

# The Catholic Educator Formation and Credential Program



The Institute for Catholic Liberal Education (ICLE) offers a robust alternative to state teacher licensure: a credential program that prepares educators to infuse a deeply Catholic philosophy and practice of education into their teaching. The credential earned by teachers in ICLE's Catholic Educator Formation and Credential (CEFC) program is designed to be portable and recognized by dioceses across the nation in lieu of state licensure.

*Would you like to earn a teaching credential, but are not interested in pursuing your state's licensure?*

*Do you already have a license, but want to ground your teaching more solidly in the Catholic Tradition?*

*Would you like more confidence about how to understand and teach the liberal arts in a classroom that cultivates wonder and virtue?*



**INITIAL APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2026**

See "Our Cohorts" for additional information about regional cohort deadlines and rolling admission.

# OUR PROGRAM



INSTITUTE FOR  
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EDUCATION

The CEFC is an 18-month program of five integrated courses delivered through in-person workshops and distance learning:

## COURSE ONE

*The Virtuous Classroom*

This course provides a foundation in classroom management framed by an understanding of human dignity and destiny, ordered toward the full development of the child, who is made in the image and likeness of God.

## COURSE TWO

*Pedagogy: Leading From Wonder To Wisdom*

This course equips teachers to draw upon seven foundations of pedagogy that are grounded in human nature and can be used across the curriculum at every grade level. Teachers are guided to develop lessons that encourage a student's discovery of what is true, good, and beautiful, ordered by the Logos.

## COURSE THREE

*Trivium:  
The Mastery of Language*

This course provides a foundation in language as the medium of thought, through a study of the three liberal arts of Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric. It includes an emphasis on the science of reading. Teachers will also explore analogies of the Trivium in instruction, cognition, and human development as well as in the Holy Trinity.

## COURSE FOUR

*Quadrivium:  
The Harmony of Number*

This course examines the role of mathematics and science in the Catholic liberal arts curriculum with attention to the four liberal arts collectively named the Quadrivium: arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music. As educators follow Christ's command to "put out into the deep" (Luke 5:4), they will help their students explore the wonder and mysteries of the created world and grow in relationship with the Author of Creation.

## COURSE FIVE

*Faith and Reason:  
The Foundations of the  
Catholic Intellectual Tradition*

This course presents philosophical, theological, and historical foundations for a Catholic worldview grounded in an understanding of the Incarnation, with a particular focus on implications for education.



Teaching is relational, and the cohort model of this program nurtures a true community of learners. The program also includes teaching observations for highly personalized encouragement and feedback.

# CEFC COHORTS OVERVIEW

UPDATED: 11/19/2025



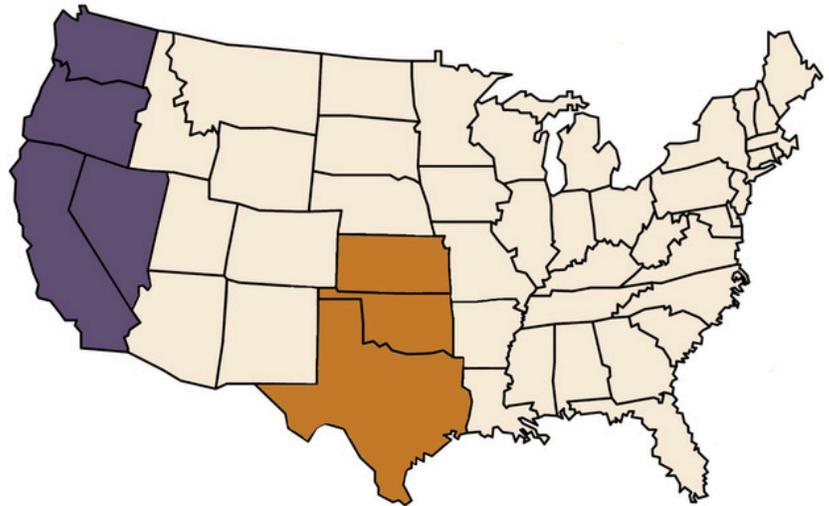
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EDUCATION

Applicants to the CEFC Program are asked to apply to one of our four cohorts: National, Oklahoma, Western Regional, or Colombia. We strongly recommend you apply to a regional cohort, such as Oklahoma or Western Regional, if you live within that region to help reduce the cost of travel to your mandatory regional gatherings, and to help limit time-zone issues for online programming.

## NATIONAL COHORT

## OKLAHOMA COHORT

## WESTERN REGIONAL COHORT



Applicants who reside anywhere within the United States and Canada and who are not eligible for one of our more local regional cohorts are encouraged to apply to the **National Cohort**.

Applicants who reside within or near the state of Oklahoma are encouraged to apply to the **Oklahoma Cohort**. This area includes but is not limited to Oklahoma, Kansas & Texas, especially central & northern Texas.

Applicants who reside in California, Oregon, Nevada, Washington, and British Columbia are encouraged to apply to the **Western Regional Cohort**.

## COLOMBIA COHORT

Stay tuned for information about our upcoming Colombia Cohort!



# OUR COHORTS

UPDATED: 11/19/2025



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The CEFC Program is designed to be very manageable for active teachers, however attendance and regular participation are critical for fulfilling all the requirements of the Credential. Participants must regularly attend online sessions and must attend all in-person workshops.

\* Online class evenings and times reflect the current cohort's schedule and are subject to change. This information will be finalized during the Spring 2026 semester. Online classes run September to May prior to the Academic Retreat, and then September - November.

