

# Certificate in Catholic Education - Overview

St. Joseph's College

"No less than other schools does the Catholic school pursue cultural goals and the human formation of youth. But its proper function is to create for the school community a special atmosphere animated by the Gospel spirit of freedom and charity..." *Declaration on Christian Education (Gravissimum educationis) n. 8.*

## Tangible Outcomes:

150 hours of University-accredited instruction in four primary areas: the Bible, fundamental catechetics, teaching religion in primary and secondary contexts, and careful reflection on Catholic schools and students' vocational and professional practice as teachers.

## Certificate Objectives:

A broad exposure to major topics and themes, equipping future teachers for the twenty-first century Catholic classroom. Producing 'job-ready' graduates for Catholic schools who can demonstrate competency in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. Practical experience teaching religion and an opportunity to observe teaching excellence in the religion classroom. Tangible and practical feedback on teaching effectiveness on religious topics for pre-service teachers. Introduction to research skills that help students think theologically about Catholic education and their own vocation as teachers.

## Four Required Courses in the Certificate:

### CHRTC 100: Introduction to the Bible

A study of the basic themes of the Christian Bible: creation and covenant; sin and evil; the biblical history of ancient Israel; the prophets and justice; the preaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ; redemption and the emergence of the Church.

### CHRTC 250: The Theological Education of the Catholic Teacher

An examination of the components that make up the education of the Catholic teacher. Issues include creedal statements, the moral and social teachings of the Church, liturgical practices, a general theology and theory of Catholic education.

### CHRTC 380/381: Teaching Religion: Elementary/Secondary

An introduction to Christian religious education for elementary/secondary schools with an emphasis on pedagogy, child/adolescent and young adult development, the religious education curriculum, and the history of religious education in Canada.

### CHRTC 410: Integrative Learning in Catholic Education

An integrative course in Catholic education that combines theoretical approaches with course-based research interviews with Alberta educators in Catholic schools. Historical, educational, and professional issues are examined through theological reflection.

This Certificate instills in its recipients a clearer understanding of Catholic belief and practice. It supports the vocational and professional aspirations of future teachers by enabling them to more effectively witness and communicate the Christian faith to their own students, and to understand better the context of Catholic schooling in Canada today.

## About St. Joseph's College

St. Joseph's College, a community of academics, students, residents, and worshipers, has been a Catholic presence at the University of Alberta since 1926. SJC is grounded in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition and committed to integrating faith, reason, and life.

We promote educational excellence and engaged learning in a Catholic ethos. Professors teach and research in the Catholic tradition, encouraging critical thinking in courses that address thought-provoking topics in multiple disciplines. SJC courses are open to all University of Alberta students for UofA Arts credits.

SJC residences, open to all UofA students, provide community, meals, and extracurricular activities. SJC Campus Ministry supports the spiritual life of students through the celebration of the Eucharist, spiritual counseling, and group activities.