

STARK COLLEGE & SEMINARY

SCS CATALOG 2023-2024

Main Campus:

**7000 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas 78412
Phone: 361.991.9403 ~ Fax: 361.991.8634**

McAllen Extension Site:

**1809 N. Main Street, McAllen, Texas 78501
Phone: 956.340.4859**

Crossroads Extension Site:

**Northside Baptist Church
4100 N. Laurent Street
Victoria, Texas 77901**

San Antonio Extension Sites:

**True Vision Church Northeast Campus
2826 Ackerman Road, San Antonio, TX 78219**

**Resurrection Baptist Church Schertz Campus
1002 E. Live Oak Road, Schertz, TX 78154**

www.stark.edu

<https://www.facebook.com/starkcollege>

<https://twitter.com/starkcollege>

<http://instagram.com/starkcollege>

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Introduction to Stark College and Seminary

Affiliation and Accreditation

Stark College and Seminary has a history of close relationship to the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Stark College and Seminary is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the Association for Biblical Higher Education to grant certificates and degrees at the Associate, Baccalaureate, and Master levels.

Catalog

The Catalog describes SCS academic programs, activities, and policy, and is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute a contract between the college and any student. The college reserves the right to amend or terminate any of its policies, programs, requirements, course offerings, class schedules, instructor assignments, fees, and any other aspect of its programs at any time without prior notice. The college may determine when and how all changes become effective.

The programs of the college are believed to be effective and valuable; however, their ultimate value, in terms of achievement, employment, professional licensing, or other measure, is dependent on market conditions and other factors beyond the control of the college. Stark College and Seminary makes no representation or contract that following a particular course or curriculum will result in specific achievement, employment or qualification for employment, admission to degree programs, or licensing for particular professions or occupations.

Non-Discrimination Notice

The college does not illegally discriminate in its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, age, or status as a veteran or disabled veteran. Dr. Tony Celelli, President, who may be reached at 7000 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas; (361) 991-9403, has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the University's non-discrimination policies.

The college has had a fraternal relationship with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, a cooperative association of autonomous Texas Baptist churches.

As a faith-based educational institution, the college exercises its statutory and constitutional rights to discriminate on the basis of religion in the fulfillment of its purposes.

Privacy and Disclosure of Student Records

The college complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), which protects the privacy of educational records and provides guidelines for the correction of inaccurate information. See "Student Records" in this Catalog and the Registrar's Office for further information. Dr. Jena Dunn, Provost, is the designated representative for FERPA related issues.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Fall 2023

First Fall payment due to SCS Business Office.....	Tuesday, August 1
Faculty Orientation.....	Wednesday, August 2
Student Orientation.....	TBD
Fall term classes begin.....	Monday, August 14
Last day to register for Fall or change classes.....	Monday, August 21
Second Fall payment due to SCS Business Office.....	Friday, September 1
Labor Day Holiday (Offices closed).....	Monday, September 4
Third Fall payment due to the SCS Business Office.....	Sunday, October 1
Fall Break.....	Monday- Friday, October 30-November 3
Spring Early Registration.....	Tuesday, October 31
Fourth Fall payment due to the SCS Business Office.....	Wednesday, November 1
Hand and Dove Scholarship Banquet.....	Thursday, November 2
Last day to drop/withdraw from Fall classes.....	Monday, November 13
Thanksgiving Holiday (Offices closed).....	Wednesday-Friday, November 22-24
Textbook adoption for Spring.....	Wednesday, November 29
Week of Final Exams.....	Monday-Thursday, December 4-7
Syllabi due for Spring.....	Wednesday, December 6
Grades Due.....	Friday, December 8

Spring 2024

First Spring payment due to the SCS Business Office.....	Monday, January 1
Student Orientation.....	TBD
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (Offices closed).....	Monday, January 15
Spring classes begin.....	Tuesday, January 16
Last day to register for Spring or change classes.....	Tuesday, January 23
Second Spring payment due to SCS Business Office.....	Thursday, February 1
Self Bible Symposium.....	TBD
Third Spring payment due to the SCS Business Office.....	Friday, March 1
Spring Break.....	Monday-Friday, March 11-15
Last date to apply for May 2024 Graduation.....	Monday, April 1
Fourth Spring payment due to the SCS Business Office.....	Monday, April 1
Early Registration for Summer and Fall.....	Tuesday, April 2
Last day to drop/withdraw from Spring classes.....	Monday, April 22
Week of Final Exams.....	Monday-Thursday, May 6-9
Grades Due.....	Friday, May 10
SCS Graduation.....	Friday, May 17

Summer 2024

First Summer payment due to the SCS Business Office.....	Wednesday, May 1
Textbook adoption for Summer.....	Wednesday, May 1
Syllabi due for Summer.....	Monday, May 6
Memorial Day Holiday (Offices closed).....	Monday, May 27
Second Summer payment due to SCS Business Office.....	Saturday, June 1
Summer classes begin.....	Monday, June 3
Last day to register for Summer or change classes.....	Tuesday, June 4
Third Summer payment due to the SCS Business Office.....	Monday, July 1
July 4 Holiday (Offices closed).....	Thursday, July 4
Textbook adoption for Fall.....	Wednesday, July 3
Syllabi due for Fall.....	Monday, July 15
Last day to drop/withdraw from Summer classes.....	Thursday, July 18
Week of Final Exams.....	Monday-Thursday, July 29-August 1
Grades Due.....	Friday, August 2

PERSONNEL

Board of Trustees OFFICERS

Kevin Pagan, Chair
McAllen, TX

Kathryn Albin, Vice Chair
Rockport, TX

Jim Naismith, Treasurer
Portland, TX

Velma Kemp, Secretary
San Antonio, TX

MEMBERS

Kathryn Albin, Rockport, TX
Mark Casanova, Terre Haute, IN
Ed Garza, Corpus Christi, TX
Jeanette Gordon, Corpus Christi, TX
Velma Kemp, San Antonio, TX
Don Leavell, Corpus Christi, TX
Karlene Lyn, Corpus Christi, TX
Andrew Miller, Portland, TX
Gary Morgan, Kenedy, TX
Jim Naismith, Portland, TX
Lee Ortegon, Bishop, TX
Kevin Pagan, McAllen, TX
Nidia Quintanilla, McAllen, TX
Albert Reyes, Dallas, TX
Troy Riggs, Alice, TX
Melinda Rodriguez, Edinburg, TX
Juan Vega, McAllen, TX
Kevin Wood, Austin, TX
Dan Zamora, Robstown, TX

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Tony Celelli - President

- Ph.D. – Dallas Baptist University (2012)
- M.Div. – Logsdon Seminary (2000 - SCS Campus)
- B.B.S. – Hardin-Simmons University (1993)

Christopher Stapper – Vice President, Mission and Finance

- Ph.D. – Dallas Baptist University (2018)
- MBA – Dallas Baptist University (2012)
- MACE – Dallas Baptist University (2012)
- B.A. – Howard Payne University (2005 - SCS Campus)

Jena Dunn – Provost

- Ed.D. – Texas A&M University - Commerce (2018)
- M.Div. – Logsdon Seminary (2011 - SCS Campus)
- B.S. – Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi (2006)

Tina Villarreal – Vice President, Student Experience & McAllen campus

- Ed.D. – Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi (in process)
- MSIDET– Texas A&M - Corpus Christi (2017)
- B.B.S. – Hardin Simmons University (2016 - SCS Campus)
- Associates in Applied Science – Del Mar College (2011)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL

Melissa Astudillo

Recruiting & Admission Specialist

Marco Barron

Student Experience Assistant

Jeremy Covarrubias

Director of Enrollment Management & Registrar

Celina Fetty

Senior Director, Operations & HR

Curtis Jones

Director of Technology Support

Isa McKenzie

Executive Assistant to the President

Cheryl Temple

Senior Director, Communications & Financial Aid

FACULTY

FULL-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE TEACHING FACULTY

Tony Celelli, Ph.D.

President

Fellow, Ethics and Leadership

- Ph.D. – Dallas Baptist University (2012)
- M.Div. – Logsdon Seminary (2000)
- B.B.S. – Hardin-Simmons University (1993)

Jeremy Covarrubias, M.A.

Director of Enrollment Management & Registrar

- M.A. – Stark College & Seminary (2023)
- B.A. – Stark College & Seminary (2021)

Jena Dunn, Ed.D.

Provost

Senior Lecturer, Education and Missions

- Ed.D. – Texas A&M University - Commerce (2018)
- M.Div. – Logsdon Seminary (2011)
- B.S. – Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi (2006)

Andres Garcia, D.Min.

Director of Certificate Program & Ministry Placement

Senior Lecturer, Ministry

- D.Min. – Logsdon Seminary (2022)
- M.Div. – Logsdon Seminary (2012)
- B.S. – Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi (2004)

Celeste González-Moreno, Ph.D.

Director of Undergraduate/Diploma Programs

Lecturer, Old Testament Theology

- Ph.D. – Regent University (2018)
- M.A. – Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (2006)
- B.A. – University of Texas at Austin (2003)

Krissy Nichols, MSLS, M.Div.

Theological Librarian

Instructor, Missions

- MSLS – University of North Texas (2020)
- M.Div. – Logsdon Seminary (2018)
- B.A. – University of Mary-Hardin Baylor (2000)

Brent Rempel, Ph.D.

Sr. Director of Graduate Programs

Lecturer, Theological Studies

- Ph.D. – University of Otago (2021)
- ThM – Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (2018)
- MA – Providence Theological Seminary (2016)
- MA – Reformed Theological Seminary (2015)
- BS – Palm Beach Atlantic University (2012)

Rochelle Rocha Roots

Chief of Staff

Instructor, Ministry

- MAFM – Logsdon Seminary (2016)
- Diploma in Ministry – Stark College and Seminary (2013)

Christopher Stapper, Ph.D.

Vice President, Mission and Finance

Senior Lecturer, Leadership

- Ph.D. – Dallas Baptist University (2018)
- MBA – Dallas Baptist University (2012)
- MACE – Dallas Baptist University (2012)
- B.A. – Howard Payne University (2005)

Tina Villarreal, MSIDET, EdD (ABD)

Vice President, Student Experience & McAllen Campus

Instructor, Education

- Ed.D. – Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi (in Process)
- MSIDET– Texas A&M - Corpus Christi (2017)
- B.B.S. – Hardin Simmons University (2016 - SCS Campus)
- Associates in Applied Science – Del Mar College (2011)

Fritz Williams, D.Min.

Director of Ministry Formation

Senior Lecturer, Ministry

- D.Min. – United Theological Seminary (2017).
- M.Div. – Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (1998)
- B.S. – Angelo State University (1993)

PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE TEACHING FACULTY

Ellis Orozco, D.Min.

Public Theologian in Residence

- D.Min – Truett Seminary (2004)
- M.Div. – Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (1993)
- B.S. – Texas A&M University (1986)

ADJUNCT INSTRUCTORS

Ira Antoine, D.Min.

