PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS AND THE PUBLIC at Xavier University is a distinctive interdisciplinary honors program dedicated to rigorous and wide-ranging study of the theory, history and other practical considerations that define the idea of “the public.” Students who are invited to join this challenging program, established in 2003, investigate dimensions of public experience from multiple disciplinary points of view, from philosophy to history, from natural science to literature, and from social science to the arts.

The PPP program brings together many of Xavier’s traditional curricular strengths in innovative ways to focus on the unifying concept of “the public sphere” in democratic societies. The program is inspired by the philosophy, politics and economics programs commonly found in the British university system, but also provides greater emphasis on philosophical conceptions and historical context.

Through coursework that is both multi-disciplinary as well as centered in a particular concentration, students are able to follow their own interests in understanding the role of the public. Students also are encouraged to become actively involved in politics, working on political campaigns, lobbying on behalf of legislation, participating in internships in local and national government offices, and taking advantage of summer study in Paris that includes a seminar in Brussels, the seat of the European Union.

Xavier also offers two other honors programs: Honors Bachelor of Arts and University Scholars.
THE PROGRAM

The Philosophy, Politics and the Public honors program is highly selective, with 15 to 20 freshman students enrolling each fall.

Curriculum: Special PPP courses, along with courses from traditional disciplines, enable students to explore the central concepts of this program.

- First semester courses follow Xavier’s undergraduate Core Curriculum. Students are placed in selected sections of European History I and Ethics as Introduction to Philosophy. In preparation for advanced work in the program, PPP students take the following two courses during their first-year spring semester: European History II (HIST 134) and the Theory of Knowledge (PHIL 290).
- The sophomore year sequence brings together faculty from history and political science. Its focus is on the growth and development of America’s civic culture, with special emphasis on electoral and legislative politics.
- The junior year sequence centers upon the philosophical ideas of the Enlightenment, culminating in the French Revolution as a primary shaper of both modern democratic institutions as well as modern conceptions of “the public.” Students also travel to Paris and Brussels to meet with French specialists and enrich their study with on-site learning and discussion.
- The senior year sequence brings together faculty from history, political science, and economics. Its focus is on the growth and development of America’s civic culture, with special emphasis on electoral and legislative politics.

For details about these course sequences, visit www.xavier.edu/ppp

Elective concentration: Students are encouraged to choose one or more elective concentrations in a discipline that most closely fits their own academic interest in the concept of “the public.” Students can take a total of 18 hours of available electives in the PPP honors program. They choose either an interdisciplinary minor, such as gender & diversity, international studies, Latin American studies, peace studies, or Catholicism & culture, or select a minor that is departmentally based, such as business, economics, history, international studies, philosophy, political science or art.

Foreign language: In addition to required Core and elective courses, PPP students must complete either a full minor in a foreign language or complete two languages through intermediate courses, for advanced work in the program, PPP students take the following two courses during their first-year spring semester: European History II (HIST 134) and the Theory of Knowledge (PHIL 290).

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

All three honors programs at Xavier offer participation in a unique fraternity of highly motivated students and top-notch professors. The programs are challenging but students can take advantages of many special opportunities, including these:

- **Intersession PPP seminar in Paris and Brussels**: This unique PPP program will bring together faculty and students from the Sorbonne (University of Paris) with students from Xavier to discuss relations between the United States and Europe. Topics include church-state relations, comparative revolutions, federalism, international relations, environmental issues and economic policy.
  
  In 2011, the seminar schedule included morning meetings on the campus of the University of Paris, and afternoon sightseeing and architectural field trips in and around Paris, plus a weekend trip to Versailles. Students also travelled to Brussels to meet with representatives from NATO and the European Union. Students who complete the course successfully will receive three credit hours in philosophy or political science.

- **Internships**: Students complete summer internship opportunities in their home cities or in Washington, D.C. Recently, PPP students have done internships in the offices of U.S. senators and representatives from Illinois, Ohio and Missouri, as well as in the Mayor’s Office in Cincinnati. Other students have chosen internships in both the Democratic and Republican National Committees as well as in the White House Budget Office.

- **Study abroad**: Students can also take advantage of semester-long study abroad programs in Ireland, Scotland, England, France and Spain. Summer study has included London, Rome, Paris and Buenos Aires. The semester programs undertaken in Ireland and England have included internships in the Irish Parliament and British House of Commons, alongside the academic work done in the classroom.

- **Honors residences**: Reserved residence hall wings are available as an option for some honors students. Honors students make a mutual commitment to serious academic study and agree to extended quiet times in these wings. They can also serve as resident assistants (RAs) and assist in programming special activities targeted toward honors students. These activities emphasize faculty involvement and offer opportunities to serve others in an academic capacity. To live in the honors wings, honors students need to indicate their preference on housing preference form.

- **Honors Council**: Students are elected by their peers to advise the directors of the honors programs. The council also plans social and educational events for honors students including poetry readings, film festivals, conferences, dances, cookouts, dinners and prayer services.

- **Priority registration**: Honors students are advised by the directors of the honors program in which they are enrolled. In addition, they are given priority in selecting and scheduling their courses.

