



# GRADUATE STUDIES

## Philosophy



### 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

Norman Ajari, PhD  
*Universite Toulouse – Jean-Jaures*

Farshid Baghai, PhD  
*University of Toronto*

Sarah Vaughan Brakman, PhD  
*Rice University*

Walter A. Brogan, PhD  
*Duquesne University*

John M. Carvalho, PhD  
*Duquesne University*

William J. Desmond, PhD  
*Pennsylvania State University*

John A. Doody, PhD  
*Notre Dame University*

Julie R. Klein, PhD  
*Vanderbilt University*  
*Director of Graduate Studies in Philosophy*

Peter Koch, PhD  
*SUNY at Buffalo*

Stephen Napier, PhD  
*Saint Louis University*

Délia Popa, PhD  
*University of Nice*

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