- D.Min. – Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (2008)
- M.Div. – Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (1999)
- B.S. – University of Southwestern Louisiana (1989)

Jordan Chapman

- Ph.D. – University of Otago (2022)
- M.A.B.S. – Denver Seminary (2016)
- B.A. – Wheaton College (2012)

Chris Dupree

- M.Div. – Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (2005)
- B.A. – Howard Payne University (2001)

Kenny Eiben

- M.Div. – Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (1985)
- B.A. – East Texas Baptist University (1980)

Raul Elizondo

- Ph.D – B.H. Carroll Theological Institute (In Process)
- M.Div. – Logsdon Seminary (2017)
- B.A. – Howard Payne University (2013)

Julio Guarneri, Ph.D.

- Ph.D. – Dallas Baptist University (2013)
- M.A. – Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (1998)
- B.A. – Texas A&M University - Kingsville (1990)

Brian Hill, D.Min.

- D.Min. – George W. Truett Seminary (2007)
- M.Div. – Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (1993)
- M.A. – Hardin - Simmons University (1991)
- B.A. – Hardin-Simmons University (1988)

Ken Huggins, Ph.D.

- Ph.D. – Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (1986)
- M.A. – Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (1978)
- B.A. – Baylor University (1975)

Marshall Johnston, Ph.D.

- Ph.D. – Baylor University (2007)
- M.Div. – Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (1996)
- B.S. – University of Florida (1986)

Scott Jones, Ph.D.

- Ph.D. – B.H. Carroll Theological Institute (2016)
- M.Div. – Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (1997)
- B.A. – Howard Payne University (1993)

Arthur Lane, M.Div.

- Ph.D. – Our Lady of the Lake (In Process)
- M.Div. – Logsdon Seminary (2013)
- M.A. – Selma University (2003)
- B.A. – Miles College (1998)

Ron Lyles, Ph.D.

- Ph.D. – Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (1980)
- M.A. – Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (1974)
- B.A. – Dallas Baptist University (1972)

Wendy Mendez, M.Div.

- Ed.D. – Liberty University (in process)
- M.Div. – The King's University (2018)
- B.A. – Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi (2012)
- A.A. – Del Mar College (2007)

Tony Miranda, D.Min.

- Ph.D. – Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (2021)
- D.Min. – Truett Seminary (2018)
- M.Div. – Truett Seminary (2015)
- MBA – Universidad Autónoma de la Laguna (2007)
- B.A. – Baptist University of Américas (2011)
- B.A. – Universidad Autónoma de la Laguna (2006)
- B.A. – Universidad Autónoma de la Laguna (2004)

Dana Moore, Ph.D.

- Ph.D. – Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (1994)
- M.Div. – Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (1988)
- B.A. – Baylor University (1994)

Primitivo Pagayon, M.Div.

Instructor, Ministry

- M.Div. – Logsdon Seminary (2018)
- B.S. – University of the Philippines (1993)

Steven Parker, D.Min.

- D.Min. – Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (2011)
- M.Div. – Logsdon Seminary (2001)
- B.B.S. – Hardin-Simmons University (1998)

Grover Pinson, D.Min.

- D.Min. – George W. Truett Seminary (2021)
- M.Div. – Logsdon Seminary (2005)
- B.B.S. – Hardin-Simmons University (1983)

Nidia Quintanilla, M.Div.

- M.Div. – Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (2018)
- B.A. – UTPA (2000)

Derrick Reaves, D.Min.

- D.Min. – Dallas Theological Seminary (2005)
- M.Div. – Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (1993)
- B.S. – Park University (1989)

Raymond Sanchez

- M.Div. – Logsdon Seminary (2019)
- B.A. – Baylor University (2002)

Tori Wilson

- M.Div. – Logsdon Seminary (2020)
- B.A. – Abilene Christian University (2017)

Statement of Mission

Stark College and Seminary exists to equip educationally under-served followers of Christ for service in the church and community.

Institutional Core Values

Christ-Centered

The mission of Stark College and Seminary is founded in our belief in the Person of Jesus Christ as the Son of God. As followers of Jesus Christ, we seek to joyfully obey His teachings, go about doing good, and be the salt of the earth.

Biblical and Theological Fluency

We teach doctrine at SCS, not dogma, encouraging curiosity in our students. The goal is for students to be conversant with the larger theological community, as well as other religious traditions. Not only do graduates know the Bible, but we also want them to think theologically so they will live an honest life, fully engaged in the church and community where they serve. Built into this value is the appreciation of life-long learning.

Christian Formation

We take a holistic approach to Christian formation that encompasses the spiritual, intellectual, and character. Along with these areas, we include leadership formation that involves, but not limited to, the skills of communication, the capacity to find opportunities for growth, and the ability to work with people to accomplish a goal. We accept students wherever they are and commit to work diligently to assist them in becoming who God has planned for them to be.

La Familia

The Hispanic cultural value of la familia describes the community we seek to build at SCS. First, la familia embraces an obligation to family. For SCS, this idea means we make education affordable and accessible to the under-served followers of Christ. We clearly state students will not accumulate debt because of their education. Furthermore, students will be able to access the education from where they live and minister. We are highly relational to each other, willing to be involved in the personal lives of the members of the community. Second, la familia suggests an individual can always depend on support from family. SCS students can count on faculty and staff to provide the help they need to succeed. Academic accessibility is a high value for us. Third, la familia describes family as referents; meaning family members should consult the larger family when making decisions and hold each other accountable for their actions. We understand the importance of the larger SCS family in decision making, using a process that includes students, faculty, staff, and trustees. We also hold each other accountable through an annual evaluation process. An overarching value that flows from la familia is respect shown by the way we treat each other.

Multicultural Competency

We value cultural diversity and celebrate the individual as created in the image of God. We embrace the creation of male and female, and we rejoice in the goodness of God's creative expression. We recognize both experiential and cultural knowledge as valid educational contributions.

Baptist History and Heritage

We value the history and heritage of the Baptist tradition through the life of the Christian church. While our practice is deeply rooted in Baptist tradition, we also respect and welcome Christians from other denominations.

Institutional Goals

- Equip educationally under-served men and women for Christian ministry
- Deliver broad-based student support services in the areas of financial aid, classroom environments, an adequate resource learning center, and sacred spaces lending to spiritual formation.
- Provide flexible and accessible continuing education programs.
- Conduct systematic, broad-based planning and evaluation.
- Ensure a qualified, competent faculty, staff, and administration dedicated to carrying out the mission of the institution as approved by the board.
- Deliver biblical content in a way that is relevant with a joint focus on academic excellence and practical applications to ministry.
- To provide adequate physical, financial, and technology resources to deliver accessible academic programs

History of the Institution

In 1945, several South Texas Baptist visionaries met to consider the possibility of beginning a college in this area to train ministers and teachers. Two years later, Texas Baptists established the University of Corpus Christi on Ward Island. U.C.C. continued as an effective four-year Baptist University until 1973. During these years the University fulfilled its mission of training teachers and ministers who would become South Texas leaders.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas deeded the Ward Island site to the City of Corpus Christi, who in turn made it available to the state of Texas for the establishment of Texas A&I at Corpus Christi in 1973. The school later became Corpus Christi State University and now Texas A&M at Corpus Christi.

Baptists retained ten acres of land adjacent to the larger campus to be used for Christian education. The Christian Education Activities Corporation began offering religion classes in the fall of 1977. The main building was completed in 1980 with an auditorium, classrooms, library, student center, and prayer chapel.

In the fall of 2004, the Bill and Doris Stark Conference Center was opened with a large conference room and four apartments to house faculty and visiting guests.

The Vernon Elmore Memorial Library was dedicated in 2006 and holds the sermon texts and personal books of this great South Texas pastor.

A campus in McAllen was purchased in the summer of 2012. This was a long time dream of the founders to have a Valley location to train ministers.

This educational ministry has been blessed by endowments, teaching chairs, and sacrificial gifts that create an opportunity for superior Christian instruction at affordable costs.

For the past seventy years, the dream of training the educationally under-served leaders of South Texas has required the most innovative and dedicated students, faculty, and trustees. If the challenges of the past are any indication of the stamina required for the future, then SCS will have many more challenges that will threaten the mission of preparing South Texans pastoral leaders. The story of SCS, however, is not finished. The future is bright with new opportunities and endeavors as the institution continues the legacy started in 1947 and lives today as Stark College and Seminary on Ward Island.

Financial Information

Stark College and Seminary is committed to providing affordable and accessible theological education. Therefore, every SCS student qualifies for financial aid opportunities. **All students are encouraged to apply for additional assistance** (discounts, scholarships, grants, etc.) with the SCS Financial Aid office: <https://stark.edu/admissions/tuition-and-financial-aid/>. Tuition and fees are payable in advance at registration.

The institution charges a basic tuition rate of \$840 per credit hour before any discounts and scholarships are applied. The institution offers need-based discounts, financial aid, and scholarships to those students who apply and qualify. Pending discount and scholarship applicability, an example of the student out of pocket cost *may be* \$125 per credit hour for tuition in the Certificate in Ministry program, \$175 per semester hour in the Diploma in Ministry program, \$225 per semester hour in the Bachelor of Arts in Ministry program, \$275 per semester hour in the Master of Arts in Ministry program and \$350 in the Master of Divinity program.

SCS does not make student loans. Once all discounts or scholarships have been applied, the student should pay at least one-fourth (for spring/fall) or one-third (for summer) of the current balance owed to SCS by the first payment deadline. The remainder of the balance will be due at specified dates during the semester. These dates will be notated in the academic calendar. In some cases, payment may be deferred until the last business day before the semester begins.

Should a student find it impossible to keep a financial commitment made to SCS, an appointment should be scheduled with the SCS Business Office immediately.

Late Payments – Finance charge of 1.5% per month (18% APR) may be assessed on any unpaid balance following the end of the fourth month of the semester regardless of the payment plan or pending financial aid.

Fees

Application Fee	\$0
Student Fee	\$0
Late registration	\$50
Drop Fee	\$40 per course

Withdrawal and Refund Policies

Any student wishing to drop a course prior to the semester beginning should complete the appropriate paperwork at SCS. The student will incur a processing fee for each dropped course.

The student will be assigned a grade of VWP or VWF, depending upon whether the student is passing or failing at the time of withdrawal. A grade of VWP does not affect the grade point average. A grade of VWF, however, carries the same grade point average value as a grade of F. The deadline for dropping a course is included in the Academic Calendar each year.

Before dropping a course, the student should consider the work already completed for the course, the priority of finishing his or her degree, and the cycle of course offerings that may impede completion of the degree. In addition, SCS cannot refund the cost of a dropped course, and each course dropped will incur a drop-fee. No class may be dropped until the student's semester bill is paid in full.

A student wishing to drop a course should make an appointment with the course professor to discuss the decision. Second, the student must meet with his or her academic advisor, secure official drop forms from the office, and deliver them to the professor for grade assignment and signature. After the professor's portions of the drop forms are completed, the student should return the forms to the office. Failure to follow this procedure may result in a grade of F for the course.

