us to get to know each other. At this time a headshot photograph of you will be taken for the Program directory.
Please provide the following, using separate sheets of paper as needed:

II. Faith and Learning Scholars Essay: Please respond to the following prompt (500-750 words):

Some believe that smart people outgrow God, that genuine faith is incompatible with a rigorous life of the mind. Yet, through the ages one can point to countless persons of faith who exemplified extraordinary intellectual accomplishment and who pursued a thoughtful life of the mind not despite—but rather because of—their faith. What relationship do you see between faith and the life of the mind? How does your chosen course of study at Villanova reflect your understanding of this relationship?

III. Unofficial transcript: This may be obtained in Novasis, at “Student and Financial Aid” tab, click “Student Records,” then “Academic Transcript”, click “submit”. Highlight beginning at the words “Display Transcript” and it will highlight your name and Banner ID too. Print and attach.

IV. Names of two references, their addresses, and phone numbers

V. A list of all the extracurricular activities you will be involved in this year

VI. A list of activities or honors that relate to faith and learning (optional)

VII. A current photograph of yourself

We highly encourage you to submit the completed application immediately (ASAP) as we will schedule interviews and begin to form the community right away. Please know the number of scholars we are able to include is limited to 30, so apply as soon as possible!

Final deadline to submit applications is no later than Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at Noon. Applications may be dropped off at Room 4, Corr Hall or emailed as a PDF attachment to:

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Center for Faith and Learning
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