

High School Religion Certification For Religion Teachers and Campus Ministers

Beginning in the 2022-2023 School Year

All teachers of religion must meet the certification standards established by the Office of Catholic Education and Formation.

To be certified as a secondary teacher of religion, full time or part time, a person must:

- Be a practicing Catholic with a commitment to ministry in education
- Hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree in theology, religious education, or the equivalent, from a Catholic college or university **OR** be working toward religious education certification as directed by the Office of Catholic Education and Formation (see information below)*
- Receive certification from the Office of Religious Education within the Office of Catholic Education and Formation. (Transcripts must be supplied, unless already on file, for the verification of credits and degrees.)
- Participate in annual on-going theological and faith-formation opportunities, some of which may be provided and required by the Office of Catholic Education and Formation. Professional growth opportunities may include retreats, workshops, webinars, etc. that relate to Catholic theology or faith-formation. Teachers should track professional growth programs that they have completed and submit it for their personnel file at the school of employment (example of tracking [form](#)).

* A person with a bachelor's degree in another field may work toward religious education certification by taking 24 college credit hours, as specified below, from a Catholic college or university. Those pursuing religion certification should have a transcript review to determine a pathway to completing the religion certification requirements, which must be **completed within 5 years of their start date**. The 24 college credit hours should be completed according to the chart below. Please note the required topics and other course topics to consider for each competency area.

Competency Areas	# of Hours	Required Course Topic	Other Course Topics to Consider
ST Systematic Theology (Catholic Doctrine)	6	3 credit hours taken in Basic Catholic Doctrine	Christology, Mariology, Church History, Apologetics, Catechesis
LT Liturgy/Sacraments	6	3 credit hours taken on the Sacraments	The Mass, Liturgy, Prayer
SS Sacred Scripture	6	3 credit hours in Introduction to Scripture	Old Testament, New Testament, Synoptic Gospels, Gospel of John, Catholic Epistles, Wisdom Literature
MT Moral Theology	6	3 credit hours in Foundations of Catholic Morality	Catholic Social Teaching, Contemporary Moral Issues

NOTE: We will work with anyone currently teaching high school religion or working in campus ministry to determine alignment of the requirements above as well as to help discern a path toward full religion certification according to each individual's unique circumstance.

For questions, please contact the Director of Religious Education, samanthagrone@archstl.org.