Students may receive a full refund for classes dropped prior to the beginning of the semester. After census day, SCS does not provide refunds for dropped courses.

Admission to the College

Admissions Policy

Stark College and Seminary welcomes all inquiries and applications from prospective students who wish to start or continue their education at a higher education institution. The office of the Vice President of Student Experience assists students in achieving their educational goals by making available quality student and educational support services. Assistance with admission policy, campus visits, interviews, and admission forms is available by contacting the office of the Vice President of Student Experience.

The college is committed to providing the opportunity for higher education to persons desiring to serve Christ and who can benefit from these programs. The college offers certificate and degree programs for Christian individuals who consider their vocation as their ministry in the world. By enrolling in a program at SCS, students will acquire the knowledge, attitudes, and skills associated with the primary focus of that program. In addition, students will develop a biblical and theological foundation that will prepare them for ministry through their professional activity whether in a church or outside-the-church work environment.

General Admission Requirements

Stark College and Seminary does not discriminate based on sex, race, age, handicap, or national origin in its admission policy and practices. The following are required for admission into undergraduate and graduate programs:

Application for admission to SCS is available online at www.stark.edu.

Official transcripts: As appropriate, an applicant must submit an official high college transcript or official transcripts reflecting all work taken at institutions of higher education. Provisional acceptance into bachelor and master level programs will be given for one semester without official transcripts. Official transcripts must be submitted within the first semester of admittance into bachelor and master level programs. For home-schooled students, appropriate documentation that is signed and dated by the person supervising the student's educational experience may include any one of the following items:

Partial transcripts indicating courses taken, grades earned to date and the expected date of graduation (if student has not yet graduated), or final transcript indicating courses taken, grades earned, and the date of graduation (if student has graduated).

Applicants who did not graduate from an accredited high school but received a General Educational Development (GED) certificate must provide documentary proof of GED certification or official transcripts reflecting all work taken at institutions of higher education. Applicants who attended educational institutions outside of the U. S. must submit official copies (in English) of complete academic records, types of subjects, and a description of the grading system. Transcripts may be evaluated and translated through a foreign credentials agency, such as the Foreign Credentials Services of America, 1910 Justin Lane, Austin, Texas 78757-2411, 512.459.8428, info@fcsa.biz or other approved services.

Applicants with Criminal Convictions: All applicants must disclose any criminal record in the SCS application for admission or face suspension or termination of enrollment. Applicants with felony convictions may be given conditional acceptance, but must complete additional admission requirements. The applicant must submit the additional required documentation to the department of admissions:

1. a letter of explanation and personal growth since conviction, and
2. a pastor recommendation letter ensuring applicant is in good standing with his/her church. If admission is denied, the college will notify the applicant in writing.

Admission for Degree-seeking Students

First Time Freshmen: Applicants enrolled at SCS for the first time and who have not been enrolled in any other college-level institution are classified as first time freshmen and may apply for admission as follows:

- As appropriate, students who completed their secondary education (High School) must submit an official transcript from their school.
- Home-school graduates must submit appropriate documentation that is signed and dated by the person supervising the student's coursework showing the name of the courses taken, grade and graduation date.
- Students who have completed the General Educational Development (GED) test must submit an official GED certificate.

Other Admit Types

Certificate-to-Diploma or Bachelor Degree "Fast Track": Applicants who earned the Certificate in Ministry from SCS, completing it with a grade point average of 3.0 (B) or above, have proven their ability to do coursework at the collegiate level. To apply for the Diploma in Ministry or Bachelor Degree, these applicants need only to submit an application for admission, which will be reviewed by the Admissions Committee.

Individual Approval: Applicants who are not high school graduates may be admitted into pre-collegiate and developmental studies by individual approval. Students must complete the GED certification process within one year of enrollment in order to continue in the program of study

Students: Students in good standing at accredited institutions or who have completed credit courses at the college level may apply for admission. Credit will be awarded for prior coursework in accordance with the following:

- General admission requirements are met.
- Official college transcripts must be mailed in a sealed envelope or emailed via a transcript service. Faxed transcripts or copies of official transcripts will be acceptable for advising purposes only.
- Grade point average (GPA) of at least C (2.0 on 4.0-scale). Credit for courses equivalent to those listed in the Catalog may be accepted from accredited institutions. A minimum of 18 semester hours for the Diploma in Ministry, 36 hours for the Bachelor of Arts in Ministry, 13 hours for the Master of Arts in Ministry, and 22 credits for the Master of Divinity must be taken in residence before an award will be given by SCS. The residence requirements can be met if the student has taken those hours at the Corpus Christi campus with one of our two former partner schools, Howard Payne University or Hardin Simmons University.

The Office of the Registrar will determine the hours and grade points acceptable for transfer credit. Generally, undergraduate and graduate college credits completed at other U. S. accredited colleges or universities in which a passing grade has been earned is accepted for credit. Development and remediation coursework will not be credited toward award requirements. Transfer credit from foreign institutions is accepted by the college on the basis of this evaluation.

Graduate-Level Students: Graduate-level applicants must have an Earned Baccalaureate Degree unless they meet the requirements listed below and are accepted into the program by the Bridge Program Committee.

Applicants to the Bridge Program are evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. 90 credit hours of accredited academic coursework, 30 of which must be upper level (i.e. 3000/4000 level)
2. Two Letters of Recommendation
3. Curriculum Vitae or Resume demonstrating at least 10-15 years of ministerial experience¹
4. GPA requirement of a 3.0 from SCS courses, 15 hrs. required, preferably our MA prerequisites
5. Research proficiency: student must complete *one* of the following:
 - a. Complete THEO 1102 Theological Research and Writing with an “A” final grade.
 - b. Provide an academic writing sample demonstrating fluency of graduate-level research and Turabian format (minimum of 5 pages).

For all graduate-level applicants, official transcripts are required.

- Official Transcripts: Official transcripts must be sent to Stark College & Seminary reflecting all work taken at institutions of higher education. Applicants who attended educational institutions outside of the U.S. must submit official copies (in English) of complete academic records, types

¹ Ministerial experience will be determined by the Bridge Program Admissions Committee. The Bridge program is intended for mature and experienced ministers who are underserved and who may have not considered pursuing a graduate degree because of the time and cost involved.

of subjects, and a description of the grading system. Transcripts may be evaluated and translated through a foreign credentials agency. The applicant is responsible for having their official transcripts sent to Stark College & Seminary from the degree granting institution(s). Transcripts should be mailed to the registrar's office (address listed below), or sent via E-transcript to registrar@stark.edu.

Stark College & Seminary
ATTN: Registrar
7000 Ocean Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Readmission: Former students seeking to re-enroll at SCS after an absence of one year or more must submit an updated Application for Admission and official transcripts from all institutions attended since last enrolled at SCS. No application fee is required. Application of students not in good standing at the last institution attended, or on academic probation or suspension at SCS, must be approved by the Admissions Committee.

Probationary Admission: Students placed on disciplinary suspension by other institutions will not be admitted. Students placed on academic suspension may request consideration for admission by the Admissions Committee. Students admitted on academic suspension will be placed on academic probation, and any student with less than a 2.0 GPA will be admitted on a probation basis. These students will be given one full semester to bring up the GPA to a minimum of 2.0. Any student falsifying information for the purpose of admission to SCS is subject to disciplinary action and dismissal.

Provisional Acceptance: Provisional acceptance applies to those applicants who have not been reviewed by the Admissions Committee but were notified of their provisional acceptance by the Admissions Office pending receipt of all required admissions documents. Upon completion of admission requirements, the application will be reviewed by the Admissions Committee, a formal acceptance letter will be sent, and the provisional acceptance will be lifted.

Program-Specific Requirements: The candidates for the different certificates and degrees should meet all course and other requirements for that program and for graduation. Each student is responsible for all requirements as stated and careful attention to the program will result in completion of the requirements for graduation in the minimum time.

Students are encouraged to apply as early as possible to resolve admission matters well in advance of the start of the semester. Suggested deadlines for applications are as follows:

For the fall semester – July 31

For the spring semester – November 30

Additional Admissions Information

Applicants who did not attend SCS for two consecutive regular semesters (fall and spring regardless of the order) must complete an Application for Admission. No application fee is required.

Returning students must be cleared by the Business Office regarding their financial situation before registration is considered complete.

Admission of Non-Degree Students:

Applicants who are interested in taking courses at SCS but do not want to seek a degree may be admitted as non-degree students. If a non-degree student decides to enroll in a degree program, the student must apply for regular admission and provide the appropriate documentation for review for potential admission as a degree-seeking student.

Academic Advising

Academic advising is an essential element of the school's commitment to student success in meeting his/her educational objectives. The faculty provides academic advising services to students prior to the start of each semester.

Student Orientation

Orientation is required of all first-time SCS students and must be completed prior to the end of the first semester of enrollment. The purpose of orientation is to equip new students with information that will enable them to be more successful in college-level work.

Academic Expectations

Grade Requirements for Good Standing

All students, whether enrolled on a full- or part-time basis, must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 to remain in good standing. Similarly, a 2.0 cumulative GPA is required for graduation.

Scholastic Probation

Student grades are reviewed each semester to determine good standing. Students will be placed on scholastic probation at the end of the semester in which a minimum GPA of 2.0 is not maintained. Scholastic probation will be removed by earning the minimum standard during the next regular semester, or during the summer session. A probationary student who withdraws and subsequently re-enrolls will be admitted on scholastic probation and is subject to the original standard for removal of scholastic probation.

Scholastic Suspension

A probationary student failing to meet the minimum standard necessary to remove probation will be placed on scholastic suspension and is ineligible to enroll for the next long semester. Students placed on scholastic suspension will be eligible for readmission after one regular semester (fall or spring).

Students are expected to know if they have maintained the minimum standard and are eligible to continue college. An ineligible student who registers for college will be subject to dismissal.

Students placed on academic suspension have the right to appeal to the Provost. The appeal must be submitted in writing no later than 21 days after the student is notified of his/her academic suspension.

Course Cancellation

SCS reserves the right to cancel any scheduled course without sufficient enrollment to justify, economically or educationally, teaching the course. Students will be notified of a course cancellation at the first scheduled class.

Registration and Academic Load

College officials reserve the right to limit the number of semester hours a student may carry. A “normal” academic load for a student attending full time is considered 15 credit hours per regular semester, or 30 credit hours per academic year (fall and spring) at the undergraduate level. A “full-time” student is defined as one enrolled in 12 or more credit hours in a semester at the undergraduate level and 9 or more credit hours in a semester at the graduate level. A student wishing to take more than 18 hours at the undergraduate level or 12 hours at the graduate level per semester must receive prior approval from the Provost.

Withdrawal from Class (“Drops”)

A student whose circumstances necessitate a reduced academic load should confer with an academic advisor for assistance in adjusting the course load. Drops made after the close of registration must be approved by the student’s professor and program director (see “Withdrawal and Refund Policies”). The student is responsible for initiating and completing in a timely manner the withdrawal process. Withdrawal forms are available at the Office of the Registrar.

