

Level I Ministry Certification for Catholic High School Teachers
Diocese of Tucson Department of Catholic Schools
Religious Formation

Level I Certification for teachers in high school
(This does apply to those in the Theology Departments)

The expectation for us as teachers in the Catholic school can be summed up in the following quotation from the National Directory of Catechesis:

“The nobility of the task to which teachers are called demands that, in imitation of Christ the only Teacher, they reveal the Christian message not only by word but also by every gesture of their behavior. All teachers in Catholic schools share in the catechetical ministry. All members of the faculty, at least by their example, are an integral part of the process of religious education. A teacher’s life style and character are as important as their professional credentials. Their witness to the meaning of mature faith and Christian living has a profound effect on the education and formation of their students.”

There is no greater privilege or responsibility within the Church than to be entrusted with teaching and passing on the Catholic faith, not only to our young people, but also to our families, and all those within the reach of our voices and example.

With this mind, all teachers in our schools are expected to obtain a Level I Religious Certification within three years of their employment in the Diocese and, specifically, in our Catholic high schools. Teachers of Theology in our high schools are expected to obtain a certification that goes beyond this minimum requirement.

There are three overall goals for the Level I Ministry Certification which consists of 52 clock hours in religious formation. (46 hours for high school teachers who do not teach Theology.)

Content: Provide systematic instruction in the fundamentals of Sacred Scripture, Theology, Morality and Spirituality. Introduce the participants to methodologies applicable to many areas of ministry.

Spirituality: Encourage the participants to deepen their understanding of their own baptismal call to discipleship; awaken them to an appreciation of the ongoing character of spiritual growth and formation in their faith.

Ministry in the Church and in the world: Equip the participant with the skill needed to be more effective ministers of the Gospel within the Church, within their families and in society.

We recognize that high school teachers have different needs and time constraints than the elementary school teachers. The Level I Religious Certification process has been modified to meet these needs.

Teachers in pre-schools and elementary schools are required to obtain 52 hours of religious formation. High school teachers are required to obtain 46 hours of religious formation. The way this is accomplished is also slightly different.

Those teachers teaching Theology in high school must have a Level II Certification at the very minimum. Either a College or Graduate majors in Religious Education, Theology, Scripture, Pastoral Ministry or the completion of the common Formation four year program is strongly encouraged.

Teachers will be able to select the classes they want to attend within various categories. The categories are the following:

Spiritual Formation (6hours)
Scripture (6 hours)
Theology Foundations (12 hours)
Liturgy & Sacraments (10 hours)
Christian Morality (8hours)
Methodology (4 hours)

A form will be provided for each teacher in order to keep a record of the classes they attend. This record will be reviewed yearly at each school by the Religious Education Coordinator for the Department of Catholic Schools.

Documentation is an important aspect. It will not be enough to simply list the classes that are attended. All handouts, brochures, and continuing education credit sheets should be included in the record keeping. A file on each teacher should be kept in the school so it can be reviewed. Teachers should keep the original and place copies in the file.

Whenever you have questions about Religious Formation or continuing education credits, please call Sister Ruthmary Powers, H.M., at the Department of Catholic Schools. Her contact information is 520-838-2546.