



INSTITUTE FOR  
CATHOLIC LIBERAL  
EDUCATION

# The Catholic Educator Formation and Credential Program



*Would you like to earn a teaching credential, but are not interested in pursuing your state's licensure?*

*Do you already have a license, but want to ground your teaching more solidly in the Catholic Tradition?*

*Would you like more confidence about how to understand and teach the liberal arts in a classroom that cultivates wonder and virtue?*



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.

"I am growing in my love for my students, which I attribute in large part to this program."

*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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## WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE?

The 2026-20267 Western Regional cohort will be drawn from Washington State, Oregon, California, and Nevada, and will be convening for three in-person workshops plus weekly online meetings throughout the academic year

- **Program length:** 18 months
- **Number:** Limited to 25 teachers
- **Teaching level:** K-12
- **Cost:** \$5,900 (tuition) + \$1,975 (lodging & meals for three in-person gatherings) + \$100-\$200 for books.
- **In-person dates and locations:** August 3-7, 2026 at the San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville, CA; January 14-18, 2027 at Our Lady of Peace in Beaverton, OR; June 21-25, 2027 at the San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville, CA
- **Other meetings:** Weekly synchronous and asynchronous online meetings; teacher observation debriefs

The Archdiocese of Portland, Archdiocese of San Francisco, and Diocese of Oakland kindly offer scholarships for teachers at their parochial schools. Please contact your diocesan office for more information.

*"It has renewed and restored my vocation as a teacher. The excitement I have felt these past few days has inspired me to bring this excitement, wonder, and love of learning to my students."*

— Credential Candidate



## WILL I EARN A GRADUATE DEGREE?

In addition to earning the teaching credential, graduates of the CEFC Program are eligible to receive up to twelve credits toward graduate degrees from our partners in higher education.

Scan the QR code or visit our website to learn more.



[CatholicLiberalEducation.org/CEFC/Graduate-Partners](https://CatholicLiberalEducation.org/CEFC/Graduate-Partners)



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



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## HOW DOES IT COMPARE?

The CEFC program teaches, among other things, 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.

## 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.

*"I am so inspired! It's easy to start to fall flat in my enthusiasm for teaching, but now I have so many tools to encourage wonder in myself and in my students."*

— Credential Candidate

*"If I had not done the Credential Program, I very likely would have stopped teaching after my second year. My first year was really challenging ... but the tools I was given through the Credential Program renewed my own confidence ... and fed my own love for learning."*

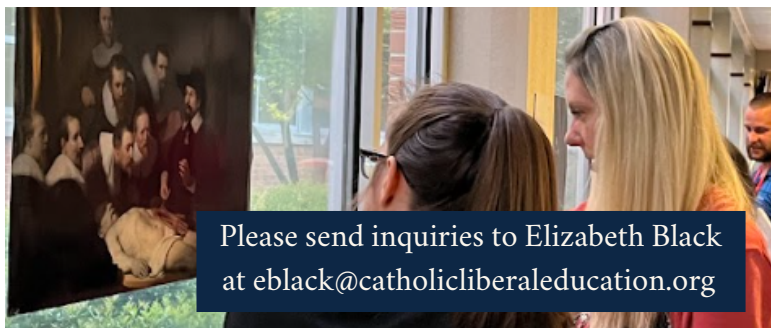
— Credential Candidate

## 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 important hallmarks 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.

## 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.



Please send inquiries to Elizabeth Black  
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# TESTIMONIALS



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## WHAT OUR PARTICIPANTS SAY

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



*"This [program] helped me to articulate more deeply my mission as a Catholic educator – to uphold Catholic anthropology in my teachings, lifestyle, and speech."*

*"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."*

*"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 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."*



**CONTACT US**

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