Withdrawal from the College

A student withdrawing completely from the college after the close of registration must complete the drop process (see “Withdrawal and Refund Policies”).

Academic Honors

At the end of each regular semester, the college recognizes students who demonstrate superior academic achievement by naming them to the President’s and Provost’s Lists. To qualify for these honors, students must attain a 4.0 GPA for the President’s List and a 3.50 – 3.99 GPA for the Provost’s List.

Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students. Absences are counted from the first day of class and are described in course syllabi. If an absence is necessary, students should not be absent more than four times for a three-hour class meeting once a week. Absences include doctor visits, conferences, and all other “excused” absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from class with a grade of “F.” Three occurrences of tardiness is equivalent to one absence.

Many students commute and may travel considerable distances to attend classes. In case of inclement weather, students should use their judgment concerning road conditions. Students are responsible for consulting their instructors about make-up work when an absence occurs.

Official Transcripts

Official transcripts may be requested from the Registrar. Students may request transcripts from stark.edu > Students > Resources > [Transcript Request Form](#). All financial obligations to the college must be paid in full before a transcript will be issued.

Transferability of Credits to Other Institutions

Stark College and Seminary is accredited by the Association for Biblical Higher Education; therefore, the courses students take at SCS can be transferred to other ABHE accredited colleges or universities. In addition, SCS has Articulation Agreements which ensure ease of transferability with the following higher education institutions:

- B. H. Carroll Institute
- Coastal Bend Community College
- Dallas Baptist University
- Del Mar College

- South Texas College
- Victoria College

Graduation Requirements and Process

Students graduating from the college must meet the following requirements:

- Manifest the highest morals, values, and Christian testimony to enhance the work of the Kingdom and encourage others to come to Christ;
- Complete the prescribed course of study and maintain a passing grade average (as certified by the Provost);
- Meet all financial obligations (as certified by the Director of Operations);
- Comply with required ministry service (as certified by the Provost); and
- Receive authorization from the Board of Trustees for the conferral of diplomas.

Application for Graduation

Diplomas are not awarded automatically. A candidate for an award must submit an application for graduation. Applications will be emailed to the student's Stark email by the Student Experience Office during the Spring semester. Completed applications should be submitted online by April 1 for May graduation. The application and administrative certifications will be presented to the Board of Trustees for authorization.

Catalog Restrictions

A student pursuing a course of study may choose to graduate in compliance with the requirements of the Catalog in effect at the time of entrance to the college or those of any subsequent edition, provided that degree requirements are completed within five years from the ending date of the effective period of the selected Catalog. Each Catalog is effective from August 1st of the year of publication through July 31st of the next calendar year.

Graduation Rate

SCS strives to function entirely by means of fulfilling our mission. Stark College and Seminary exists to equip educationally underserved followers of Christ for service in the church and community. We define the educationally underserved as those students who typically have not had the will or the way to pursue theological education due to their age, gender, ethnicity, finances, and bureaucratic hurdles that marginalize these particular students.

Due to our mission to equip the educationally underserved, we have few traditional first-time freshman, and few full-time students at this time. SCS students take an average of 4.5 credit hours per semester. Average hours broken down by degree include: Certificate in Ministry (4.5), Diploma in Ministry (10.5), Bachelor of Arts in Ministry (5.4) and Master of Arts in Ministry (3.6). The demographic breakdown across all programs, specifically with regard to age, indicates why SCS students are primarily part-time with only 11% who are 24 years of age and under, whereas 64% are 40 and over. SCS students are mature adults seeking to expand their biblical knowledge while serving their local church.

The part-time nature of the SCS student means that traditional measures of graduation rates that measure the rate at which full-time students complete a program are not adequate. Traditionally, a graduation rate

is the percentage of a college's full-time, first-year undergraduate students who complete their program within 150% of the published time for the program. For example, for a typical two-year degree program, entering freshmen who complete the program within three years are counted as graduates. As SCS has few full-time students, our part-time students complete their two-year program in four years and their four-year program in six years. Therefore, to allow the same rate of consideration, our graduation rate is the percentage of our part-time students who complete the program within 300% of the published time for full-time students.

Master of Arts in Ministry - Cumulative Graduation/Retention Rates

Cohort		After 1 Year		After 2 Years		After 3 Years		After 4 Years		After 5 Years		After 6 Years	
Year	New Students	Graduated	Retained	Graduated	Retained	Graduated	Retained	Graduated	Retained	Graduated	Retained	Graduated	Retained
2019	33	30%	64%	48.5%	18.2%	54.5%	9.1%	---	---	---	---	---	---
2020	35	8.6%	65.7%	28.6%	37.1%	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2021	18	16.7%	55.6%	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2022	26	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Bachelor of Arts in Ministry - Cumulative Graduation/Retention Rates

Cohort		After 1 Year		After 2 Years		After 3 Years		After 4 Years		After 5 Years		After 6 Years	
Year	New Students	Graduated	Retained	Graduated	Retained	Graduated	Retained	Graduated	Retained	Graduated	Retained	Graduated	Retained
2018	28	25%	64%	36%	54%	54%	11%	54%	0%	---	---	---	---
2019	14	7%	64%	14.3%	21.4%	14.3%	0%	---	---	---	---	---	---
2020	19	10.5%	73.7%	42.1%	26.3%	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2021	11	9%	18.2%	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2022	18	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Diploma in Ministry - Cumulative Graduation/Retention Rates

Cohort		After 1 Year		After 2 Years		After 3 Years		After 4 Years		After 5 Years		After 6 Years	
Year	New Students	Graduated	Retained	Graduated	Retained	Graduated	Retained	Graduated	Retained	Graduated	Retained	Graduated	Retained
2014	4	0%	100%	0%	75%	50%	25%	50%	25%	50%	0%	50%	0%
2015	1	0%	100%	0%	100%	100%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
2016	2	0%	100%	0%	100%	100%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%
2017	10	0%	80%	0%	60%	0%	60%	10%	20%	20%	10%	---	---
2018	16	6%	88%	12.5%	81.5%	31.3%	12.5%	31.3%	0%	---	---	---	---
2019	15	0%	93.3%	6.7%	66.7%	26.7%	26.7%	---	---	---	---	---	---
2020	7	0%	85.7%	28.6%	14.3%	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2021	11	9.1%	27.3%	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2022	5	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Certificate in Ministry - Cumulative Graduation/Retention Rates

Cohort		After 1 Year		After 2 Years		After 3 Years	
Year	New Students	Graduated	Retained	Graduated	Retained	Graduated	Retained
2016	68	11.7%	58.5%	13.8%	22.3%	26%	10%
2017	94	1%	62.6%	6%	56.8%	15%	18%
2018	93	6.4%	91.3%	11.8%	39.8%	32.2%	10.8%
2019	77	14.9%	61.4%	30%	18%	39.0%	5.2%
2020	94	25.5%	29.8%	36.2%	3.2%	---	---
2021	105	23.8%	18.1%	---	---	---	---
2022	65	---	---	---	---	---	---

Employment and Placement Rates

Below are the employment rates by program for the 2022-2023 graduates.

- Certificate in Ministry
 - Employment Rate: 91%
 - Employment in a Ministry Setting: 64%
 - Pursuing Further Education: 77%
- Diploma in Ministry:
 - Employment Rate: 100%
 - Employment in a Ministry Setting: 100%
 - Pursuing Further Education: 100%
- Bachelor of Arts in Ministry:
 - Employment Rate: 80%
 - Employment in a Ministry Setting: 80%
 - Pursuing Further Education: 60%
- Master of Arts in Ministry:
 - Employment Rate: 100%
 - Employment in a Ministry Setting: 88%
 - Pursuing Further Education: 63%

Retention Rate

Below are the fall to spring retention rates by program for the 2023 spring semester.

- Certificate in Ministry: 60%
- Diploma in Ministry: 38%
- Bachelor of Arts in Ministry: 84%
- Master of Arts in Ministry: 90%

Resolution of Student Grievances

The student has the right to appeal a disciplinary action. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the appropriate Vice President, who will then refer the item to the grievance committee. The levels of the appeals process are as follows: grievance committee, President, Christian Education Activities Corporation Board, State of Texas NC SARA Portal Contact/Texas Higher Education Coordinating

Board at PO Box 12788, Austin, TX 78711. Ultimate appeal may be made to the accrediting agency with which the school holds candidate status, the Association for Biblical Higher Education, 5850 T. G. Lee Blvd., Suite #130, Orlando, FL 32822.

Career Placement

Employment Opportunities

A large percentage of the students are already employed in some type of bi-vocational ministry. Nevertheless, SCS maintains a network of alumni, friends, churches, state conventions, associations, and other organizations that recruit students throughout the year. See the section of the catalog entitled Employment and Placement Rates for current rates of placement.

Website

The college provides information to assist students and alumni with career services via the student's CampusSIS account (Login to [CampusSIS](#), then go to Module > Student > Community Files). Information regarding employment opportunities can also be requested from the SCS Ministry Placement Coordinator, Andres Garcia (agarcia@stark.edu).

Academic Policy

Course Numbering System

Courses are numbered using four digits. The first digit indicates the level of the course (1 = Freshman; 2 = Sophomore; 3 = Junior; 4 = Senior; 5 = Senior blended w/ graduate; 6 = Graduate). The second digit indicates the amount of semester hour credit (0 = 0 hours credit; 1 = 1 hour credit; 2 = 2 hours credit; 3 = 3 hours credit, etc.) unless otherwise indicated. The third digit denotes courses within a department, and the fourth number is used to indicate a different course within a discipline.

Credit - Hour Policy

According to SCS, a credit hour represents at least 37.5 hours of instructor-led academic learning activities, which may include 50 minutes of instruction per week for 15 weeks (not including finals).

Approximate Assignment and Effort Equivalencies

- 1 hour for each hour in class
- 1 hour for each 15 pp of assigned reading
- 2 hours for 1 page of a paper (recognizing research papers require more time than some other kinds of papers)
- 5-10 hours for a major exam or project (recognizing exams/projects may have varying levels of significance in course requirements)
- 1 hour for translation and/or exegesis of a biblical language verse
- 0-2 hours for a quiz (recognizing some quizzes require unique preparation, while others require no other preparation than what is involved in completing other assignments)
- Some assignments may not fit this paradigm and require unique quantification of workload value. Use your discretion.

Hours of Workload for Courses

- For 3-hour Certificate course: 75-90 hours of student academic work
- For 1-hour Certificate course: 25-30 hours of student academic work
- For 3-hour Diploma course: 90-100 hours of student academic work
- For 3-hour Bachelor course: 100-120 hours of student academic work
- For 3-hour Graduate course: 120-150 hours of student academic work

Hours of Workload	Work / Assignment
Hour of Workload	Hour of Work in Class
One Hour of Workload	50 Pages of Assigned Reading
½ Hour of Workload	One Page of a Paper
Five to Ten Hours of Workload	Major Exam or Project

Note: Some assignments may not fit this paradigm and require unique quantification of workload value. For example, online assignments may involve varying workload values, depending on whether they require synchronous discussion (where one hour online = one hour of workload) or require additional workload preparation, which should be calculated appropriately.

