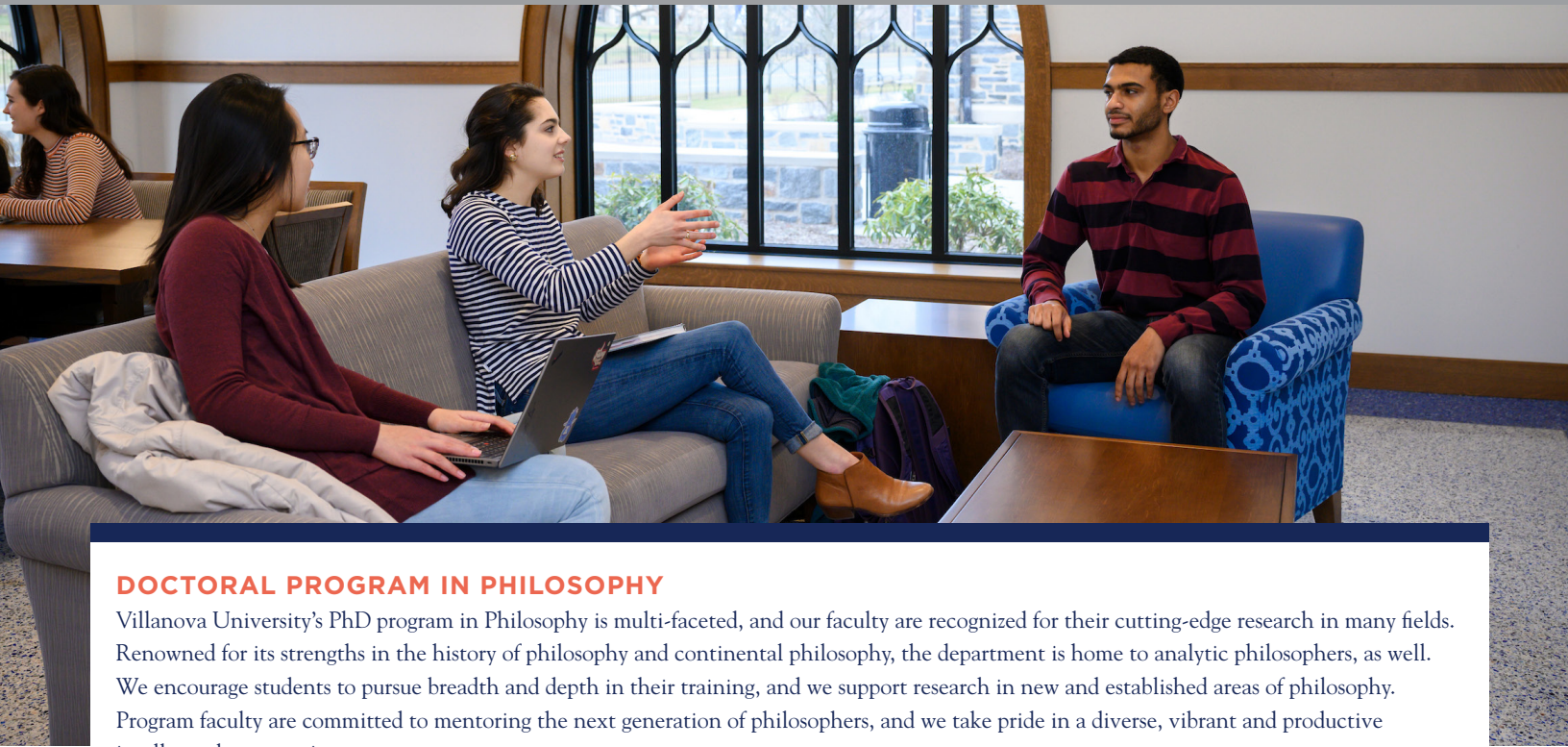




GRADUATE STUDIES

Philosophy



DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN PHILOSOPHY

Villanova University's PhD program in Philosophy is multi-faceted, and our faculty are recognized for their cutting-edge research in many fields. Renowned for its strengths in the history of philosophy and continental philosophy, the department is home to analytic philosophers, as well. We encourage students to pursue breadth and depth in their training, and we support research in new and established areas of philosophy. Program faculty are committed to mentoring the next generation of philosophers, and we take pride in a diverse, vibrant and productive intellectual community.

