"Purity & Grace" by Jett Eckford,
St Brendan's Annandale,
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Sydney Catholic Schools:
Professional Study Requirements for
Accreditation to Teach Religious Education
(Category D)

Qualifications to Teach Religious Education

Qualifications required to Teach Religious Education
(Category D – Accreditation to 'Work, Teach & Lead in Systemic Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Sydney)
There are two ways in which Teachers can be qualified to teach Religious Education and therefore be accredited at Category D. In addition to this, Teachers of RE must be Catholic for full accreditation. Other Christian denominations, notably the Orthodox tradition, *may be eligible* for Provisional accreditation (with appropriate qualifications). Teachers with the Certificate of RE (CEO) or are accredited in another Australian Diocese, would normally be accredited Category D in Sydney Catholic Schools. *Teachers should note that to be appointed as a Religious Education Coordinator substantively (Level 1), a Graduate Diploma or Master degree in Religious Education, Theology, Theological Studies or a Bachelor of Theology is required. A Master of Educational Leadership does not meet the requirement to be a substantive (Level 1) Religious Education Coordinator.*

Method 1: Under-Graduate Study:

For undergraduate studies commenced from 2013 onwards:

- Undergraduate studies with 6 or more approved units in Religious Education and Theology at an approved institution of which one unit must include Scripture or Biblical Studies OR

- Undergraduate studies with 6 or more approved units in Theology at an approved institution of which **one unit must include Scripture or Biblical Studies.**

For undergraduate studies commenced prior to 2013:

- Undergraduate studies with 5 or more approved units in Religious Education and Theology at an approved institution of which one unit must include Scripture or Biblical Studies OR

- Undergraduate studies with 5 or more approved units in Theology at an approved institution of which **one unit must include Scripture or Biblical Studies**

Examples of such degrees would include: Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Arts & Bachelor of Teaching, Bachelor of Theology.

Method 2: Post-Graduate Study (AQF 8 or Higher):

Completion of 4 or more Post-Graduate Course Units within an approved Religious Education, Theology or Theological Studies Post Graduate Qualification, at AQF 8 or higher. Where the qualification is a Graduate Certificate of Religious Education, it must contain: 3 Theology units and 1 Religious Education unit or 2 Theology units, 1 Theologically oriented Religious Education unit and 1 Religious Education unit. For a Graduate Diploma of Religious Education at least 50% of the units studied should be Theology and 50% should be Religious Education. Qualifications and the units of study outside of these requirements will be assessed on a case by case basis. If required a panel will be convened to determine whether the qualification meets the requirements of Sydney Catholic Schools. **All qualifications must have at least 1 Theology unit of study in Scripture / Biblical Studies.**

Examples of Accepted Qualifications Include:

Graduate Certificate in Religious Education, Graduate Certificate in Arts (Theological Studies), Graduate Certificate in Theology, Graduate Certificate in Catholic Thought, Graduate Diploma in Religious Education, Graduate Diploma in Arts (Theological Studies), Graduate Diploma in Theology, Master of Religious Education, Master of Arts (Theological Studies), Master of Theological Studies, Master of Theology, Master of Philosophy (Coursework) (in which the subjects taken are substantially oriented towards Religious Education and / or Theology).

Patterns of Study – Popular Graduate Certificates (Delivered by Approved Institutions).

Graduate Certificate in Religious Education (ACU)*	Graduate Certificate in Religious Education (Broken Bay Institute)	Graduate Certificate in Arts Catholic Institute of Sydney (Sydney College of Divinity)	Graduate Certificate in Religious Education or Catholic Thought (Notre Dame)
• EDRE516 Learning and Teaching for Religious Educ. • EDRE529 Teaching the Catholic Tradition (regarded as a Theologically oriented unit) • THBS501 Biblical Studies **(Required for Accreditation)** • THCT502 Sacraments of Initiation (Recommended for Primary Teachers) • THSR500 Introducing World Religions (Recommended for Secondary Teachers) OR • THCT500 Foundations of Christian Faith OR • THCT501 Jesus the Christ	**Core Units:** • **THEO800: Foundations for Theological Studies** • REDU800: Foundations for Religious Education – Theory and Practice • REDU801: Religious Education in the Contemporary Classroom **Elective Units:** BBI will allow you to choose from a range of electives. **However to meet accreditation requirements, you must include a unit on Biblical Studies** (eg. THEO801 Biblical Studies: Themes and Interpretation of the Bible).	**Sample Only** • B8510 Introduction to Biblical Studies **(Required for Accreditation)** • L8501 Introducing Christian Worship • M8543 Introducing Islam (or another Religious Tradition)(Recommended for Secondary Teachers) OR • T8523 Theology of Sacraments (Recommended for Primary Teachers) OR T8501 Introducing Theology *Or other Theology Units such as Christology, Principles of Christian Ethics, etc.*	Compulsory: • ED6188: Critical Issues in Religious Education • TH501: Scripture & Church **(Meets Accreditation Requirement for Scripture)** **Plus any two from:** • TH542 Christology • TH548 Marriage & Sexuality • TH555 Foundations of Moral Theology • TH506 Liturgy • TH508 Eucharist • TH544 Church and Sacraments **Grad Cert Catholic Thought** • Complete 4 Compulsory Units

* ACU also has a 'Post-Graduate Certificate in Religious Education (PGCRE)'. The PGCRE is no longer recognized by Sydney Catholic Schools as a qualification that meets the requirements for Category D Accreditation (Teach RE in the Archdiocese of Sydney).

Research: Master of Philosophy (Research), Doctor of Philosophy / Doctor of Education in which it can be demonstrated that the research has a substantial orientation towards Religious Education and / or Theology will be considered for accreditation by a panel. **Both methods require the completion of the application form for Accreditation – To Teach Religious Education (Category D), available from RE Online. Email the form <u>with</u> Transcript of Results (certified by your Principal, Assistant Principal, Priest or JP), indicating the successful completion of 4 Post-Graduate Units in Religious Education / Theology to:**

ree.accreditation@syd.catholic.edu.au