Attendance Policy

Students are encouraged and expected to attend all classes. A student must attend a minimum of 75% of the course sessions in order to receive credit for the course. Each instructor may establish a more stringent absence policy if it is outlined in the course syllabus. Absences are counted from the first day class meets, not from the date the student registers. All absences, excused or unexcused, are counted as classes missed. Work missed for an excused absence may be made up, but the absence is still considered in the total count.

Where a course meets online or in a flexible format, absences will be described by the instructor in the syllabus.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Total Class Meetings</u>	<u>75%</u>	<u>Attendance Absences Allowed</u>
Once weekly	15 + exam	12	4
Weekend course	10 + exam	9	2
Hybrid course	7	5	2

Grades

Grade	Interpretation	Grade Points
A	Excellent	4 per semester hour
B	Good	3 per semester hour
C	Average	2 per semester hour
D	Passing	1 per semester hour
F	Failing	0 per semester hour

I	Incomplete	0 per semester hour
P	Passing	0 per semester hour
VWP	Withdraw Passing	0 per semester hour
VWF	Withdraw Failing	0 per semester hour
NG	No Grade	0 per semester hour

Satisfactory Progress

In order to maintain a high level of academic standards, SCS requires students to sustain a 2.0 cumulative GPA. If a student drops below the cumulative 2.0 GPA, that student will receive a warning notification his or her first semester is not meeting the requirement. The student will have one long semester to meet the 2.0 cumulative GPA requirement. If the student is unable to meet this requirement after the warning semester, the student will be placed on academic suspension for one semester.

Academic Integrity

Consistent with the Christian character and values of SCS, students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic integrity. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty occurs when a student submits the work of someone else as his or her own or has special information for use in an evaluation activity that is not available to other students in the same activity. All professors or proctors shall have the right to examine materials in the student's possession during quizzes, examinations, and/or laboratory sessions. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following:

Cheating on an examination

This type of academic dishonesty may include copying from another student; possessing or using unauthorized material during the examination; collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during the examination; knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting contents of an examination; substituting for another student or permitting another student to substitute for one's self when taking an examination; and obtaining a non-administered examination or information about a non-administered examination.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another person's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it as one's own work. Plagiarism includes failure to cite specific sources for the writings, ideas, etc. of another.

In accordance with each student's commitment to honesty and integrity, students enrolled at SCS agree to complete their own work on papers, exams, reports, etc. unless the professor's assignment specifically invites collaboration.

Should a second party agree to the misrepresentation, the error is simply compounded by the complicity of another dishonest person. If the second party is also a student, both students are subject to disciplinary action.

Plagiarism is an age-old problem that has been compounded by the ease of cut-and-paste technology and the accessibility of many sources on the Internet. The faculty and staff at SCS are aware that entire websites exist for the purpose of providing complete research papers on all topics. The Internet is a useful tool for legitimate research, but plagiarism is not research. Students who are confused about how to use online research without plagiarizing should discuss specific examples with their professors.

As employees of a Christian institution, SCS professors are accountable for maintaining the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. SCS faculty and staff use software designed to identify material plagiarized from the Internet and other various sources. Students understand that all work submitted to SCS professors is eligible for review. Students further understand that if the results of such a review support an allegation of academic dishonesty, the coursework in question, as well as any supporting materials, may be submitted to the President for investigation and further action.

If a student willfully uses another's material as if it is his or her own, or if a student willfully aids another in such dishonesty, subsequent disciplinary action may include an F on the assignment, an F in the class, or dismissal from the program. Such disciplinary action will apply in all cases of plagiarism, whether the copied material is from the Internet, a book, another student, or any other source.

Collusion

Collusion shall be defined as the unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing work offered for credit. A student is not guilty of collusion if he or she merely discusses with another person a matter relevant to the work in question.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Certificate in Ministry

The Certificate in Ministry provides entry-level preparation courses for ministry service. Serving students of Stark College and Seminary by offering Bible and theology courses, this program demonstrates the intent of the mission of SCS to equip educationally under-served followers of Christ for service to the church and community. Students enrolled in the Certificate in Ministry have used this course of study as a basis for the Diploma in Ministry and Bachelor of Arts in Ministry at Stark College and Seminary.

The minimum number of semester hours required for the Certificate in Ministry is 19, with 9 semester hours in Bible, 3 semester hours in Ministry, 6 semester hours in Theological/Historical Studies, and 1 semester hour in Communication and Technology.

Student Learning Outcomes:

At an appropriate collegiate level, the student will:

- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the history and interpretation of the Christian Scriptures;
- Apply the practices of spiritual formation as they relate to their relationships with God, families, the church, and the world; and
- Integrate a basic understanding of the tenets of the Christian faith and the practice of the faith in everyday life.

Certificate Requirements:

Certificate in Ministry	Hours
Biblical Studies (9 Semester hours)	
BIBL 1301 Old Testament Survey	3
BIBL 1302 New Testament Survey	3
BIBL 1304 Methods of Biblical Interpretation	3
Ministry Studies (3 Semester hours)	
MNST 2301 Spiritual Formation	3
Theological/Historical Studies (6 Semester hours)	
THEO 1301 Introduction to Christian Thought	3
CHST 1301 Introduction to Church History	3
Communication and Technology (1 Semester hour)	
COMM 1101 Communication and Technology I <i>*Required to be taken the first long semester (Fall or Spring) of enrollment.</i>	1
Total needed:	19

Diploma in Ministry

The Diploma in Ministry addresses the formation of the minister through biblical, theological, and professional studies. Serving students by offering general education, Bible, theology, and professional studies courses, this program promotes the intent of the mission of SCS to equip educationally under-served followers of Christ for service in the church and community.

Lay leaders and support leaders can use the Diploma in Ministry to serve the Lord in their local congregations. Also, bi-vocational ministers can use this course of study to expand their ministry opportunities.

The Diploma in Ministry is designed as a continuation of Stark College and Seminary's Certificate in Ministry and can be transferred into the Bachelor of Arts in Ministry. The minimum number of semester hours required for the Diploma in Ministry is 60.

Student Learning Outcomes

At an appropriate collegiate level, the student will:

- Demonstrate an intermediate knowledge of the history and interpretation of the Christian Scriptures;
- Integrate an intermediate understanding of the tenets of the Christian faith and the practice of faith in everyday life;
- Value diversity;
- Practice leadership skills for use in life and ministry; and
- Demonstrate digital fluency.

Diploma in Ministry Requirements:

Diploma in Ministry	Hours		Hours
General Studies (9 Semester Hours)		Ministry Studies (18 Semester Hours)	
COMM 1302 Communication and Technology II <i>*Required to be taken the first long semester (Fall or Spring) of enrollment.</i>	3	MNST 2301 Spiritual Formation	3
LEAD 1301 Foundations of Leadership	3	MNST 2322 Principles of Teaching in the Church	3
LEAD 2301 Christian Ethics for Leaders	3	MNST 2321 Foundations of Cross-Cultural Ministry	3
Biblical Studies (15 Semester Hours)		MNST 2323 Principles of Christian Worship OR MNST 2320 Principles of Preaching	3
BIBL 1301 Old Testament Survey	3	MNST 1321 Christianity in a Cultural Context	3
BIBL 1302 New Testament Survey	3	MNST 2344 Supervised Ministry I	3
BIBL 1304 Methods of Biblical Int.	3	Electives (9 Semester Hours)	
NT BIBL Lower Level (2000-level)	3	BIBL/THEO/MNST/CHST/Transfer Credits	9
OT BIBL Lower Level (2000-level)	3	Ministry Formation	
Theological/Historical Studies (9 Semester Hours)		MNFOR 101 Ministry Formation Group	
THEO 1301 Intro to Christian Thought	3	MNFOR 102 Ministry Formation Group	
CHST 1301 Introduction to Church History	3	Total Hours Needed	60
THEO 1302 Introduction to Christian Ethics	3		

Bachelor of Arts in Ministry

The Bachelor of Arts in Ministry addresses the formation of the minister through biblical, theological, and professional studies. Serving students by offering general education, Bible, theology, and professional studies courses, this program promotes the intent of the mission of SCS to equip educationally underserved followers of Christ for service in the church and community.

The primary audience for this degree is the student who wishes to further their education through the pursuit of a bachelor program.

The Bachelor of Arts in Ministry is designed as a continuation of Stark College and Seminary Certificate in Ministry and Diploma in Ministry programs. All credits earned in these programs are transferable to the Bachelor of Arts in Ministry.

The minimum number of semester hours required for the Bachelor of Arts in Ministry is 120.

Student Learning Outcomes:

At an appropriate collegiate level, the student will:

- Demonstrate proficiency in knowledge of the history and interpretation of the Christian scriptures;
- Integrate an understanding of the tenets of the Christian faith and the practice of the faith in everyday life;
- Value and celebrate cultural and ethnic diversity;
- Practice and apply leadership skills for use in life and ministry; and
- Demonstrate proficiency in digital fluency.

Bachelor of Arts in Ministry Requirements:

General Studies (30 Semester Hours)	Hours
ENGL 1301 Composition I	3
COMM 1302 Communication & Technology II	3
SPCH 1315 Public Speaking	3
PHIL 1301 Introduction to Philosophy	3
Fine Arts from Art, Music, Theater	3
MATH 1332 Contemporary Mathematics I	3
PSYC 2301 General Psychology	3
SOCI 1301 Introduction to Sociology	3
LEAD 1301 Foundations of Leadership Studies	3
LEAD 2301 Christian Ethics for Leaders	3
Foreign Language (8 Semester Hours)	
Two semesters of one language <i>*The student may choose to take 8 hours of electives in lieu of a foreign language.</i>	8
Electives (9 Semester Hours)	
BIBL/THEO/MNST/CHST/Transfer Credits	9
Biblical Studies (30 Semester Hours)	
BIBL 1301 Old Testament Survey	3
BIBL 1302 New Testament Survey	3
BIBL 1304 Methods in Biblical Interpretation	3
NT BIBL Lower Level (2000-level)	3
OT BIBL Lower Level (2000-level)	3
BIBL Upper Level (3000- or 4000-level)	15

Theological/Historical (15 Semester Hours)	Hours
THEO 1301 Introduction to Christian Thought	3
THEO 1302 Introduction to Christian Ethics	3
CHST 1301 Introduction to Church History	3
THEO/CHST Upper Level (3000- or 4000-level)	6
Ministry Studies (28 Semester Hours)	
MNST 2301 Spiritual Formation	3
MNST 2322 Principles of Teaching in the Church	3
MNST 2321 Foundations of Cross-Cultural Ministry	3
MNST 2323 Principles of Christian Worship OR MNST 2320 Principles of Preaching	3
MNST 1321 Christianity in a Cultural Context	3
MNST Upper Level (3000- or 4000-level)	6
MNST 2344 Supervised Ministry I	3
MNST 4344 Supervised Ministry II	3
MNST 4101 Capstone	1
Ministry Formation	
MNFOR 101 Ministry Formation Group	
MNFOR 102 Ministry Formation Group	
MNFOR 103 Ministry Formation Group	
MNFOR 104 Ministry Formation Group	
Total Hours Needed:	120

Master of Arts in Ministry

The Master of Arts in Ministry addresses the formation of the minister through biblical, theological, and professional studies. This program promotes the intent of the mission of SCS to equip educationally underserved followers of Christ for service in the church and community.

