The Salve Regina University Ph.D. program offers a rigorous training in the core humanities coupled with the opportunity to conduct research that transcends traditional academic disciplinary boundaries. The program's unique focus and flexibility and the diverse composition of its student population, make it a natural laboratory for innovation in research and for reaching out beyond the limits of the university.

The Independent Research Fellows Cohort (IRFC) offers the same course of study found in our traditional program in an intensive and innovative format to well qualified students who would not otherwise be able to enroll in the on-campus program. Independent research fellows complete foundation coursework and prepare for the comprehensive exams and qualifying competencies necessary for achieving doctoral candidacy through participation in a special low residency format. A limited number of students accepted into cohorts take 42 credits of coursework in a hybrid alternative structure over a two-year period.

Joining the traditional brick and mortar experience with innovative interactive, learning, research, assessment and presentation technologies, four separate residency requirements span seven days each over the course of two years. To ensure the integrity of the cohort community, residencies cannot be individualized or postponed. In rare cases of illness or emergency a single residency week requirement can be fulfilled by one semester of on-campus coursework for three graduate credits.

Independent research fellows are chosen through a close assessment of each applicant’s:

- Demonstrated intellectual maturity and proven ability to work independently.
- Description of a clearly defined research interest that fit with the expertise of university faculty.
- Familiarity and comfort with using alternative learning and communication technologies.
- Ability to commit to the rigor and intensity of a two year cohort experience.

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“The Salve Regina humanities program is a doctorate with a difference. Re-envisioning the traditional Ph.D. we educate scholars and professionals to be reflective leaders that can cross borders and act as catalysts in applying humanities insights to a variety of complex contemporary problems and dilemmas.”
Ph.D. in Humanities/Independent Research Fellows Cohort

About Salve Regina University
Salve is an independent, coeducational institution serving approximately 2,700 undergraduate and graduate students from across the U.S. and around the world. 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, students must submit the following supporting materials to the Office of Graduate Admissions:

- Completed graduate application
- Personal statement
- All undergraduate and graduate transcripts from each college or university attended, including proof of an accredited master’s degree with a GPA of 3.3 or higher.
- Personal statement.
- Two 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.

Like the on-campus Salve Regina interdisciplinary Doctor of Philosophy degree, the IRFC offers the humanities as a foundation for understanding and navigating a world of accelerating and complex change. The doctoral program began as an investigation of questions concerning human meaning, culture and technology. Broadly conceived, the human technology relationship remains at the heart of the curriculum. Developing insights and integrating knowledge from different fields the challenge for each doctoral candidate is to develop a specific research direction. Students begin by completing three phases of coursework and by choosing an area of inquiry and subject fields relevant to their preliminary research problem or issue. Students 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.

Independent Research Fellows Cohort Curriculum
Residency Requirements
Year One
Fall: Residency October 29–November 3, 2018
Course dates online: 9/5/18–12/19/18
- HUM600 Humanities Problems and Perspectives
- HUM510 History of Technology

Spring: Residency March 25–March 29, 2019
Course dates online: 1/22/19–5/10/19
- HUM610 Religion, Culture and Technology
- HUM617 Political Philosophy and Technology

Summer I:
Course dates online: 5/13/19–6/28/19
- HUM618 Humanities Theory, Method and Disciplines

Summer II:
Course dates online: 7/2/19–8/16/19
- HUM620 Social Transformation through Art

Year Two
Fall: Residency October 28–November 1, 2019
Course dates online: 9/4/19–12/17/19
- HUM605 Philosophical Perspectives on the Digital Age
- HUM625 Ethics and Modern Technology

Spring: Residency March 23–27, 2020
Course dates online: 1/21/20–5/1/20
- HUM630 Modern Literature and the Human Condition
- HUM635 Culture, Society and the Global Condition

Complete language proficiency requirement and two subject field exams required in Year Two prior to comprehensive exams.

Summer:
Completion of subject field and/or comprehensive exams.

Doctoral candidates have seven years from the end of coursework to research, write and defend the Dissertation. Candidates are continuously enrolled in 3 credits (P/F) of dissertation research and writing each fall and spring semester until the dissertation is successfully defended. Course dates are subject to change.