



# The Catholic Educator Formation and Credential Program



*Our inaugural CEFC cohort*

Our Lord calls each of us to go into the world and to make disciples. In Catholic schools, that work is happening every day across the nation, and it is fulfilled in large part by the teachers. The flourishing of the young souls God has placed in our care requires that they be nurtured in schools faithful to Catholic teaching and devoted to the Church.

To this end, the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education (ICLE) is now offering a robust alternative to state teacher licensure: a credential program that prepares educators to infuse a deeply Catholic philosophy and practice of education into their teaching. The credential earned by teachers in ICLE's Catholic Educator Formation and Credential (CEFC) program is designed to be portable and recognized by dioceses across the nation in lieu of state licensure.



*"The program has aided in deepening my vocation as a Catholic educator. The program has reignited the fire in my heart to continue to inspire our students in and out of the classroom."*

— Credential Candidate

*Students need to be formed in the light of a fully Catholic vision of reality, which means they need teachers deeply formed in this vision, too. The Catholic Educator Formation and Credential program prepares educators intellectually and spiritually to teach in the light of Christ, helping Catholic schools raise up the next generation of future saints.*

# INTEGRATED COURSES



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The CEFC is an 18-month program of five integrated courses delivered through in-person workshops and distance learning:

## COURSE ONE

*The Virtuous Classroom*

This course provides a foundation in classroom management framed by an understanding of human dignity and destiny, ordered toward the full development of the child, who is made in the image and likeness of God.

## COURSE TWO

*Pedagogy: Leading From  
Wonder To Wisdom*

This course equips teachers to draw upon seven foundations of pedagogy that are grounded in human nature and can be used across the curriculum at every grade level. Teachers are guided to develop lessons that encourage a student's discovery of what is true, good, and beautiful, ordered by the Logos.

## COURSE THREE

*Trivium:  
The Mastery of Language*

This course provides a foundation in language as the medium of thought, through a study of the three liberal arts of Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric. It includes an emphasis on the science of reading. Teachers will also explore analogies of the Trivium in instruction, cognition, and human development as well as in the Holy Trinity.

## COURSE FOUR

*Quadrivium:  
The Harmony of Number*

This course examines the role of mathematics and science in the Catholic liberal arts curriculum with attention to the four liberal arts collectively named the quadrivium: arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music. As educators follow Christ's command to "put out into the deep" (Luke 5:4), they will help their students explore the wonder and mysteries of the created world and grow in relationship with the Author of Creation.

## COURSE FIVE

*Faith and Reason:  
The Foundations of the  
Catholic Intellectual Tradition*

This course presents philosophical, theological, and historical foundations for a Catholic worldview grounded in an understanding of the Incarnation, with a particular focus on implications for education.



Teaching is relational, and the cohort model of this program nurtures a true community of learners. The program also includes teaching observations for highly personalized encouragement and feedback.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



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## WHO ARE THE INSTRUCTORS?

The CEFC courses are led by experts in the Catholic liberal arts tradition:

- DeAnn Stuart, Ph.D.
- Alyssan Barnes, Ph.D.
- Merrill Roberts, Ph.D.
- Elisabeth Sullivan, M.S.
- Alisha Barker, M.A.
- Allison Buras, M.A.
- Andrew Seeley, Ph.D.



## HOW IS THIS PROGRAM DIFFERENT?

Catholic liberal education begins with the divine Logos at the center of all genuine learning. Because all truths are fragments of this one Truth, classroom learning should draw students closer to Jesus Christ, the Person who is the incarnation of that Truth. Our credential program seeks to recover the Catholic intellectual tradition that unites faith and reason—a tradition that has shaped our world for the better over the last two thousand years. CEFC educators grow in teaching skills, yes, but they also focus on something absolutely essential for the Catholic teacher: developing a vision of education that sees truth as one, as accessible, and as communicable.



## HOW DOES IT COMPARE?

The CEFC program teaches the basics of, for example, lesson planning, literacy instruction, and effective pedagogy. But rather than being guided merely by utilitarian "best practices," this formation program goes much deeper, rooting these essentials in the human person, who is destined ultimately for holiness and communion with God. What is taught, then, is in fact "best practices" in a far truer sense—they are the timeless ways of communicating God's truth from person to person. Students of all abilities and backgrounds flourish as they develop tools of thinking through a highly ordered and sequential approach to learning based in the nature of reality and the nature of the human person.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



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## WHAT GUIDES THE PROGRAM?

The CEFC is guided by *The Holy See's Teaching on Catholic Schools* and the Church's long tradition in the liberal arts and sciences, as well as her commitment to the unity of faith and reason. This formation program identifies joy and wonder, not only academic rigor, as an important hallmark of strong teaching. Students should be formed not only to know and understand, but also to love and delight in their Creator and to understand their place in His world.



## WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE?

The 2024-2025 cohort will be drawn from select dioceses across the nation and will be meeting at Aquinas College in Nashville, Tennessee.

- **Program length:** 18 months
- **Number:** Limited to 40 teachers
- **Teaching level:** K-12
- **Tuition:** \$5,900, plus books (\$100-200), meal and lodging costs in the Siena Hall Conference Center at Aquinas College (\$1,975 total), plus travel to Nashville for three multi-day workshop trips
- **In-person dates:** July 29-August 2, 2024, January 16-20, 2025, June 23-27, 2025
- **Other meetings:** Conducted via synchronous and asynchronous meetings online; also includes teacher observations via video recordings

*"I greatly appreciated the balance of seminar/lecture with interactive lessons and time to engage with and practice the techniques given. I also enjoyed being able to observe [the instructors] utilize many of the strategies taught."*

— Credential Candidate

## WHY IS THIS PROGRAM IMPORTANT?

The CEFC brings the formation of Catholic teachers back under the guidance of the Church. Catholic educators have responded to a vocation to teach the young; they deserve to be formed in their own rich heritage in order to help renew the culture in Christ.



Have questions or want to learn more? Scan the QR code on the left or visit [CatholicLiberalEducation.org/Catholic-Educator-Formation-and-Credential-Program/](https://CatholicLiberalEducation.org/Catholic-Educator-Formation-and-Credential-Program/)

# TESTIMONIALS



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## WHAT OUR PARTICIPANTS SAY

*"I always knew that Catholic education was special, but now I understand why."*



*"I really enjoy this program. It has prepared me more than I could have ever suspected. I think any teacher, but particularly EVERY Catholic teacher should experience this program. Thank you for all you do!"*

*"This experience was hospitable, empowering, refreshing. I was drawn into the depth and beauty of Catholic liberal education and equipped with everything I needed to confidently approach my first year of teaching."*

*"I learned so much more about my Catholic faith and teaching the whole child with an eye toward getting them to Heaven and creating saints. This has changed my perspective completely and I'm excited to bring it back to my school."*

*"This workshop restored the experience of teaching as it has been built up over the centuries with an eye to the student's dignity as made in the image and likeness of God."*

*"I feel 100,000% more prepared to have a Christ-filled classroom and develop my students as children of God. I also feel like I have more tools in my belt to teach."*

*"This program provided a wonderful blend of friendship and formation, of inquiry and fellowship. A joy."*