COURSEWORK

The PhD Program requires 48 hours of coursework. Students who hold an MA in Philosophy may transfer in 9 credits. Students who pursue the interdisciplinary Philosophy & Theology and Religious Studies Fellowship must complete 54 hours of coursework (45 in Philosophy, 9 in Theology and Religious Studies).

The Department typically offers 12 doctoral seminars per year. Courses range over major figures and problems or topics, and pursue issues in metaphysics, epistemology, social and political philosophy, ethics and aesthetics. Students are required to take at least one course each in ancient, medieval, modern and contemporary philosophy and are free to choose the rest according to their interests. Students must finish all coursework by the end of the seventh semester in the program.

COURSEWORK (CONTINUED)

The Department participates in the Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Consortium, and students may take two courses through the Consortium at the University of Pennsylvania and/or Temple University.

LANGUAGES

All students must demonstrate competence in a natural language other than English relevant to their research. The University offers free intensive reading courses in a number of European languages each summer. PhD students may also enroll in undergraduate language courses during the regular academic year. We are also able to assist students who wish to study non-European languages (e.g., Sanskrit).

FUNDING

The Philosophy PhD Program provides admitted students with six years of fellowship support and tuition remission. In addition, Villanova subsidizes the cost of the University-affiliated health insurance package for students who establish need. Beyond year six, students may work as adjunct faculty.

PhD students are eligible for conference travel support each year (\$1,000 for North American conferences, \$1,200 for international conferences). The Office of Graduate Studies awards summer research fellowships (\$4,500) and grants to support attendance at workshops and summer schools on a competitive basis. PhD students may apply for other University-sponsored summer grants. Students at the dissertation stage have access to departmental professional development funds.



RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Year four of the PhD Program is designated as a research year. There are no formal teaching assignments. Students select faculty mentors and devote the year to dissertation preparation. Many students use the research year to spend time abroad, visiting other universities or research sites and working on language skills

Department faculty maintain active research programs and mentor students for conference presentations and publishing. Villanova's Falvey Library collection is extensive and connected to many other libraries, and we are fortunate to have both a dedicated philosophy librarian and a specialist in digital scholarship. The department also collaborates with the Villanova Institute for Research and Scholarship, which welcomes PhD students to faculty-level programs, and the Villanova Center for Research and Fellowships, which supports students' applications for external funding (e.g., Fulbright Fellowships).

PEDAGOGY PROGRAM

Developing as an educator is an integral part of the PhD program and a special strength of our department. Students engage in a progressive series of teaching assignments, culminating in the assumption of full teaching responsibilities in the fifth year. Students in years five and six teach one course per semester. The department collaborates with the Villanova Institute for Teaching and Learning, which offers workshops, consultations and services such as course evaluation and class videotaping.

EXAMS

All students must pass the MA Portfolio Exam during their fifth semester in the Program. Each student submits a portfolio of seminar papers, a research statement and a curriculum vitae to a faculty committee. These materials are the basis for a one-hour oral exam. Students who do not wish to take a summer intensive language course may request a language exam, which must be scheduled by the beginning of the fifth semester.

DISSERTATION

We encourage students to begin thinking about dissertation projects by the end of year three so as to make optimal use of the research time in year four. Dissertation committees must have at least three members, at least two of whom must be Villanova faculty. All students are required to defend a dissertation proposal by the end of year five. The proposal defense is private, but all students present their proposals at the department's Projects in Progress colloquium.

PLACEMENT

The Department offers comprehensive support. The Academic Placement Committee offers workshops, individual coaching and mock interviews. We also collaborate with the Villanova Career Center.

GRADUATE FACULTY

Farshid Baghai, PhD
University of Toronto

Sarah Vaughan Brakman, PhD
Rice University

John M. Carvalho, PhD
Duquesne University

William J. Desmond, PhD
Pennsylvania State University

Martina Ferrari, PhD
University of Oregon

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