

Accreditation to teach in a Catholic Secondary School

Primary teachers in Catholic schools are usually required to teach the Religious Education curriculum to their classes. Secondary teachers are not required to do so. Secondary teachers may seek 'accreditation to *teach in* a Catholic school' or 'accreditation to *teach Religious Education in* a Catholic school'.

Accreditation is one means of ensuring that teachers' professional qualifications and competencies are formally recognized by Catholic Education Commissions and diocesan Catholic Education Offices with respect to the particular character and educational philosophy of Catholic schools. Each Catholic diocese in Australia stipulates specific requirements to achieve accreditation to teach religious education within their schools.

If wish to teach in a Catholic school, you will need to apply to the diocesan education office where you seek to teach. They will identify whether you are 'accredited' to teach Religious Education in their Catholic schools. This is a process which complements the application process to the state registration body in order to be registered as a *teacher* in any school in that state. The administration processes for accreditation is managed through each Catholic Education Office. A visit to each diocesan website should clearly outline the steps for Applying for Accreditation to Teach in Catholic schools. The most accurate and up to date information regarding RE accreditation requirements, sponsorship possibilities and the application process, can be viewed in Diocesan policy documentation. Please refer to your local Catholic Education Office for further information.

In Victoria, an elective unit is offered (usually studied in third year) – EDRE429: *Foundation Studies Teaching in Catholic Schools* – which is recognized by the Victorian diocese as leading to accreditation to teach in Catholic schools.

Accreditation to teach Religious Education in a Catholic Secondary School

Teaching the Religious Education program in a Catholic school requires a different form of accreditation. This is different from, though related to, having studies which lead to being fully qualified to teach the HSC/QCE/VCE senior secondary study.

Each Catholic diocese in Australia stipulates specific requirements to achieve accreditation to teach religious education within their schools. Through the application process mentioned above, they will identify whether you are 'accredited' to teach Religious Education in their schools.

Accreditation to teach Religious Education in Catholic school usually includes ability to teach "in" the school. That is, for Victorian students, if you have completed the following 5 units, you do not also need to complete EDRE429.

As with the form of accreditation described above, the administration processes for Accreditation to Teach RE in Catholic Schools Accreditation are managed through each Catholic Education Office. This includes 'Temporary Accreditation' (as referred to, below). Please refer to your local Catholic Education Office for further information.

ACU has established a sequence of units (both Theology and Religious Education units) which (a) provide a structured program of study for teaching Religious Education in Catholic Schools, and (b) provide a program of study which will enable students to advance confidently towards accreditation. That sequence of units is

| Unit Code | Unit Name | Prerequisites (P); Incompatible Units (I) |
|----------------------|--|---|
| THBS100 | Introduction to the Bible | Nil (P) |
| THCT100 | What Christians Believe | Nil (P) |
| THCT202 | Christian Symbol, Ritual and Sacrament | THBS100, THCT100 (P); THEO228 (I) |
| EDRE299 ¹ | Religious Education 1: Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment | Nil (P) |
| EDRE399 ¹ | Religious Education 2: Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment | EDRE299 (P) |

¹ Note that the CPA sequence for Primary is EDRE290 and EDRE291, and must not be confused with the secondary sequence.

Victoria

The VCE study “Religious Education” is available in both government and non-government schools. To be regarded as a teacher fully qualified to teach this subject requires a study in Theological studies. Within Catholic schools, the emphasis is also on teaching the diocesan curriculum throughout the secondary curriculum, through the ‘RE accreditation sequence’ (as above). Nearly the same program study is needed to meet either career objective.

