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. It is an extraordinarily rewarding program that requires commitment from both Student Scholars and Faculty Mentors. The Faith and Learning Scholars Program is sponsored and managed by the Center for Faith and Learning, which promotes conversation and support between members of Villanova community.

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. 4 meetings for each of the following 2 years.

- 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. You will be expected to attend all of the 4 dinner/dialogues.

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 online application no later than February 27, 2019. You will be invited to sign a commitment to the Faith and Learning Scholars community.

Shortly after the February 27 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.
In addition to completing the online application (link available on Center for Faith & Learning website), please provide the following:

I. **Faith and Learning Scholars Essay**: Please respond to the following prompt (500-600 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?

II. **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. This can be attached to online application or emailed to Suzanne Teleha (suzanne.teleha@villanova.edu)

III. **Names of two references, their email addresses, and phone numbers**

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

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

VI. **A current photo of yourself**

We highly encourage you to submit the completed application immediately (ASAP). Please know the number of scholars we are able to include each year is limited to 30, so apply as soon as possible!

Final deadline to submit applications is no later than Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at 12Noon.

Applications must be completed online. Essay, unofficial transcript and photo may be emailed to Suzanne Teleha (suzanne.teleha@villanova.edu)

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