Admission Requirements

To be eligible to seek the MAPS degree, students must be enrolled as Pre-Theology seminarians, subject to the requirements of the Pre-Theology program at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. In addition, students must: 1) Possess a Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university; 2) Demonstrate evidence of academic ability (This requirement is normally met by an undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher); and 3) Gain the permission of the Program Director who will consult with the Vice Rector of the Seminary, the Academic Dean of Theology, and with the respective Vocation Director.

Support Services

The Ryan Memorial Library at Saint Charles Seminary services the curricular, informational and research needs of the Seminary faculty and students, containing more than 140,000 circulating items, the majority dedicated to the fields of philosophy and theology. The library’s print collections feature primary and secondary material in every major area and subfield of philosophy, as well as reference works and rare books. Of the library’s more than 200 print journals, 20 are dedicated to the discipline of philosophy; many others fall within related fields. The library also subscribes to electronic databases, including the Philosopher’s Index, ATLA Religion and Philosophy Collection, and JSTOR.

Master of Arts in Philosophical Studies

For more information about the MAPS program or about how to apply, please contact:

Reverend Joseph W. Bongard
Vice Rector
Tel: (610) 785-6271
Email: jbongard@scs.edu

James M. Despres, Ph.D. (Cand.)
MAPS Program Director
Tel: (610) 785-6526
Email: jdespres@scs.edu
Curriculum

The Master of Arts in Philosophical Studies requires 30 credits in core courses, 6 credits in elective courses, and both oral and written comprehensive examinations. The structure of the MAPS program is as follows:

History of Philosophy (12 credits)
Ancient Philosophy
Medieval Philosophy
Modern Philosophy
Contemporary Philosophy

Metaphysics (6 credits)
Metaphysics
Natural Theology

Philosophical Anthropology and Other Courses (12 credits)
Philosophy of the Human Person
Ethics
Epistemology
Logic

Sample of Electives (6 credits)
Philosophy of Science
Art & Beauty (Aesthetics)
The Philosophy of Aristotle
Philosophy of Religion
Political Philosophy
Phenomenology
Philosophy and Early Christianity
The Thought of Thomas Aquinas
The Thought of Augustine
Rise of Philosophical Atheism

Oral and Written Comprehensive Examinations

Message from the Rector

Most Rev. Timothy Christian Senior, Rector

If teaching and preaching is your job, then study diligently and apply yourself to whatever is necessary for doing the job well.

~ Saint Charles Borromeo

I am proud to introduce a new degree program at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary: the Master of Arts in Philosophical Studies (MAPS). Through the MAPS curriculum, Pre-Theology seminarians experience philosophical formation at the graduate level, earning a Master’s degree before entering the Seminary School of Theological Studies.

The MAPS program deepens the seminarian’s understanding of philosophy and the role of philosophical inquiry within the Catholic intellectual tradition. This rigorous two-year course of study prepares students for advanced theological studies. It is yet another program introduced to enhance the intellectual formation of seminarians discerning God’s call to priestly service.

I am eager to share with you all that Saint Charles has to offer right now and our exciting plans for the future. Visit us at our Overbrook campus or online at www.scs.edu.