There are three ways in which Accreditation to Teach RE in Catholic Schools can be incorporated in your program:

| Program construction | Via a major in either the “8+6” or “6+4+4” models | Via a minor in either the “8+6” or “6+4+4” models | Via adjunct studies in the “6+4+4” model |
|--|--|--|--|
| First teaching area: minimum of a 6-unit study | Theological Studies major that includes THBS100, THCT100 and THCT202 (the corresponding CPA units are EDRE299 and EDRE399) | Any 6-unit sequence | Any 6-unit sequence |
| Second teaching area: minimum of a 4-unit study | Any minor | Theological Studies minor that includes THBS100, THCT100 and THCT202 (the corresponding CPA units are EDRE299 and EDRE399) | Any minor |
| Up to 4 electives ² – the “adjunct studies”. This would usually be used to (i) ‘upgrade’ the ‘first teaching area’ to a full major; (ii) ‘upgrade’ the ‘second first teaching area’ to more than the minimum, or (iii) add a third area | Any adjunct study | Any adjunct study | THBS100, THCT100, THCT202, and EDRE299 |
| EDES300 which is usually studied as the fifth elective | EDES300 | EDES300 | EDRE399 |

Note that if the First Teaching area is Physical Education, there are no adjunct studies (10 units of disciplinary studies are required for the teaching area of Physical Education), and EDES300 needs to be replaced by EDHE299. Therefore, there are no ‘electives’ available whatsoever. These details are shown on the course map, and must followed strictly.

- the means to include ‘accreditation to teach RE in a Catholic school’ is to complete a 4-unit program in Theological Studies;
- the inclusion of EDRE429 for ‘accreditation to teaching in a Catholic school’, the second teaching area must be Health, as that requires only 2 units in addition to the 10 units for PE.

² Note that in the double degree program (BEEd/BA), these electives must be *Arts* units. In this single degree program, they may come from any School or Faculty. This changes the way that the RE Accreditation sequence fits into the programs.

Queensland

The QCE study “Study of Religion” (SoR)³ is available in both government and non-government schools. To be regarded as a teacher fully qualified to teach this subject requires studies of religion including comparative religions and culture. Within Catholic schools, the emphasis is on teaching the diocesan curriculum throughout the secondary curriculum, through the ‘RE accreditation sequence’ (as above), and also teaching the QCE study.

There are three ways in which Accreditation to Teach RE in Catholic Schools can be incorporated in your program:

| Program construction | Via a major in either the “8+6” or “6+4+4” models | Via a minor in either the “8+6” or “6+4+4” models | Via adjunct studies in the “6+4+4” model |
|---|--|--|--|
| First teaching area: minimum of a 6-unit study | Study of Religions major that includes, THCT100 and THCT202 ⁴ (the corresponding CPA units are EDRE299 and EDRE399) | Any 6-unit sequence | Any 6-unit sequence |
| Second teaching area: minimum of a 4-unit study | Any minor | Study of Religions major that includes, THCT100 and THCT202 ⁴ (the corresponding CPA units are EDRE299 and EDRE399) | Any minor |
| Up to 4 electives – the “adjunct studies”. This would usually be used to (i) ‘upgrade’ the ‘first teaching area’ to a full major; (ii) ‘upgrade’ the ‘second first teaching area’ to more than the minimum, or (iii) add a third area | THBS100 must be included ⁴ Three other adjunct units | THBS100 must be included ⁴ Three other adjunct units | THBS100, THCT100, THCT202, and EDRE299 |
| EDES300 which is usually studied as the fifth elective | EDES300 | EDES300 | EDRE399 |

Note that if the First Teaching area is Physical Education, there are no adjunct studies (10 units of disciplinary studies are required for the teaching area of Physical Education), and EDES300 needs to be replaced by EDHE299. Therefore, there are no ‘electives’ available whatsoever. These details are shown on the course map, and must followed strictly.

- the means to include ‘accreditation to teach RE in a Catholic school’ is to complete a 4-unit program in Study of Religions, and an overload (full fee-paying) unit of THBS100 *which would probably need to be taken in the second year of studies*. Students should confer with their diocesan education office as to the exact requirement for accreditation, including ‘Temporary Accreditation’ and consult with their course co-ordinator about permission for an overload.

³ The ACU major/minor is called “Study of Religions” whereas the Queensland QCE study is “Study of Religion”.

