DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN PHILOSOPHY

Villanova University’s Doctoral Program in Philosophy is known for its depth in research and scholarship of the History of Philosophy and Continental Philosophy, while bringing important perspectives from the analytic tradition. The program’s faculty are internationally known experts in the areas of metaphysics and epistemology, social and political philosophy, and ethics.

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

The health of the profession of philosophy depends on greater inclusion of underrepresented groups and approaches in the discipline. The Villanova doctoral program plays an important role in cultivating a diverse and inclusive philosophical community. The department strives to recruit and sustain a diverse graduate student body and aid all students to develop as thinkers who practice philosophy with a commitment to these values of diversity and inclusiveness.

FUNDING

The doctoral program offers six years of guaranteed funding, including graduate assistantships with tuition remission and a stipend for the first four years, and assured teaching for two more years.

PEDAGOGY PROGRAM

Developing as an educator is an integral part of graduate work in philosophy and a special strength of our department. Graduate assistantships involve students in a progressive series of assignments, culminating in the assumption of full teaching responsibilities in the fifth year. The Villanova Institute for Teaching and Learning (VITAL) is a resource for graduate assistants; it offers workshops, consultations, and services such as course evaluation and class videotaping.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Various research opportunities are available to students in the program. Students are eligible for up to two conference travel stipends per academic year to present their work ($1,000 for North American conferences, $1,200 for international conferences). During the summers, students can apply once for funding to participate in the Collegium Phaenomenologicum in Italy. They are also able to apply for the Graduate Summer Research Fellowship ($3,000), which is granted by Graduate Studies on a competitive basis. Students who have defended their proposal have access to additional departmental research funds.
EXAMS
The doctoral program requires two major exams. The first, called the MA Qualifying Portfolio and Oral Exam, requires that no later than one week before the fall semester of the third year, full time students must present the director of graduate studies a portfolio of four papers submitted to satisfy the requirements for seminars taken in their normal course of study in the previous four semesters. The second, called the Preliminary Exam, is given to students who have completed all coursework and fulfilled the language requirement. The Preliminary Exam tests knowledge of a central figure, question or theme in philosophy, as well as the relevant historical context for dissertation work.

DISSERTATION
Students who pass the Preliminary Exam qualify to begin writing a dissertation. This begins with the defense of a proposal to the department and ends with a public defense of the dissertation.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS
Students must pass an examination in one natural language other than English related to the student’s scholarly interests. The exam must be taken before the end of the second year of study. A number of our students have been awarded DAAD fellowships and other grants.

GRADUATE FACULTY
Farshid Baghai, PhD
University of Toronto, ’13
Sarah Vaughan Brakman, PhD
Rice University, ’94
Walter A. Brogan, PhD
Duquesne University, ’81
John M. Carvalho, PhD
Duquesne University, ’87
William J. Desmond, PhD
Pennsylvania State University, ’78
John A. Doody, PhD
Notre Dame University, ’74

Julie R. Klein, PhD
Vanderbilt University, ’96
Director of Graduate Studies in Philosophy
Peter Koch, PhD
SUNY at Buffalo, ’16
Emily Kress, PhD
Yale University, ’18
Stephen Napier, PhD
Saint Louis University ’04
Délia Popa, PhD
University of Nice, ’07
Gabriel Rockhill, PhD
Emory University, ’06
University of Paris VIII, ’05
Sally J. Scholz, PhD
Purdue University, ’93
Department Chair
Georg Theiner, PhD
Indiana University, Bloomington ’08
Yannik Thiern, PhD
University of California, Berkeley, ’09
University of Tübingen, ’04
James R. Wetzell, PhD
Columbia University, ’90

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY
“The students in our department are more than colleagues. We are friends. Many other PhD programs are known for their competitive culture. We aim to cultivate a supporting community. We’re invested in one another’s success both at Villanova and in our future careers.”

- Jasmine Wallace, current doctoral student

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY:
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VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY