



## Interested in using previous credit to complete the MA in Theology?

*For Priest Alumni of SCBS and others who may have obtained credits in Theology without having obtained the Master of Arts in Theology, these policies were developed for possible completion of the degree.*

1. Credits earned previously in either the Theological Seminary or School of Theological Studies (formerly Religious Studies Division/Graduate School of Theology) may be applied toward resumption of the Master of Arts degree at any time, subject to the *current* criteria for the granting of the degree. The School of Theological Studies (STS) does not offer a Master of Divinity degree, but credits obtained for that degree may transfer for the Master of Arts degree, according to the criteria outlined below.
2. Credits do not expire if they were obtained at SCBS and align with current required courses or eligible electives. Material covered in those courses, as currently configured and as outlined in the study guide, will be covered in the comprehensive examinations required of all candidates for the degree.
3. Credits obtained in the Theological Seminary of SCBS in the past, for purposes of STS requirements, are considered equivalent to courses in the STS program if the scope of the single course is equivalent, or if a combination of courses is judged to satisfy a present degree requirement, as exemplified by the following:
  - A combination of at least two 3-credit courses in different Synoptic Gospels satisfies the current Synoptic Gospels requirement.
  - Earned credit for courses in both general sacramental theology and the theology of grace satisfies the STS requirement for Theology of Grace and Sacraments, but neither course alone suffices without the other.
  - Any course or combination of courses in Church History covering at least the period of the first 7 Ecumenical Councils satisfies the requirement for Church History.
  - Other possible courses, or combinations of courses, may be considered for STS credit on a case-by-case basis.
4. Transfer credits for comparable courses from other institutions are eligible for consideration on a case-by-case basis up to 10 years from the time when the credit was obtained, provided that a grade of C or higher — or the equivalent — was obtained.
5. For credits from other institutions older than 10 years in areas corresponding to a required course in the MA program of STS — or for more recent courses not fully equivalent to the current STS course — the student may elect to undergo a challenge exam in the relevant area covered by the current STS course, and upon passing, receive STS credit for that course.
6. One who lacks eligible credits for a given STS degree requirement but has significant relevant knowledge gained from *life experience* may petition the STS Dean for an opportunity to demonstrate such in a mutually agreed manner, thereby hoping to obtain credit for the respective STS degree requirement.
7. Of the course requirements for the STS Master of Arts Degree, a majority must be obtained at SCBS. The maximum number of credits from any combination of transfer from other institutions, challenge exams, or demonstration of knowledge from life experience is therefore 15 credits or 5 courses out of the 36 credits (12 courses) required, including electives.

### **Applications for these options are online at:**

[www.scs.edu/school-of-theological-studies/master-of-arts-in-theology/admissions/](http://www.scs.edu/school-of-theological-studies/master-of-arts-in-theology/admissions/)

- (a) **For current Priests and Deacons in good standing of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia:**  
a “Single Course for Credit” application in order to provide current demographic information is needed for record-keeping and to signal resumption of the degree (\$10 application fee)
  - (b) **For Priest and Deacon SCBS Alumni from other Dioceses or Religious Institutes, or Laity:** an application for “Re-Admission to Master of Arts in Theology” (\$40 application fee)
  - (c) **For transfers:** a full “Master of Arts in Theology” application (\$40 application fee)
8. Fee for challenge exam or life-experience credit: \$250

**For more information or to enroll, contact the School of Theological Studies at**  
**sts@scs.edu or 610-785-6287**  
**or email Msgr. Michael Magee at mmagee@scs.edu**