⁴ Units from the RE sequence, THCT100 and THCT202, can also be counted among the SoR units, but THBS100 cannot. And, somewhat confusingly, THBS100 is one of the pre-requisites for THCT202. Therefore, THBS100 is counted among the adjunct studies.

It might be thought that THBS100 could be counted among the 6 units for a ‘first teaching area’, but it cannot. There are two reasons. THBS100 (“Introduction to the Bible”) is an area of scholarship which is someone narrower than a comparative study of religions and is not included within a minimum ACU SoR sequence. Theoretically, it could be incorporated into the six unit sequence for a ‘first teaching area’, but that sequence cannot have more than two 100-level units and as THBS100 is a 100-level unit there is no room for it without displacing an essential unit. Therefore, in this program this unit must be included within the group of ‘adjunct study’ units if RE Accreditation is sought in addition to SoR qualifications.

Bachelor of Education (Secondary)

(Information last updated on 20 December 2021)

New South Wales

The NSW HSC study “Studies of Religion” (SoR)⁵ is available in both government and non-government schools. To be regarded as a teacher fully qualified to teach this subject requires studies of religion including comparative religions and culture, and also studies in curriculum and pedagogy relating to History at junior secondary levels. Within Catholic schools, the emphasis is on teaching the diocesan curriculum throughout the secondary curriculum, through the ‘RE accreditation sequence’ (as above). There are three ways in which Accreditation to Teach RE in Catholic Schools would be incorporated in your program

| Program construction | Via a major in either the “8+6” or “6+4+4” | Via a minor in either the “8+6” or “6+4+4” models | Via adjunct studies in the “6+4+4” model |
|--|--|--|---|
| A 6-unit study: First teaching area | Study of Religions major that includes, THCT100 and THCT202 ⁴ (the corresponding CPA units are EDRE299 and EDRE399) | Any 6-unit sequence | Any 6-unit sequence |
| A minor (4-unit study): Second teaching area | Any minor | Study of Religions major that includes, THCT100 and THCT202 ⁴ (the corresponding CPA units are EDRE299 and EDRE399) | Any minor |
| Up to 4 electives – the “adjunct studies”. This would usually be used to (i) ‘upgrade’ the ‘first teaching area’ to a full major; (ii) ‘upgrade’ the ‘second first teaching area’ to more than the minimum, or (iii) add a third area | THBS100 must be included ⁴ EDHI299 must be studied, complementing the SoR major Two other Arts units | THBS100 must be included ⁴ EDHI299 must be studied, complementing the SoR major Two other Arts units | THBS100, THCT100, and THCT202 EDRE299 |
| EDES300 which is usually studied as a second education elective | EDFD454 must be studied in NSW | EDFD454 must be studied in NSW | EDFD454 must be studied in NSW |
| | | | With course co-ordinator permission, EDRE399 may be studied as an overload unit |

Note that if the First Teaching area is Personal Development, Health and Physical Education, there is no second teaching area or adjunct study (13 units of disciplinary studies are required for the teaching area). Therefore it is not possible to complete ‘accreditation to teach RE in a Catholic school’ alongside PDHPE in the single degree. It is possible to achieve this in the double degree, BEd/BExSci.

Note that if the First Teaching area is Technology, there is no adjunct study (9 units of disciplinary studies are required for the teaching area), and the second teaching area must be Digital Technologies. Therefore it is not possible to complete ‘accreditation to teach RE in a Catholic school’ alongside Technologies in the single degree, and it is also *not* possible to achieve this in the double degree, BEd/BA (Design & Innovation).

NSW: Alternate pathways to teach RE in Catholic Schools

In some dioceses provision is made for teachers to hold Temporary Accreditation to Teach RE for a maximum period while they complete the appropriate qualifications. This, in particular, applies to students who choose the ‘adjunct studies’ program above. Students should discuss the possibility of studying EDRE399 as an overload with their course co-ordinator &/or investigate the diocesan position on Temporary Accreditation.

⁵ The ACU major/minor is called “Study of Religions” whereas the NSW HSC study is “Studies of Religion”.