## NATIONAL COHORT

In-Person Gatherings

Online Class: Thursday Nights\*

| CORNERSTONE WORKSHOP  | TRIVIUM & MIMETIC WORKSHOP                                       | QUADRIVIUM WORKSHOP & ACADEMIC RETREAT                        |
|---|--|---|
| July 27-31, 2026<br>The Augustine Institute<br>Florissant, MO | January 14-18, 2027<br>The Augustine Institute<br>Florissant, MO | June 14-18, 2027<br>The Augustine Institute<br>Florissant, MO |

Deadline to Apply: February 1, followed by rolling admission if seats remain.

## OKLAHOMA COHORT

In-Person Gatherings

Online Class: Thursday Nights\*

| CORNERSTONE WORKSHOP   | TRIVIUM & MIMETIC WORKSHOP  | QUADRIVIUM WORKSHOP & ACADEMIC RETREAT                                  |
|--|---|---|
| July 21-24, 2026<br>Archdiocese of<br>Oklahoma City<br>Oklahoma City, OK | February 25 - March 1, 2027<br>Archdiocese of<br>Oklahoma City<br>Oklahoma City, OK | June 7-11, 2027<br>Archdiocese of<br>Oklahoma City<br>Oklahoma City, OK |

Deadlines to Apply:

*Archdiocese of Oklahoma City & Diocese of Tulsa Teachers: April 1*

# OUR COHORTS CONT.

UPDATED: 12/9/2025



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## WESTERN REGIONAL COHORT

In-Person Gatherings

Online Class: Tuesday Nights\*

| CORNERSTONE WORKSHOP                                       | TRIVIUM & MIMETIC WORKSHOP                               | QUADRIVIUM WORKSHOP & ACADEMIC RETREAT |
|--|--|--|
| August 3-8, 2026<br>University of Portland<br>Portland, OR | January 15-19, 2027<br>Our Lady of Peace<br>Portland, OR | July/August 2027<br>Portland, OR       |

*Details will be finalized by January 1, 2026.*

**Deadline to Apply:** February 1, followed by rolling admission if seats remain.

## COLOMBIA COHORT

More information coming soon.

# PRICING & FINANCIAL AID

UPDATED: 11/5/2025



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## TOTAL COST: \$7,975 + BOOKS & TRAVEL

\$5,900 (tuition) + \$1,975 (lodging & meals for three in-person gatherings) + \$100 (admin fee) = total of \$7,975. We advise budgeting between \$100-\$200 for books over the course of the 18-month program.

If tuition is paid in full prior to September 30<sup>th</sup> of year one, the \$100 admin fee will be waived (bringing the cost to \$7,875).

Accepted applicants will be asked to make a \$1,975 deposit within two weeks of receiving their acceptance email. ICLE offers a 15-month automatic, online payment plan (\$400/month) beginning in September of year one and concluding in November of year two.

Since travel costs vary greatly depending on your area, we strongly encourage participants to apply to their regional cohort.

## DIOCESEAN PARTNER FINANCIAL AID

Teachers in Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and Diocese of Tulsa are automatically considered to receive a scholarship to the CEFC program through the Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma. Learn more about this scholarship at <https://cfook.org/cefc>. Should you apply, your application and contact information will be shared with the Archdiocese so they can reach out with more information about this scholarship.

Teachers in parochial Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Portland are eligible to receive a CEFC scholarship. If you are a teacher of this Archdiocese, your contact information, billing information, and application will be shared with the Office of Catholic Schools so they can reach out with more information about this scholarship.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



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## WHAT GUIDES THE PROGRAM?

The CEFC is guided by *The Holy See's Teaching on Catholic Schools* and the Church's long tradition in the liberal arts and sciences, as well as her commitment to the unity of faith and reason. This formation program identifies joy and wonder, not only academic rigor, as important hallmarks of strong teaching. Students should be formed not only to know and understand, but also to love and delight in their Creator and to understand their place in His world.

## HOW IS THIS PROGRAM DIFFERENT?

Catholic liberal education begins with the divine Logos at the center of all genuine learning. Because all truths are fragments of this one Truth, classroom learning should draw students closer to Jesus Christ, the Person who is the incarnation of that Truth. Our credential program seeks to recover the Catholic intellectual tradition that unites faith and reason—a tradition that has shaped our world for the better over the last two thousand years. CEFC educators grow in teaching skills, yes, but they also focus on something absolutely essential for the Catholic teacher: developing a vision of education that sees truth as one, as accessible, and as communicable.

## WHY IS THIS PROGRAM IMPORTANT?

The CEFC brings the formation of Catholic teachers back under the guidance of the Church. Catholic educators have responded to a vocation to teach the young; they deserve to be formed in their own rich heritage in order to help renew the culture in Christ.

Learn more about the CEFC Program [here](#).



## WILL I EARN A GRADUATE DEGREE?

In addition to a teaching credential, graduates of the CEFC Program are eligible to receive up to twelve credits toward graduate degrees from our partners in higher education:

Learn more about our graduate program partnerships [here](#).



## HOW DOES IT COMPARE?

The CEFC program teaches, among other things, the basics of lesson planning, literacy instruction, and effective pedagogy. But rather than being guided merely by utilitarian "best practices," this formation program goes much deeper, rooting these essentials in the human person, who is destined ultimately for holiness and communion with God. What is taught, then, is in fact "best practices" in a far truer sense—they are the timeless ways of communicating God's truth from person to person. Students of all abilities and backgrounds flourish as they develop tools of thinking through a highly ordered and sequential approach to learning based in the nature of reality and the nature of the human person.