

Q. & A.

## Why Humanities?

Good questions deserve great answers.

Turn the page to learn what a **major or minor** in the **Department of Humanities** can mean for your Villanova experience.

Discover how this innovative course of study has shaped the lives of our alumni—and how it can shape yours with **purpose and meaning**.

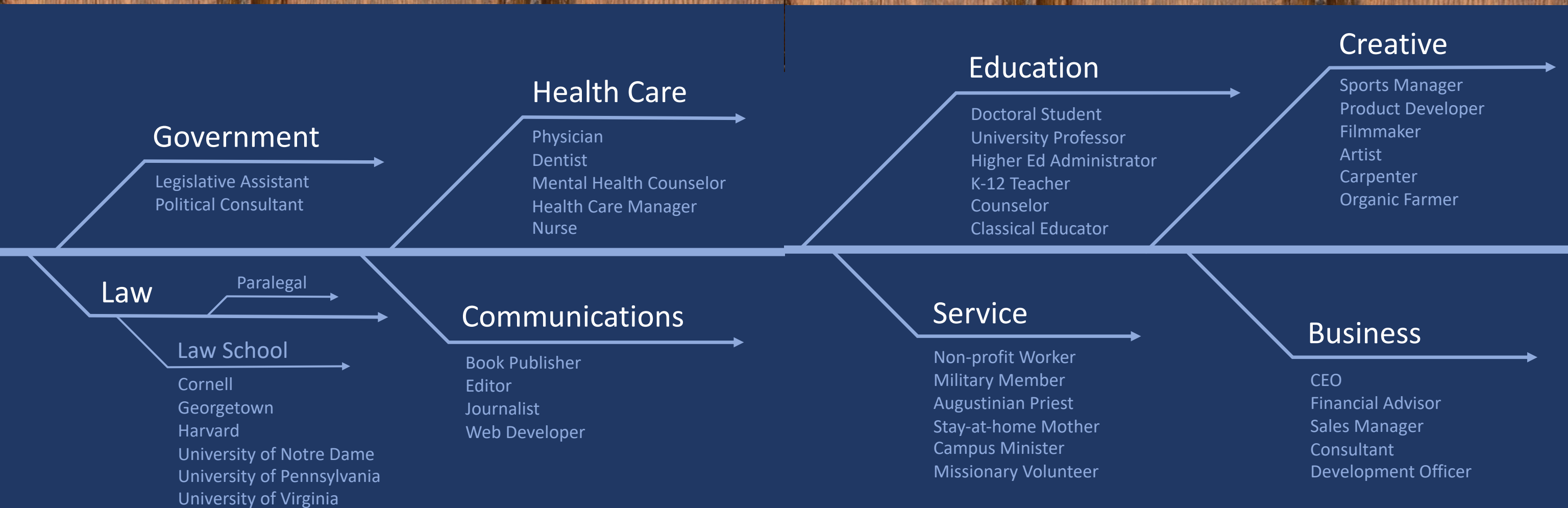
THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES

Person | Society | World | God

Q. Why Humanities?

A. Meaningful study leads to meaningful work.

Here's a sample of the pathways our alumni have taken.



## Q. Why Humanities?

## A. Now is the time to ask the big questions.

College offers a **singular opportunity to consider the questions that matter most**—before the full demands of adulthood begin. A **major or minor in the Department of Humanities** will let you seize this opportunity.

Is what I want good and real? How do my studies connect to my relationships, career, and beyond? How can I know myself in order to know others, God, and the natural world? What other questions must I ask?

In Humanities, **you'll read great books** that speak best to questions like these. You'll draw on Villanova's Catholic and Augustinian legacy to **seek answers that accord with faith and reason.**

“Humanities gave my restless mind and heart a place to ask the questions that so often have been met with shrugs and rolling eyes.

It introduced me to a wealth of wonderers who opened so many new doors, and it always left me **wanting more.”**

Brendan, Class of 2015



MaryKate, Class of 2019

“Humanities gave me a great foundation that shapes my way of being in the world. **What a gift!”**

## Q. Why Humanities?

## A. Joyful learning forms real community.

Seminar-style classes and a commitment to community make Humanities a place where **friendship and the intellectual life** thrive together.

The Department of Humanities attracts some of Villanova's most **excellent, motivated students**. Do you ever wish a classroom discussion could go on long after the class ends? Our conversations spill over into the Humanities Commons, our **student lounge**, with abundant tea, coffee, and donuts.

We cultivate “**conviviality**”—the virtue of living and learning well with others.

“I view my time with the other students and faculty in the Department as one of the sweetest chapters of my life.

I'm thankful for the opportunity that I had to read, write, and discuss in such a curious and collegial community.”

Sean, Class of 2019



## Q. Why Humanities?

## A. Dynamic seminars, life-changing texts.

Our curriculum centers on four Gateway seminars—**God, World, Society, and Human Person**. Each Gateway offers a tailored approach to the fundamental questions that all humans must ask about themselves.

For those who love it all, discover **diverse electives** in literature, politics, history, art, architecture, music, and economics, with philosophy and theology to guide. Gain depth and breadth alongside another major. Take a **deep dive for wisdom** while fulfilling Core requirements.

It's a **powerful pedagogical model**, created at Villanova, for getting to the heart of our humanity.

“All my Humanities Gateway courses and electives have stuck with me because the cumulative effect of the curriculum was to bring the most important, interesting, and enduring human questions into clear focus.

I have not stopped thinking  
about them since.”

Keenan, Class of 2010

Hindley, Class of 2016

“I am still the lifelong learner that  
Humanities set me up to be.

I feel like my life since Villanova has been a constant journey focused on the Person and World Gateways. God and Society are there, too, because one cannot have two Gateways without seeing signs of the others.”

## Q. Why Humanities?

## A. Be known, seen, and heard by your professors.

Our award-winning faculty are committed to serving as teachers and mentors to our students. Their teaching draws on their highly regarded research and scholarship. And they value how much they learn from their students' insights and concerns.

As a Humanities student, you will become a part of a community committed to the development of you.

As you discern your career path in senior year, you'll work with a faculty advisor on your senior essay. This culminating research, focusing on a question that has inspired you during your studies, will stay with you long after graduation.

“I feel incredibly indebted to the faculty in the Department of Humanities. Without their tutelage as an undergraduate student, I would not be where I am today.

I always wanted to ask big questions, and their support was unmatched.”

Connor, Class of 2017



“The Department of Humanities broadened my thinking, made me fall more in love with Catholicism, helped me make friends for life, and intellectually challenged me in ways that I have not, and probably will not, experience ever again.

I look back at my time as a  
Humanities major with happiness  
every time I think about Villanova.”

Jonathan, Class of 2017