The primary audience for this degree is the student who wishes to further their education through the pursuit of a masters program.

The Master of Arts in Ministry is designed as a continuation of SCS undergraduate programming. Credits earned in undergraduate programming serve as prerequisites for the Master of Arts in Ministry.

The minimum number of semester hours required for the Master of Arts in Ministry is 43.

Student Learning Outcomes

At an appropriate collegiate level, the student will:

- Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of the history and interpretation of the Christian Scriptures;
- Integrate and apply an understanding of the tenets of the Christian faith and the practice of the faith in everyday life and ministry context;
- Value and celebrate cultural diversity;
- Practice and implement advanced leadership skills for use in life and ministry; and
- Demonstrate advanced proficiency in digital fluency.

Master of Arts in Ministry Requirements:

Prerequisites * (9 Semester Hours)	Hours
Old Testament	3
New Testament	3
Introduction to Christian Thought	3
Biblical Studies (15 Semester Hours)	
BIBL 6340 Biblical Hermeneutics	3
BIBL 6341 Old Testament I	3
BIBL 6342 Old Testament II	3
BIBL 6343 New Testament I	3
BIBL 6344 New Testament II	3
Theological/Historical Studies (9 Semester Hours)	
CHST 6301 Survey of Church History	3
CHST 6302 Baptist Heritage	3
THEO 6301 Christian Theology	3

Ministry Studies (13 Semester Hours)	Hours
MNST 6311 Graduate Communication & Technology	3
MNST 6301 Supervised Ministry I	3
MNST 6101 Capstone I	1
Ministry Electives (preaching, counseling, worship, spiritual formation, multicultural church studies, etc.)	6
Electives (6 Semester Hours)	
BIBL/THEO/MNST/CHST	6
Ministry Formation	
MNFOR 601 Graduate Ministry Formation Group	
MNFOR 602 Graduate Ministry Formation Group	
Total Hours Needed:	43

*Prerequisites of Old Testament and New Testament are required prior to taking BIBL 6341, 6342, 6343, and 6344. The prerequisite of Introduction to Christian Thought is required prior to taking THEO 6301

Master of Divinity

The Master of Divinity program is a professional degree designed to equip women and men for vocational Christian ministry.

The 74-hour Master of Divinity equips graduates for ministry leadership in a variety of church and parachurch contexts. The degree includes comprehensive training in the areas of ministry and leadership, biblical, theological, and historical studies.

Graduates of the program will:

1. Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of Christian Scripture, Church History, Christian Theology, and Ecclesiology.
2. Establish a repertoire of spiritual formation and ministry leadership skills necessary for effective ministry endeavors to include leadership of self, others, and organizations.
3. Depict a culturally sensitive ministry leader, exhibited by the application of ministry skills and Christian virtues in engagement with individuals from diverse backgrounds and cultures.
4. Incorporate knowledge of church polity and governance to specific ministry contexts.
5. Demonstrate graduate-level proficiency in theological research and effective communication in written and verbal forms, to include proficiency in digital fluency.

Master of Divinity (Traditional)

Prerequisites* (9 Semester Hours)	Hours
Old Testament	3
New Testament	3
Introduction to Christian Thought	3
Biblical Studies (21 Semester Hours)	
BIBL 6340 Biblical Hermeneutics	3
BIBL 6341 Old Testament I	3
BIBL 6342 Old Testament II	3
BIBL 6343 New Testament I	3
BIBL 6344 New Testament II	3
Biblical Studies Electives (BIBL 6303, 6304, 6311, 6312, 6314, 6315, 6316; GREK 6401, 6402, 6099; HEBR 6301, 6302, 6099)	6
Theological/Historical Studies (15 Semester Hours)	
CHST 6301 Survey of Church History	3
CHST 6302 Baptist Heritage (Or equivalent met through competencies)	3
THEO 6301 Christian Theology	3
Theological/Historical Studies Electives (Choose one from: CHST 6304, 6305; AND Choose one from: THEO 6309, 6310, 6099, 6302, 6303, 6304, 6305)	6

*Prerequisites of Old Testament and New Testament are required prior to taking BIBL 6341, 6342, 6343, and 6344. The prerequisite of Introduction to Christian Thought is required prior to taking THEO 6301.

Christian Ministry and Leadership Studies (38 Semester Hours)	Hours
MNST 6311 Graduate Communication & Technology	3
MNST 6310 Communication in Ministry	3
MNST 6314 Organizational Leadership	3
MNST 6312 Ministry Leadership	3
MNST 6313 Leadership of Self	3
MNST 6308 Spiritual Formation	3
MNST 6302 Evangelism and Discipleship	3
Ministry and Leadership Electives (Choose one from: MNST 6344, 6303, 6306, 6307, LEAD 6301; AND Choose two from: MNST 6360, 6344, 6099, 6303, 6304, 6305, 6306, 6307, 6342, LEAD 6301)	9
MNST 6301 Supervised Ministry I	3
MNST 6315 Supervised Ministry II	3
MNST 6101 Capstone I	1
MNST 6102 Capstone II	1
Ministry Formation	
MNFOR 601 Graduate Ministry Formation Group	
MNFOR 602 Graduate Ministry Formation Group	
MNFOR 603 Graduate Ministry Formation Group	
MNFOR 604 Graduate Ministry Formation Group	
Total Hours Needed:	74

Master of Divinity (Competency Based)

Courses		Competencies (To be pursued in a ministry context)	
Prerequisites* (9 Semester Hours)	Hours	<u>Community Engagement:</u> Role of the Church in Serving the Community; Outreach and Service Programs, Needs of the Community, Ministry to and Learning from Individuals from Diverse Backgrounds and Cultures	
Old Testament	3	<u>Teaching/Communication:</u> Preaching/Teaching in Group Settings, Communication of Scriptural Truths, Communication of Controversial Topics, Social Media/Online Presence	
New Testament	3	<u>Leadership of Organizations:</u> Human Resources, Developing and Supervising Staff, Vision-Casting, Administration	
Introduction to Christian Thought	3	<u>Leadership of People:</u> Leading Volunteers, Group Dynamics, Pastoral Care, Conflict Resolution, Human Behavior, Protecting the Vulnerable	
Biblical Studies (15 Semester Hours)		<u>Leadership of Self:</u> Resilience, Dealing with Failure, Active Listening, Emotional Intelligence, Self-Awareness, Sustainable Rhythms of Life, Setting Boundaries, Time Management, Mental Health	
BIBL 6340 Biblical Hermeneutics	3	<u>Evangelism and Discipleship</u>	
BIBL 6341 Old Testament I	3	<u>Spiritual Formation:</u> Reading Scripture, Prayer, Meditation, Fasting, Rest, Communion of Saints	
BIBL 6342 Old Testament II	3	<u>Virtues:</u> Humility, Justice, Mercy, Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control	
BIBL 6343 New Testament I	3	Ministry Formation	
BIBL 6344 New Testament II	3	MNFOR 601 Graduate Ministry Formation Group	
Theological/Historical Studies (9 Semester Hours)		MNFOR 602 Graduate Ministry Formation Group	
CHST 6301 Survey of Church History	3	Total Competencies Needed:	
CHST 6302 Baptist Heritage (Or equivalent met through competencies)	3	45	
THEO 6301 Christian Theology	3		
Christian Ministry and Leadership Studies (14 Semester Hours)	Hours		
MNST 6311 Graduate Communication & Technology	3		
Ministry Electives	6		
MNST 6301 Supervised Ministry I	3		
MNST 6101 Capstone I	1		
MNST 6102 Capstone II	1		
Electives (6 Semester Hours)	6		
Total Hours Needed:	44		

*Prerequisites of Old Testament and New Testament are required prior to taking BIBL 6341, 6342, 6343, and 6344. The prerequisite of Introduction to Christian Thought is required prior to taking THEO 6301.

Course Descriptions

Biblical Studies

BIBL 1301 Old Testament Survey (3 semester hours) Foundational issues of Old Testament history and interpretation; consideration given to the entire Old Testament.

BIBL 1302 New Testament Survey (3 semester hours) Life and teachings of Jesus in the Gospels, expansion of early Christianity in Acts, teachings of the Pauline Epistles, General Epistles, and Revelation.

BIBL 1303 Introduction to Biblical Languages (3 semester hours) Exposure to both biblical Hebrew and Greek with focus on basic vocabulary, grammar as it relates to understanding the text, and the use of major tools for original language study.

BIBL 1304 Methods in Biblical Interpretation (3 semester hours) Introduction to biblical analysis, canonicity, transmission, and interpretation.

BIBL 2099 Special Topics (1-3 hours of credit) Topics offered in the area of ministry to reflect interests in the field. May be repeated for credit when different subject matter is covered.

