

LICENSURE - TEACHERS

All full-time and part-time teachers in Catholic elementary and secondary schools of the diocese shall have earned at least a bachelors degree from a regionally accredited college or university and, with the exception of teachers who teach religion exclusively, an Illinois state teaching license. This license shall be identified as valid and active as defined by the Illinois State Board of Education. Teachers who hold licensure from another state are expected to obtain and maintain appropriate licensure from the State of Illinois with endorsement(s) for grade level(s) or subject(s) they teach.

All newly hired teachers in the elementary schools of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria who teach religion shall have completed or be in the process of completing the requirements for catechetical certification described in the administration regulation for this policy. Secondary school teachers who teach religion shall have at least 18 hours or their equivalent in Catholic theology and/or religious education from an accredited Catholic college or university.

It is the responsibility of the principal to maintain appropriate documentation in each teacher's personnel file of compliance with the regulations of Policy C-113.

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State of Illinois Teacher Licensure

A request for a waiver from state teaching licensure requirements shall be made by the administrator wishing to hire a particular teacher for a particular position. This request shall be made in writing to the Superintendent of Schools and accompanied by the rationale for the request. It is expected that any individual for whom a waiver from licensure requirements is requested will be qualified for the position for which the waiver is sought. If requesting exemption for a part-time teacher, the extent of part-time duties shall be indicated. The plan for meeting Policy C-113 requirements shall be included. Waivers are granted for a period of one year only, and can be renewed provided the teacher is making sufficient progress towards licensure. Normally, a teacher who receives a licensure waiver must obtain the appropriate state teaching license within three years.

Assignment to Teaching Positions

Assignment to a teaching position requires that the teacher holds a license and endorsement(s) valid for the grade level and/or the subject at that grade level as follows:

Catechetical Certification

All new teachers in the elementary schools of the Diocese of Peoria who teach religion shall fulfill the following requirements for catechetical certification within four years of initial employment:

1. Catechetical certification must be obtained from a Catholic college or university.
2. Teachers in the process of obtaining catechetical certification must complete a minimum of two courses per year.
3. Course payment is to be made by the individual teacher who will be reimbursed by the school upon successful completion of each course.
4. Teachers can fulfill a college or university's certification requirements either by attending classes on campus or through participation in an approved online catechetical program.
5. Teachers who have majored or minored in theology and/or religious education from a regionally accredited Catholic college or university are exempt from initial catechetical certification requirements.
6. Teachers who have obtained catechetical certification from another diocese within the last five years are exempt from the initial certification requirements.
7. Upon obtaining initial catechetical certification, teachers will be subject to the updating requirements described within this administrative regulation.

Catechetical Updating Requirements

All elementary and secondary teachers in the Diocese of Peoria shall complete a minimum of one elective course every three years in theology and/or religious education from a Catholic college or university. Courses must be a minimum of one graduate credit hour or its equivalent. Classes can be completed on campus or through an approved online catechetical program.

Approved Programs

The following online catechetical programs have been reviewed and approved by the Office of Catholic Schools for fulfilling catechetical certification and/or updating requirements. Additional programs shall be approved in the future provided they meet the aforementioned requirements. All of the costs associated with course enrollment should be paid for by the teacher's parish or school. Parishes and schools can apply for Sheen Endowment grants to help subsidize these expenses.

Providence College: The School of Continuing Education at Providence College offers the Certificate of Religious Education through an Internet-based delivery system. To receive the certificate, teachers must complete a total of seven courses, with a minimum of one course in each of the following content areas – creed, sacraments, morality, prayer, and catechesis.

Further information is available at:

www.providence.edu/sce/core

University of Dayton: The Institute for Pastoral Initiatives at the University of Dayton offers the Certificate in Catechesis through its Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation program. Participants complete coursework in catechesis, doctrine, sacraments, scripture, and morality. Further information is available at:

<http://vlc.udayton.edu/certificates/catechesis.php>

Catholic Education Center, LLC: The Catholic Education Center was founded in 2006 to offer flexible online Religious Education formation opportunities for busy Catholic school religion teachers and parish catechetical volunteers. Teachers who complete CAT 101 through CAT 106 are considered to have obtained basic certification in the Peoria Diocese. Advanced certification in the Diocese of Peoria includes all the courses in the basic certification plus CAT 201 through CAT 204, CAT 210, and CAT 214. Further information is available at:

www.catholiceducationcenter.com/Courses.html

Christendom College: Christendom offers an online catechist certification program for catechists and Catholic school teachers. The program consists of two semester-long, video-based courses which highlight the main teachings of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, with suggestions on how to communicate the Faith to various age groups, and the relation of catechesis to the New Evangelization. Those who complete both courses receive catechist certification. Further information about Christendom is available at:
www.christendom.edu/academics/graduate-peoria.php

Fordham University: The Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education at Fordham University offers the Graduate Certificate in Faith Formation for teachers and religious educators. Credits accrued for the certificate may be applied towards a Master of Arts degree with concentrations in Religious Education, Spirituality, or Pastoral Studies. Further information is available at:
www.fordham.edu/academics/colleges_graduate_s/graduate_profession/graduate_school_of_r/campuses/gsrre_online/certificate_in_faith

University of Notre Dame: the STEP Program at the University of Notre Dame offers over fifty courses that deepen a Catholic school educator's understanding of Catholic doctrine and meet diocesan catechetical updating requirements. Subject areas include all aspects of Catholic doctrine, Church history, sacraments and liturgy, Scripture, prayer, morality, social justice, catechesis, and youth ministry. Further information is available at:
<http://step.nd.edu/registration/complete-catalog>