- **Honors Lounge and Seminar Room**: Honors students enjoy their own study space in the honors lounge on the fifth floor of the Conaton Learning Commons. Special events such as receptions for
students and faculty also take place in the honors lounge. Many honors classes take place in the seminar room located at the end of the lounge.

Opened in August 2010, the Conaton Learning Commons is the heart of the James E. Hoff, S.J., Academic Quad on Xavier’s campus. The Commons provides students with the facilities, technologies and services to help them master essential skills and gain a competitive advantage in their respective disciplines and careers.

- Features 84,000 square feet and five floors, plus a digital media lab, classrooms, auditorium and a centralized location for reference and technology assistance.
- Creates a new focal point for connecting teaching, learning and our Jesuit mission of service to others.
- Equips students with all the latest academic and technological tools in a wireless setting.

**FACULTY**

The PPP program features the best of Xavier’s faculty. Although engaged in research and officers in an array of professional organizations, our faculty is first and foremost dedicated to teaching. With small classes, PPP students have the opportunity to work closely with their teachers and to fully benefit from their expertise. For a complete list of participating faculty, visit: [www.xavier.edu/honors](http://www.xavier.edu/honors).

**ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM**

Admission to the Philosophy, Politics and the Public honors program is competitive. To qualify for participation, students must be interested in defining “the public,” which can have many different meanings including the people, a forum for ideas, a physical space or even shared states of consciousness.

Students should rank in the top 15 percent of their high-school class and present composite scores of at least 1300 (SAT) or 29 (ACT). In addition to applying for admission to the University, prospective PPP students need to complete a separate application form, which includes a brief essay. An interview may also be requested at the discretion of the program director. The application is available online at [www.xavier.edu/honors/apply.cfm](http://www.xavier.edu/honors/apply.cfm). The priority deadline is April 1.

PPP students are eligible for all scholarship awards available from Xavier University.

**THE COLLEGE & THE CITY**

The College of Arts and Sciences is the oldest and largest college at Xavier University. Its goal is to provide excellent liberal arts education in the Jesuit tradition that prepares students for careers, professional or graduate school, and life in a global society.

Centrally located in the heart of the Midwest and set along the Ohio River, Cincinnati is a thriving city, offering college students in the region a wide range of opportunities for internships and careers. Culture and entertainment ranges from the Cincinnati Art Museum to the Cincinnati Reds. Affordable and accessible, Cincinnati is rated one of the “most wired” U.S cities (Forbes Magazine), most sociable city in the world (mashable.com), and one of the top 15 U.S. cities to live and work (Fortune Magazine).

**OUTCOMES**

PPP graduates are prepared for a wide variety of careers, both academic and professional.

Some go on to further study, including law school or graduate programs in public policy or in such traditional disciplines as philosophy or mathematics.

Others PPP graduates choose to become involved in the active world of the public sphere both locally and nationally, including in congressional offices and various departments of the U.S. federal government, Teach For America or the Peace Corps. Others have gone on to careers in journalism or to work at the grassroots level on behalf of marginalized communities.

The program is an excellent preparation for careers in these areas or in related fields such as diplomacy, foreign service or electoral politics.

Honors students also take advantage of a wide range of major scholarships and fellowships for graduate study, including the following:

- American Scandinavian Foundation
- Beinecke Brothers Scholarships
- British Marshall Scholarships
- Carnegie Endowment Junior Fellowship
- Jack Kent Cooke Foundation
- Fulbright Scholarships
- Gates Scholarships
- Goldwater Scholarships
- Hertz Fellowships
- Javits Fellowships
- James Madison Fellowships
- Luce Scholarships
- Mellon Fellowships
- Mitchell Scholarships
- National Institutes of Health Undergraduate Scholarship Program
- National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowships
- Rhodes Scholarships
- Rotary Scholarships
- Soros Fellowships for New Americans
- Thurgood Marshall Scholarships
- Truman Scholarships
CORE CURRICULUM

The foundation of Xavier’s success is its commitment to its Jesuit heritage. The Core Curriculum embodies Xavier’s mission and philosophy of education and serves as a valuable foundation for all undergraduate students. Within the Core, the four-course Ethics/Religion and Society (E/RS) Focus fosters students’ understanding of socially significant issues through study of the humanities, especially literature, philosophy and theology, as well as the social and natural sciences. Along with courses in their major, Xavier students also take courses in: cultural diversity, English composition, fine arts, foreign language, history, literature, mathematics, philosophy, science, social science and theology.

XAVIER AT A GLANCE

Founded in 1831, Xavier University is a Jesuit Catholic university in Cincinnati, Ohio, annually ranked among the nation’s best universities. Its three colleges offer 86 undergraduate majors, 54 minors and 11 graduate programs to 7,019 total students, including 4,368 undergraduates.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

OFFICE OF ADMISSION
Phone: 513-745-3301
877-XUADMIT (982-3648)
Fax: 513-745-4319
Email: xuadmit@xavier.edu
Web: www.xavier.edu

PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS AND THE PUBLIC
Paul Colella, PhD, Director, Professor of Philosophy
Phone: 513-745-3629
Email: colella@xavier.edu
Web: www.xavier.edu/ppo