BIBL 2303/4303 Old Testament Prophets (3 semester hours) Intensive study of the books of: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, and the twelve minor prophets. Attention is given to the background, content, and interpretation of each book. *Prerequisite: BIBL 1304 or consent of instructor.*

BIBL 2304/4304 The Pentateuch (3 semester hours) Intensive study of the first five books of the Old Testament. Attention is given to the background, content, and interpretation of each book. *Prerequisite: BIBL 1304 or consent of instructor.*

BIBL 2305/4305 Old Testament Wisdom Books (3 semester hours) Intensive study of the following books: Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes. Attention is given to the background, content, and interpretation of each book. *Prerequisite: BIBL 1304 or consent of instructor.*

BIBL 2306/4306 Old Testament Historical Books (3 semester hours) Intensive study of the historical books of the Old Testament: Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah. Attention is given to the background, content, and interpretation of each book. *Prerequisite: BIBL 1304 or consent of instructor.*

BIBL 2311/4311 New Testament Backgrounds (3 semester hours) Historical background of the New Testament with special emphasis on the history and literature of the inter-testamental period with their relevance for understanding the life of Jesus and the development of early Christianity. *Prerequisite: BIBL 1304 or consent of instructor.*

BIBL 2312/4312 Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels (3 semester hours) Study of the life and teachings of Jesus with special attention to the application of His teachings to the modern religious and social situation. *Prerequisite: BIBL 1304 or consent of instructor.*

BIBL 2313/4313 The Letters of Paul (3 semester hours) Study of the life and personality of Paul, followed by an intensive study of his writings and central ideas. *Prerequisite: BIBL 1304 or consent of instructor.*

BIBL 2314/4314 General Epistles and Revelation (3 semester hours) Study of the historical background, the books and central ideas of Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, & 3 John, Jude, and Revelation. *Prerequisite: BIBL 1304 or consent of instructor.*

BIBL 2315/4315 The Gospel of John (3 semester hours) Intensive study of the Gospel of John with special attention to the background, nature, and theology of the document. Also to be considered is the relationship of the Gospel to the Johannine Epistles and Revelation. *Prerequisite: BIBL 1304 or consent of instructor.*

BIBL 2316/4316 Acts (3 semester hours) Study of the book of Acts as the account of the development of the early Christian church. The background, text, and theology will be studied to understand the history of the early church and current applications of those teachings. *Prerequisite: BIBL 1304 or consent of instructor.*

BIBL 4099 Special Topics (1-4 hours of credit) Study of a selected topic in Bible. *Prerequisite: BIBL 1304 or consent of instructor.*

BIBL 5303/6303 Old Testament Prophets (3 semester hours) Advanced, intensive study of the books of: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, and the twelve minor prophets. Attention is given to the background, content, and interpretation of each book. *Prerequisite: BIBL 6340 or consent of instructor.*

BIBL 5304/6304 The Pentateuch (3 semester hours) Intensive study of the first five books of the Old Testament. Attention is given to the background, content, and interpretation of each book. *Prerequisite: BIBL 6340 or consent of instructor.*

BIBL 5305/6305 Old Testament Wisdom Books (3 semester hours) Advanced, intensive study of the following books: Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes. Attention is given to the background, content, and interpretation of each book. *Prerequisite: BIBL 6340 or consent of instructor.*

BIBL 5306/6306 Old Testament Historical Books (3 semester hours) Advanced, intensive study of the historical books of the Old Testament: Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah. Attention is given to the background, content, and interpretation of each book. *Prerequisite: BIBL 6340 or consent of instructor.*

BIBL 5311/6311 New Testament Backgrounds (3 semester hours) Historical background of the New Testament with special emphasis on the history and literature of the inter-testamental period with their relevance for understanding the life of Jesus and the development of early Christianity. *Prerequisite: BIBL 6340 or consent of instructor.*

BIBL 5312/6312 Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels (3 semester hours) Study of the life and teachings of Jesus with special attention to the application of His teachings to the modern religious and social situation. *Prerequisite: BIBL 6340 or consent of instructor.*

BIBL 5313/6313 The Letters of Paul (3 semester hours) Study of the life and personality of Paul, followed by an intensive study of his writings and central ideas. *Prerequisite: BIBL 6340 or consent of instructor.*

BIBL 5314/6314 General Epistles and Revelation (3 semester hours) Study of the historical background, the books and central ideas of Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, & 3 John, Jude, and Revelation. *Prerequisite: BIBL 6340 or consent of instructor.*

BIBL 5315/6315 The Gospel of John (3 semester hours) Intensive study of the Gospel of John with special attention to the background, nature, and theology of the document. Also to be considered is the relationship of the Gospel to the Johannine Epistles and Revelation. *Prerequisite: BIBL 6340 or consent of instructor.*

BIBL 5316/6316 Acts (3 semester hours) Study of the book of Acts as the account of the development of the early Christian church. The background, text, and theology will be studied to understand the history of the early church and current applications of those teachings. *Prerequisite: BIBL 6340 or consent of instructor.*

BIBL 6340 Biblical Hermeneutics (3 semester hours) Graduate introduction to biblical analysis, canonicity, transmission, and interpretation. *Prerequisite: BIBL 1301 and BIBL 1302.*

BIBL 6341 Old Testament I (3 semester hours) Introduction to the interpretation of the Old Testament, focusing on background issues, interpretive methodologies, biblical content, and theological implications for the church. *Prerequisite: BIBL 6340*

BIBL 6342 Old Testament II (3 semester hours) Continued introduction to the interpretation of the Old Testament, focusing on background issues, interpretive methodologies, biblical content, and theological implications for the church. *Prerequisite: BIBL 6340*

BIBL 6343 New Testament I (3 semester hours) Introduction to the interpretation of the New Testament focusing on background issues, interpretive methodologies, biblical content, and theological implications for the church. *Prerequisite: BIBL 6340*

BIBL 6344 New Testament II (3 semester hours) Continued introduction to the interpretation of the New Testament focusing on background issues, interpretive methodologies, biblical content, and theological implications for the church. *Prerequisite: BIBL 6340*

Biblical Languages

GREK 2401, 2402 Elementary Greek I, II (4 semester hours) Beginning courses in forms, syntax, vocabulary, and easy prose compositions.

GREK 4301, 4302 Intermediate Greek I, II (4 semester hours) Review of forms, syntax, prose compositions, and special selections from the New Testament. *Prerequisite: GREK 2301, 2302.*

GREK 6099 Special Topics (3 semester hours) Specialized study of New Testament Greek. May be repeated as the topic changes. *Prerequisite: GREK 2301, 2302, 4301, 4302.*

HEBR 4303 Hebrew Appreciation (3 semester hours) Beginning course in forms, syntax, vocabulary and tools to help with Old Testament Exegesis.

HEBR 6301, 6302 Biblical Hebrew I, II (3 semester hours) Accelerated introduction to biblical Hebrew, focusing on grammar, vocabulary, syntax, and translation. Serves as the first and second semesters of Hebrew language study. *Prerequisite: HEBR 6301 for HEBR 6302*

HEBR 6099 Special Topics (3 semester hours) Specialized study of Biblical Hebrew. May be repeated as the topic changes. *Prerequisite: HEBR 6301, 6302*

Church History

CHST 1301 Introduction to Church History (3 semester hours) Major historical and theological developments from the first century to present.

CHST 2099 Special Topics (1-3 hours of credit) Topics offered in the area of ministry to reflect interests in the field. May be repeated for credit when different subject matter is covered.

CHST 2303/4303 Renaissance and Reformation (3 semester hours) Study of the impact of medieval institutions and thought on European society from 1300-1650 and subsequent flowering of culture during those years. Major focus will be on basic social, economic, and political changes in Europe during the period including: revival of classical learning and explosion of creative activity in the arts.

CHST 4099 Special Topics (1-4 hours of credit) Study of a selected topic in church history. May be repeated for credit if content is changed. *Prerequisite: CHST 1301 or consent of instructor.*

CHST 5302/6302 Baptist Heritage and Thought (3 semester hours) Study of the history, doctrine, distinctives and practice of Baptists.

CHST/MNST 5304/6304 Legacy and History of the Black Church (3 semester hours) Examine and interpret the history of the Black Church. The role of the Black Church in the Black community will be emphasized along with the contributions to and distinctives within American Protestantism that the black church offers.

CHST/MNST 5305/6305 Legacy and History of the Latino Church (3 semester hours) Examine and interpret the history of the Hispanic Church Culture. The role of the Church in the Latino/Latina community will be emphasized along with the contributions to and distinctives within American Protestantism that the church offers.

CHST 6301 Survey of Church History (3 semester hours) Advanced survey of the major historical and theological developments from the first century to present.

Communication

COMM 1101 Communication and Technology I (1 semester hour) Develop basic technological and communication skills. This course will cover areas including, but not limited to: writing, public speaking, and use of technology. Emphasis will be given to the basic elements of choosing and narrowing a topic, finding theological library resources, and thesis development.

Foundation Studies

FOUN 2201 Capstone (2 semester hours) Overview of the knowledge expected of graduating students in the major and may also address employment and opportunities for continuing their education. Taken in the student's last semester of the Diploma program.

Leadership Studies

LEAD 1301 Foundations of Leadership (3 semester hours) Theories; ethics, values, character development, diversity, and behavior.

LEAD 1302 Communication for Leaders (3 semester hours) Communication skills necessary for effective leadership; writing, interviewing, listening, feedback, conflict transformation, and problem solving.

LEAD 2099 Special Topics (1-3 hours of credit) Topics offered in the area of leadership to reflect interests in the field. May be repeated for credit when different subject matter is covered.

LEAD 2301 Christian Ethics for Leadership (3 semester hours) Examination of Christian ethical foundations for leadership with particular attention to the moral dimensions of leadership in organizations and communities and to the determination of morally responsible approaches to issues confronting leaders today. *Prerequisite: LEAD 1301*

LEAD 6301 Cross-Cultural Leadership (3 semester hours) An advanced study of cultural and strategic dimensions involved in cross-cultural ministry and leading within those dimensions. Consideration will be given to assessing cultural contexts and applying sound biblical and theological principles to strategies of leadership in a contextually appropriate way.

Ministry Formation Groups

MNFR 101-104; 601-604

The Ministry Formation Groups exist to provide a context for holistic spiritual formation of the student by embodying the principle expressed in Ephesians 4:16: "From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Students who fulfill the requirements within our programs will be equipped with the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to serve Christ within prospective communities.

Administration

The Director of Ministry Formation oversees the Ministry Formation Groups. This director will assign students to groups; develop and oversee the instructional elements of the program; and assign, train, and supervise the faculty members who facilitate the groups.

Groups

Each group will consist of 5-7 students. A faculty member will facilitate each group. Meeting twice per month, the groups will read selected texts and address various issues related to calling, ministry challenges, and personal spiritual formation. Other elements of group participation will include prayer for one another and the practice of various spiritual disciplines.

Requirements

Ministry Formation is required for the following programs:

- Diploma in Ministry: two semesters of ministry formation groups (MNFR 101; MNFR 102)
- Bachelor of Arts in Ministry: two semesters of ministry formation groups (MNFR 103; MNFR 104)
- Master of Arts in Ministry: two semesters of ministry formation groups (MNFOR 601; MNFOR 602)
- Master of Divinity: two semesters of ministry formation groups (MNFOR 603; MNFOR 604)

The groups are not for credit. If at all possible a student will remain with the same group for consecutive semesters.

Curriculum

Undergraduate:

MNFR 101 Vocation and Calling

MNFR 102 Spiritual Formation

MNFR 103 Foundations of Teaching and Communication

MNFR 104 Foundations of Leadership in Ministry

Graduate:

MNFOR 601 Vocational Formation

MNFOR 602 Discipleship and Spiritual Formation

MNFOR 603 Communicating for Connection

MNFOR 604 Leadership Formation

Ministry Studies

MNST 1301 Personal Dimensions in Ministry (3 semester hours) Examination of the personal dynamics that affect the life of the minister: spiritual, physical, and emotional health; balance between personal life and career; conflict resolution; money management; and healthy relationships with the other.

MNST 1321 Christianity in Cultural Context (3 semester hours) Course designed to broaden the student's theological and cultural perspective through engaging the biblical narrative, personally incorporating the spiritual disciplines, and theologically reflecting upon the social context.

MNST 2099 Special Topics (1-3 hours of credit) Topics offered in the area of ministry to reflect interests in the field. May be repeated for credit when different subject matter is covered.

