

# Job Search FAQs

Villanova University was founded in 1842 by the Order of Saint Augustine. To this day, Villanova's Augustinian Catholic intellectual tradition is the cornerstone of an academic community in which students learn to think critically, act compassionately and succeed while serving others. Villanova prepares students to become ethical leaders who create positive change everywhere life takes them.

The University's rigorous academic experience, rooted in the liberal arts, forms an environment in which students and professors are partners in learning. The Villanova community is dedicated to providing a personalized experience that fosters every student's intellectual and spiritual well-being. As part of their education, students are encouraged to enrich their own lives by working for those in need. Through academic and service programs, students use their knowledge, skills and compassion to better the world around them.

There are 11,000 undergraduate, graduate and law students in the University's six colleges—the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Villanova School of Business, the College of Engineering, the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, the College of Professional Studies and the Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law. These colleges are the setting for an experience that develops both the heart and the mind, and creates the atmosphere where students are called to ignite change. Villanova University is located in a suburban community 12 miles west of Philadelphia, Pa, conveniently accessible by commuter train, bus and car.

## **How does Villanova support active research?**

The department provides support for research by faculty members, M.S. thesis students, and undergraduates. New tenure-track faculty members receive a generous startup package to jump-start their research program, plus additional funds to renovate their lab to their specific needs. Tenure-track faculty members typically move into about 600 square feet of renovated lab space, with access to common rooms featuring modern equipment.

In addition, several internal grant opportunities through the college and university exist to support research by faculty and students alike. Faculty and students have an excellent record of success in securing external grants in support of their research, and such external funding can be used to receive teaching release. Although faculty members are expected to seek external funding, the department and college support research activity even for faculty members who lack external funding. For example, all faculty members receive a pre-tenure sabbatical designed to encourage productivity and success in promotion and tenure.

## **What will be the teaching responsibilities in the new position?**

Faculty members are expected to teach undergraduate and graduate courses in their area of specialty, as well as contribute to other departmental courses in a way that fosters connections across the discipline and the Villanova community.

## **What support staff does the Department have?**

Our staff is very important to a smoothly operating department. We have lab coordinators for introductory and upper-division courses, an equipment and supplies manager, a staffed Imaging Center (with a variety of equipment including a confocal microscope, transmission and scanning electron microscopes, a laser dissection microscope, and fluorescent microscopes), and administrative support staff. We also have a fully stocked supply room and common-use equipment (e.g., everything in the imaging center) that can be accessed 24/7 free of charge.

### **How does the Department interact with other science departments at Villanova?**

The Department of Biology is located in the Mendel Science Center, which also houses the Departments of Chemistry, Physics, Computing Sciences, Astrophysics & Planetary Sciences, and Geography & the Environment. Interdisciplinary programs in Biochemistry and Cognitive & Behavioral Neuroscience with strong connections to biology have been established offering additional opportunities for collaboration. We also interact with a variety of faculty members in the College of Engineering, including those involved in cellular engineering (e.g., associated with NovaCell) and materials science/biomimicry. Finally, the department offers several service courses for students in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, the College of Nursing, the Villanova School of Business, and the College of Professional Studies.

### **Does the Department offer a Ph.D. degree?**

At this time, no. In conjunction with Villanova's emphasis on undergraduate education, we offer outstanding Masters Programs leading to the M.S. (with thesis) or M.A. degree. We support full-time graduate students with teaching assistantships and research fellowships. Students from local biotech firms round out the graduate student population. Many recent graduates have gone on to top-tier doctoral programs. Additionally, we do have both internally- and externally-funded postdocs mentored by our faculty.

### **How does the Department of Biology and Villanova support diversity, equity and inclusion?**

The Department of Biology is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in our department and, more broadly, our discipline. We regard diversity to include, but not be limited to, race, ethnicity, national origin, gender identity and expression, first generation status, sexual orientation, age, physical ability, mental health, language/linguistic ability, military status, immigration status, socioeconomic status, religious beliefs, political beliefs, or other ideologies.

We believe that:

- a culture of respect and acceptance for all catalyzes the discovery of new knowledge by bringing different perspectives to the teaching and research enterprises, for only in these open environments can learning and discovery take place,
- in an equity-conscious community, every member must be supported in their development, advancement, and success, without bias,

- multiple backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences, inherently linked to the composition of our academic community, enrich the teaching, learning, and service environments for faculty, staff, and students alike,
- the relevance and ingenuity of biological science depend on greater inclusion of underrepresented groups,
- the application of biological science to promote the common good, and the communication of scientific information to the general public, require a diversity within our scientific community that mirrors the diversity of the world in which we live, and
- it is imperative to create an inclusive classroom and work environment that has space for diverse voices to bring their ideas to the table, and to express disagreement, in open respectful dialogues that include listening as well as speaking.

### **What other institutions in the area offer potential for collaboration?**

Many opportunities exist for collaboration. There are five medical schools in the Philadelphia area, and numerous colleges and universities. There are several research institutes, including Wistar, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Lankenau Institute for Medical Research, the Coriell Institute, and USDA research labs. In addition, the area is home to many pharmaceutical and biotechnology firms.

### **What benefits does Villanova provide?**

Tenure-track faculty members are eligible for University-subsidized health insurance and dental coverage, retirement programs (TIAA/CREF and/or Vanguard), tuition remission for family members, tuition exchange with selected institutions, and other benefits. Details are available through [human resources](#).

### **Any other Questions?**

Feel free to reach out to the Chairperson of the Department with any other questions you may have. Dr. Dennis Wykoff can be reached at [dennis.wykoff@villanova.edu](mailto:dennis.wykoff@villanova.edu).