

Statement of Policy

All professional teaching staff shall possess formal training in religious education prior to or within the first two years of the commencement of her/his employment with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

Rationale

Staff faith formation is central to the mission of Catholic education and is the most pressing and challenging task for Catholic school authorities.

Authority

- *The Education Act*, Section 85 (1) (a)
- Policy GHA: Professional Staff – Qualifications and Selection: General Expectations
- Opening Doors to Personnel
- Policy Governance Manual

Definitions

This policy relates to professional teachers who have been hired on a continuing contract by Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

Procedures/Guidelines

1. A list of pre-approved options for meeting the Essential Faith learning Requirements is available. For details see “Essential Faith Learning Options for GSCS Teachers on Continuing Contracts”.
2. Alternate training in religious studies may be approved as fulfilling the requirements of this policy. Options not presently included in the document above, must be submitted to the Coordinator of Religious Education for approval.
3. Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools will provide support for the payment of tuition fees for staff enrolled in approved classes or programs.

Documents/Forms

- Opening Doors to Personnel
- Essential Faith Learning Options for GSCS Teachers on Continuing Contracts

References

Statement of Educational Commitment of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools:

- To provide an identifiable Catholic environment;

- To offer formation based on the values of Catholic education;
- To make the school a place of evangelization and pastoral action;
- To provide opportunities for spiritual growth through prayer, the sacraments, scriptural study, and celebration;
- To instill love for and fidelity to the Catholic Church;
- To support staff members as witnesses of their faith to students, each other, and the community; and
- To provide opportunities for each staff member to grow in awareness of the calling to serve.

Date Approved

June 28, 1982

Amended

January 21, 1998

April 2004

September 2018

Essential Faith Learning Options for GSCS Teachers on Continuing Contracts (updated August 19, 2020)

During their first two years of employment, teachers hired on a continuing contract are required to obtain **two** Essential Faith Learning credits. These credits may be obtained by participating in various programs (such as those listed on pages 1 and 2) or by successfully completing qualifying university classes (see page 3 for examples).

Tuition fees for courses or programs undertaken outside of GSCS in order to meet EFL credits may be paid in part by the school division pending proof of successful completion. (Contact Human Resource Services for information prior to registering.)

For further information, including inquiries regarding courses and programs that do not appear on the list, please contact Darcie Lich – Coordinator, Religious Education dlich@gscs.ca, 659-7078.

Option	Credits	Details	Required Documentation
GSCS Understanding Your Faith Program	1 credit per program year	Program facilitated by GSCS. Participants are provided with the opportunity to learn about essential topics regarding both the universal and local Church. Four modules per year; approximately 8 hours of online learning (synchronous and asynchronous) per module. Year B (offered in 2020-2021: Christian Morality, Social Justice, Prayer & Liturgy, Byzantine Catholic Rite) Year A (offered in 2019-2020): Scripture, Christology, Sacraments, First Nations & Métis Spirituality <i>Participants may participate in both Year A and Year B to earn two EFL credits.</i> A more detailed outline is available on OneStop For information contact Darcie Lich (dlich@gscs.ca) Follow this link to register: UYF registration	Religious Education Services will forward documentation to Human Resources on your behalf upon completion.
GSCS Faith Mentorship Program	1 credit per program year	A 10-session program in which a faith mentorship pair (mentor & protégé) meet to discuss central topics of faith. Completion and submission of a Faith Mentorship Portfolio (digital or hard copy) required to confirm completion of the program. A more detailed outline is available on OneStop For details, contact Darcie Lich (dlich@gscs.ca)	Religious Education Services will forward documentation to Human Resources on your behalf upon completion
RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)	1 credit	Completion of a parish-based RCIA experience as either a sponsor or as a candidate. Documentation of participation required.	Documentation of participation to be forwarded to GSCS Human Resources.
Newman Theological College Master of Religious Education Program	2+ credits	A graduate level professional degree designed for the theological and spiritual development of Catholic Educators. Consists of ten courses and four teaching projects. Classes are offered on a part-time basis in Saskatoon during the fall and winter semesters plus the first two weeks in July. Contact Darcie Lich (dlich@gscs.ca) for further information or see NTC MRE Program for program details. (Bursaries may be available through GSCS.)	Transcript indicating class completion to be forwarded to GSCS Human Resources.

Diocese of Saskatoon Adult Faith Enrichment Program	2 credits	Diocesan, Aboriginal and Ukrainian Catholics spend time learning about the Catholic faith, sharing their faith and life experiences, and deepening their prayer lives. It is a time of learning, a time for friendship, a time of discernment and a time of growing ever closer to Christ. Participants commit to the program for a period of two years – one weekend per month, September through May. More information: Adult Faith Enrichment Program	Documentation of completion to be forwarded to GSCS Human Resources.
Diocese/Eparchy Lay Formation Program	2 credits	This program is no longer offered, but past participants may use this as credit toward their EFL requirements.	Documentation of completion to be forwarded to GSCS Human Resources.
Diocese of Saskatoon J.O.Y. of Formation Program	2 credits	This program is no longer offered, but past participants may use this as credit toward their EFL requirements.	Documentation of completion to be forwarded to GSCS Human Resources.

***** see following page for eligible university courses *****

OTHER COURSES ACCEPTED FOR CREDIT

University of Saskatchewan Catholic Studies 200.3	1	University transcript indicating class completion to be forwarded to GSCS Human Resources
University of Saskatchewan Catholic Studies 221.3 - Introduction to Christianity	1	
St. Thomas More College – University of Saskatchewan RLST 222.3 - Mystics, Monks and Heretics	1	
St. Thomas More College – University of Saskatchewan RLST 225.3 - Perspectives on Jesus	1	
St. Thomas More College – University of Saskatchewan RLST 253.3 - Introduction to Old Testament	1	
St. Thomas More College – University of Saskatchewan RLST 254.3 - Introduction to New Testament	1	
St. Thomas More College – University of Saskatchewan RLST 314.3 - Issues in Contemporary Catholicism	1	
St. Thomas More College – University of Saskatchewan HIST 230.3 - Christianity from Constantine to the Age of the Renaissance and the Reformations 300 to 1650	1	
St. Thomas More College – University of Saskatchewan HIST 231.3 - Christianity in Modern Times 1650 to 2000	1	
St. Thomas More College – University of Saskatchewan RLST 375.3 - Religion and Science <i>(with permission of GSCS Religious Education Coordinator)</i>	1	
*** indicates classes that are no longer offered but still qualify for credit if they appear on your transcript***		
St. Thomas More College – University of Saskatchewan RLST 315.3 - Eastern Christian Thought First Millennium***	1	
St. Thomas More College – University of Saskatchewan RLST 316.3 - Eastern Christian in Second Millennium***	1	
U of S Religious Studies 223.3 Introduction to Christian Thought***	1	
U of S Religious Studies 224.3 Introduction to Christian Ritual and Worship***	1	
St. Thomas More College – University of Saskatchewan Catholic Studies CTST 105.3***	1	
St. Thomas More College – University of Saskatchewan Catholic Studies CTST 106.3	1	

*****please note that there may be some courses
that qualify for credit but do not appear on this list***
contact Darcie Lich at dlich@gscs.ca to request a review**