THE DIVISION OF
THE HUMANITIES

Dean

• Martha T. Roth
Dean of Students

• Martina Munsters

Students in the Division of the Humanities investigate the varied achievements of
the human mind in language and literature, music, the visual arts, and philosophy. These investigations can range from the methods of the established humanistic
disciplines to the newer alliances of humanities and social sciences, from the history
of a civilization to the philosophy of science, from the aesthetics of a literary genre to
the broader cultural occasions that bring the visual arts into contact with linguistic
theory or musicology into contact with anthropology. The division regards a
multiplicity of questions and approaches as the hallmark of its intellectual life and
encourages its students to share in this diversity.

The academic units of the division guide and support the students’ scholarly
interests and inquiry and are correspondingly varied. These programs of study are
described in detail in this section of the Announcements.

The University is known for its interdisciplinary approach. Students cross
disciplines easily by taking courses in different fields as well as through
participation in Graduate Workshops, established under the auspices of the Council
on Advanced Studies. These interdisciplinary workshops bring together students
and faculty in the Divinity School, the Division of the Humanities, and the Division
of Social Sciences for ongoing and collaborative exchange of ideas around particular
areas of interest. Interdisciplinary work also takes place in many different venues
such as the Centers for Area Studies, Interdisciplinary Centers, and Interdisciplinary
Programs. The interdisciplinary and area centers are described in another section of
these Announcements.

ADMISSION TO THE DIVISION

The Division of the Humanities invites applications from students whose
breadth of academic experience and fitness for the specific field of study suggest
the potential for scholarly achievement. In general, only applicants holding the
bachelors degree or equivalent, with excellent academic records, are admitted.
Faculty recommendations and the applicant’s statement of purpose are carefully
weighed. Research papers, publications, and other works may also be considered
by the admissions committees during their evaluations. The admissions selection
committee for each department reviews all the applications submitted by the
December deadline for admission for autumn quarter of the following year. During
this selection, all available places and financial aid are allocated for the following
academic year. An offer of admission is made only for the next academic year and
cannot be deferred. Most programs, particularly those with intensive language requirements, are designed to start in the autumn quarter.