MNST 2301 Spiritual Formation (3 semester hours) Experiential study of factors impacting formation of a minister's spiritual life; development of a ministry of spiritual direction in the church.

MNST 2311/4311 History of Missions (3 semester hours) Study of the rise and development of missions from the time of Christ through the modern missionary movement until the present. Emphasis will be given to outstanding missionaries and movements.

MNST 2320/3300 Principles of Preaching (3 semester hours) Study of the principles of sermon preparation and delivery. Prerequisites: Biblical/Theological Core

MNST 2321 Foundations of Cross-Cultural Ministry (3 semester hours) A study of cultural and strategic dimensions involved in cross-cultural ministry. Consideration will be given to assessing cultural contexts and applying sound biblical and theological principles to strategies of communicating the gospel in a contextually appropriate way.

MNST 2322 Principles of Teaching in the Church (3 semester hours) Study of the various aspects involved in the teaching/learning process in the context of the local church.

MNST 2323 Principles of Christian Worship (3 semester hours) Study of the public worship experience of the church - the theological/historical foundations and its practical expression.

MNST 2323 Principles of Christian Worship (3 semester hours) Ministry experience in which students develop, practice, and reflect upon ministry engagement under the supervision of a mentor. Students can choose the area of ministry (local church or otherwise) for their internship. *Students who receive Ministerial Financial Assistance from the Baptist General Convention of Texas must select a mentor who holds membership at a Texas Baptist church.

MNST 2380/3380 Foundations of Youth Ministry (3 semester hours) Study of the various contextual issues related to youth, program development, and contextual presence. Particular emphasis will be given to understanding lifecycle development and spiritual formation.

MNST 3301 Biblical Basis for Missions (3 semester hours) Study of the missionary purpose revealed in the Bible, the theological foundation of missions and the missionary implications of the doctrines of Christianity.

MNST 3343 Introduction to Evangelism (3 semester hours) Intensive study of evangelism and its message including methods particularly related to educational organizations.-

MNST 3361 Foundations of Christian Education (3 semester hours) Introduces historical background, theory, and scope; including institutions and movements in Jewish and Christian education. Primary attention will be given to planning and implementation of learning experiences with the various age groups within the total ministry of the local church.

MNST 3390 Introduction to Hospital Ministry (3 semester hours) Study of the foundational concepts and basic skills in hospital ministry by engaging patients and families, reflecting with peers, and interacting with healthcare professionals.

MNST 4099 Special Topics (1-4 hours of credit) Study of a selected topic in church ministry. This course may be repeated for credit if the content is changed.

MNST 4301 Capstone (3 semester hours) Overview of the knowledge expected of graduating students in the major and may also address employment and opportunities for continuing their education. Taken in the student's last semester of the Bachelor Program.

MNST 4342 Advanced Preaching (3 semester hours) Advanced course in sermon preparation and delivery.
Prerequisite: THEO 1102, MNST 1304, MNST 3300 or consent of instructor.

MNST 4364 Church Administration (3 semester hours) Studies of the duties of church officers and committees, constitution and by-laws and general administration. Special attention will be given to principles of stewardship and finance.

MNST 4370 Christian Worship (3 semester hours) Study of the public worship experience within the church. Attention will be given to the theological foundation of worship, its historical antecedents and practical expression.

MNST 5360/6360 Women in Ministry (3 semester hours) Study of the history, theology and ministry of women in the church.

MNST 5344/6344 Preaching from Other Traditions (3 semester hours) Advanced course of study in examining preaching styles of multiple cultures.

MNST 6099 Special Topics (1-4 hours of credit) Study of a selected topic in church ministry. This course may be repeated for credit if the content is changed.

MNST 6101 Capstone 1 (1 semester hour) Overview of the knowledge expected of graduating students in the major and may also address employment and opportunities for continuing their education. Taken in the student's last semester of the Master of Arts in Ministry Program.

MNST 6102 Capstone II (1 semester hour) Overview of the competencies (knowledge, skills, virtues) achieved throughout the duration of the student's graduate degree. The course also addresses areas surrounding vocational calling, employment, and opportunities for continuing their education. Taken in the student's last semester of the Master of Divinity Program.

MNST 6301 Supervised Ministry I (3 semester hours) Ministry experience in which students develop, practice, and reflect upon ministry engagement under the supervision of a mentor. Students can choose the area of ministry (local church or otherwise) for their internship.

MNST 6302 Supervised Ministry II (3 semester hours) Ministry experience in which students develop, practice, and reflect upon ministry engagement under the supervision of a mentor. Students can choose the area of ministry (local church or otherwise) for their internship.

MNST 6302 Evangelism and Discipleship (3 semester hours) A study of the biblical and theological principles of effective evangelism including both its individual and corporate expression. Special attention will be given to contemporary models of evangelism.

MNST 6303 Ministering to the Margins (3 semester hours) A study of the ministerial, theological, philosophical, and ethical insight to bear upon contemporary moral and cultural issues for marginalized groups.

MNST 6304 Averting Ministry Failure (3 semester hours) A study of failure in ministry. Course will revolve around discussions of how to avert and overcome common issues encountered in ministry.

MNST 5305/6305 Finance of the Church and Minister (3 semester hours) Overview of church and minister finance, with an exploration of the planning process for the operating, capital expenditure, and cash budgets, long-term financial planning processes, the importance of capital structure and investment policies that are aligned to the church's mission, and personal minister finances.

MNST 6306 Ministering in the Latin Context (3 semester hours) Overview of Latin customs and culture within the church and family. Biblical study in the context of Latin American history and interpretation. Examination of Latin Theology and Latin Church History.

MNST 6307 Ministering in the Black Church Context (3 semester hours) Overview of Black customs and culture within the church and family. Biblical study in the context of African American history and interpretation. Examination of Black Theology and Black Church History.

MNST 6308 Spiritual Formation (3 semester hours) An advanced study of the biblical and theological principles for the development of a mature spiritual life. Attention will be given to classic works of spiritual devotion as well as contemporary writings and movements which focus on the development of spiritual disciplines.

MNST 6310 Communication in Ministry (3 semester hours) Study of the principles of effective communication as they relate to ministry in the local congregation. Included will be the principles of preparation and delivery of sermons and Bible studies as well as communication through other media, such as writing, drama, radio/television, and the Internet.

MNST 6311 Graduate Communication and Technology (3 semester hours) Develop advanced theological communication skills. This course will cover areas including, but not limited to: theological research, writing, public speaking, and use of technology. Emphasis will be given to choosing and narrowing a topic, utilizing theological library resources, implementation of research, note taking, organizing a paper, writing improvement, and use of Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations.

MNST 6312 Ministry Leadership (3 semester hours) Provides an advanced understanding of the principles of ministry leadership. The course introduces topics such as leading volunteers, conflict resolution, group dynamics, and pastoral care. Additionally, the course may address further issues related to human behavior and protecting the vulnerable.

MNST 6313 Leadership of Self An advanced study of the significance of personal leadership, including topics such as emotional intelligence, resilience, and creating and sustaining boundaries.

MNST 6314 Organizational Leadership (3 semester hours) An advanced study of effective organizational leadership practices, including Human Resources management, developing and supervising staff, vision-casting and institutional change, and administration.

MNST 6342 Advanced Preaching (3 semester hours) Advanced course in sermon preparation and delivery.
Prerequisite: THEO 6101, MNST 6340 or consent of instructor.

Philosophy

PHIL 1301 Introduction to Philosophy (3 semester hours) A study of the major problems of philosophical thought with special emphasis upon the Western tradition. This course takes a predominantly historical approach to consider the major philosophical questions. Special emphasis will be given to Christian responses to those major questions.

Theological Studies

THEO 1301 Introduction to Christian Thought (3 semester hours) A survey of the topical and historical key teachings of the Christian tradition such as the Trinity, nature of Christ, and salvation.

THEO 1302 Introduction to Christian Ethics (3 semester hours) Examination of key aspects of Christian moral theology including virtues, the role of scripture, and the church, and exploration of key topics in areas such as politics, sexuality, medicine, and economics.

THEO 2099 Special Topics (1-3 hours of credit) Topics offered in the subject area to reflect interests in the field. May be repeated for credit when different subject matter is covered.

THEO 2355/4355 World Religions (3 semester hours) Study of the concept of religion, and of origins, development and present status of the major living religions of the world with special attention to principal ideas, values, and practices characteristic of these religions.

THEO 3345 Philosophy/Theology of C.S. Lewis (3 semester hours) This course explores the philosophy and theology of C.S. Lewis primarily through the careful study of selected writings. It includes a look at a few of the writings of other thinkers that significantly influenced his main ideas.

THEO 4099 Special Topics (1-4 hours of credit) Variable credit may be given. This course may be repeated for credit if course content is changed.

THEO 4320 Philosophy of Religion (3 semester hours) Inquiries into the conceptual basis and logic of religious commitment. Emphasis on the varieties of theism together with appraisals of competing views, rational grounds for belief in God, the problem of evil, and human destiny. Issues will be related to contemporary theology.

THEO 4357 Christians and War (3 semester hours) Study of the moral dimensions of Christian involvement in war, peace, and the exercise of military power from the perspective of the Christian faith.

THEO 4360 Evil and Suffering (3 semester hours) Study of the problem of evil and its philosophical challenge to religious thought with a focus on classical theodicies and on contemporary debates concerning the implications of evil.

THEO 4361 Faith and Reason (3 semester hours) Historical study of Christian epistemology and a contemporary reconstruction directed toward establishing a foundation for faith and an apologetic posture in the postmodern world with special attention to the theory of knowledge, the historic approaches to faith and reason, natural and revealed theology, and the problem of religious authority.

THEO 5309/6309 Theology, Religions, and Cultures (3 semester hours) A survey of history and theology of the European, Latina/Latino and African American Cultures. Examine new models and challenges of Cross-Cultural Ministry and Race Relations.

THEO 5310/6310 Issues of Life and Death (3 semester hours) Issues of life and death such as the grief experience, biomedical concerns, capital punishment, hunger, war, and environmental issues will be studied through biblical, theological and ethical foundations.

THEO 6099 Special Topics (1-4 hours of credit) Variable credit may be given. This course may be repeated for credit if course content is changed.

THEO 6301 Christian Theology (3 semester hours) Advanced study of the meaning and nature of theological issues of God.

THEO 6302 Theology through History (3 semester hours) Explore theology by reviewing theologians such as Paul, Tertullian, Augustine, Calvin, Kierkegaard, Bonhoeffer, Moltmann and others.

THEO 6303 Readings in Theology (Black Church, Latin Church, or European Church) (3 semester hours) Explore theology by reviewing theologians within a specific theological context.

THEO 6304 History of Christian Apologetics Examines and interprets the history of Christian apologetics. The role of apologetics in the entire Christian community will be emphasized along with its specific contributions to and distinctives within American Protestantism.

THEO 6305 Justice: Theology and Ethics Focus on justice from a biblical, theological, and ethical perspective.

