



Ph.D. in Humanities



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“The Salve Regina Ph.D. program is a unique and exciting place to be. The variety of students from different backgrounds and the interdisciplinary approach make it fertile ground for integrating the traditions of deep study from the academy with new ways of thinking about and meeting the challenges of the contemporary world.”



About the Program

The Ph.D. offers the humanities as a foundation for understanding a world of accelerating and complex change. Cultivating expertise in traditional humanities fields and building skills as contemporary interdisciplinary scholars, students pursue doctoral research that makes a difference; bridging disciplines and exploring questions of human meaning in a dynamic study of the past, present and future. The humanities Ph.D. was inaugurated in 1989 as an interdisciplinary investigation of the question, “What does it mean to be human in an age of advanced technology?” In one form or another, this question still commands attention in the 21st century. Broadly conceived, the human-technology relationship remains at the heart of the curriculum allowing students to draw insights and integrate knowledge from a variety of fields: religion, philosophy and ethics; art, literature and new media; history, politics and cultural theory. The challenge for each doctoral candidate is to develop a specific research direction that builds on the broader humanities and that engages with the doctoral theme. Students begin by choosing a program area of inquiry that is relevant to their preliminary research problem or issue. Building upon previous studies, professional and life experience, students choose from four areas of inquiry rooted in the scholarly expertise of faculty, the history of the doctoral program and Mercy mission of Salve Regina University:

- Technology, Science and Society
- Culture, Language and Memory
- Global Ethics and Human Security
- Community, Self and Social Transformation

Each area presents a different web of possible relationships linking a range of theoretical issues, debates and practical problems with relevant modes of inquiry from the humanities and social sciences. Students use the program area of inquiry to leverage prior knowledge and study, work and life experience in developing their own individualized foundation that leads to problem focused and integrated interdisciplinary research and a distinguished doctoral dissertation.

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About Salve Regina

Salve Regina University is an independent, coeducational institution serving approximately 2,500 men and women from 35 states and 16 nations. Its 80-acre oceanfront campus is in the Ochre Point historic district of Newport, Rhode Island, and includes 48 new and adapted buildings. The University is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

Admissions requirements

Salve Regina University evaluates the total application package. Individuals with a master's degree in an appropriate discipline from a regionally accredited college or university (or an equivalent degree from an accredited institution outside of the United States) are qualified to apply.

To apply to the Ph.D. program

- You must submit the following supporting materials to the Office of Graduate Admissions:
- Completed graduate application form
 - Personal statement
 - All undergraduate and graduate transcripts from each college or university attended, including proof of an approved master's degree with a GPA of 3.3 or higher.
 - Three letters of recommendation from individuals who can attest to your academic ability and motivation to engage in doctoral-level study.
 - 15-page paper completed for a master's degree course.
 - Current resume.
 - Online writing sample.

Courses are offered on campus in Newport, R.I. and online.

Program Phases

Students progress through three phases:

- Proficiency phase ending with the concentration paper and language translation examination
- Qualifying phase leading to doctoral candidacy
- Dissertation phase culminating in an oral defense of the completed thesis

In the Proficiency phase, students:

- complete prerequisites;
- demonstrate proficiency in translating a second language;
- take core courses that explore the effects of advanced technology on modern society;

In the Qualifying phase, students:

- choose a concentration from a variety of program areas to support the dissertation topic and integrate earlier graduate work, life experiences, and professional expertise or interests;
- take courses in the concentration and advanced courses in the doctoral core that deepen students' understanding, help define potential dissertation topics, and specify research approaches;
- take the doctoral exams.

During the dissertation phase, students:

- enroll in Dissertation Research each fall and spring until all degree requirements are completed;
- prepare Dissertation Research Proposal;
- research and write a dissertation;
- successfully defend their dissertation.

Curriculum

Required Doctoral Core courses (15 credits)

HUM510: A History of Technology	3 credits
HUM600: Humanities Problems and Perspectives.....	3 credits
HUM618: Humanities Theory, Method and the Disciplines	3 credits
HUM645: Research Colloquium	1-3 credits
HUM635: Culture, Society and the Global Condition.....	3 credits

Humanities Elective Courses (24 credits)

HUM500: Research Methods	3 credits
HUM501: Social and Ethical Issues: A Global Perspective	3 credits
HUM503: Global and Comparative Literature I.....	3 credits
HUM504: Global and Comparative Literature II.....	3 credits
HUM505: Global Traditions and Area Studies I.....	3 credits
HUM506: Global Traditions and Area Studies II.....	3 credits
HUM605: Philosophical Perspectives on the Digital Age.....	3 credits
HUM610: Religion, Culture and Technology.....	3 credits
HUM617: Political Philosophy and Technology.....	3 credits
HUM620: Social Transformation through Art	3 credits
HUM625: Ethics and Modern Technology	3 credits
HUM630: Modern Literature and the Human Condition.....	3 credits



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