

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 are 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 above 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)
EDRE299 ¹	Religious Education 1: Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment	Nil (P)
EDRE399 ¹	Religious Education 2: Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment	EDRE299 (P)
THCT202	Christian Symbol, Ritual and Sacrament	THBS100, THCT100 (P); THEO228 (I)

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.

Within the degree, in Victoria, there is ‘space’ for a minor study (4 units) in “Theological Studies”. Students whose career destination ‘Religious Education’ in either the government or Catholic sectors *should complete the Theological Studies minor as their second teaching area*.

Students who are seeking ‘Accreditation to Teach in a Catholic School’ make study EDRE429 in place of EDES300. These details are shown on the course map, which must be followed strictly.

Queensland

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

Within the degree, in Qld, there is ‘space’ for a minor study (4 units). Both “Study of Religions”² and “Theological Studies” are available. It is recommended that students whose likely destination is the government sector should preference “Study of Religions” and students whose likely designation is the Catholic sector should preference Theological Studies.

Discipline minor in Theological Studies	Discipline minor in Study of Religions
<p><i>Students who complete this sequence are on-track for meeting the requirements of RE accreditation, but is one unit short (the gap below) of meeting the full requirements of SoR in the government sector.</i></p> <p>This is the preferred sequence for students whose likely employment destination is the Catholic sector.</p>	<p><i>Students who complete this sequence would fully meet the requirements for SoR in the government sector, but are up to two units short (noted below) of being on-track for meeting the requirements for RE accreditation.</i></p> <p>This is the preferred sequence for students whose likely employment destination is the government sector.</p>
THBS100 (a semester 1 unit)	THBS100 (a semester 1 unit), potentially studied as an overload [#]
	PHIL107 (a semester 1 unit)
THCT100 (a semester 2 unit)	THCT100 (a semester 2 unit)
THCT202 (a semester 1 unit)	THCT202 (a semester 1 unit) [#] [this only applies if THBS100 was studied as an overload unit; if not, another SoR unit, with different pre-requisites, must be studied]
A fourth (semester 2) Theology unit, such as THCT213	A fourth (semester 2) SoR unit, such as THSTR06
EDRE299 (a semester 2 unit, included as the CPA unit for the ‘second teaching area’ on the map)	EDRE299 (a semester 2 unit, included as the CPA unit for the ‘second teaching area’ on the map)
EDRE399 (a semester 1 unit, included as the CPA unit for the ‘second teaching area’ on the map)	EDRE399 (a semester 1 unit, included as the CPA unit for the ‘second teaching area’ on the map)

[#] Students are advised to consult with their course co-ordinator about studying THBS100 as an overload unit in the same semester as PHIL107, which would facilitate their ability to complete THBS202 in a later semester, and thus be ‘one step closer’ to meeting the requirements for teaching RE in Catholic schools. Students should consult with their course co-ordinator regarding permission for an overload.

² The ACU major/minor is called “Study of Religions” whereas the Queensland QCE study is “Study of Religion”.

New South Wales

The NSW HSC study “Studies of Religion” (SoR) is available in both government and non-government schools. To be regarded as an SoR teacher within the government sector 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 years, through the ‘RE accreditation sequence’ (as above) and also teaching the HSC study.

Within the degree, in NSW, there is ‘space’ for a minor study (4 units). Both “Study of Religions”³ and “Theological Studies” are available. It is recommended that students whose likely destination is the government sector should preference “Study of Religions” and students whose likely designation is the Catholic sector should preference Theological Studies.

Discipline minor in Theological Studies	Discipline minor in Study of Religions
<i>Students who complete this sequence are on-track for meeting the requirements of RE accreditation, but are two units short (the gaps below) of meeting the full requirements of SoR in the government sector.</i>	<i>Students who complete this sequence would fully meet the requirements for SoR in the government sector, but are up to three units short (noted below) of being on-track for meeting the requirements for RE accreditation.</i>
This is the preferred sequence for students whose likely employment destination is the Catholic sector.	This is the preferred sequence for students whose likely employment destination is the government sector.
THBS100 (a semester 1 unit)	THBS100 (a semester 1 unit), potentially studied as an overload [#]
	PHIL107 (a semester 1 unit)
THCT100 (a semester 2 unit)	THCT100 (a semester 2 unit)
THCT202 (a semester 1 unit)	THCT202 (a semester 1 unit) [this only applies if THBS100 was studied as an overload unit; if not, another SoR unit, with different pre-requisites, must be studied]
A fourth (semester 2) Theology unit, such as THCT213	A fourth (semester 2) SoR unit, such as THSTR06
EDRE299 (a semester 2 unit, included as the CPA unit for the ‘second teaching area’ on the map)	*
	EDHI299 (a semester 2 unit, included as the CPA unit for the ‘second teaching area’ on the map)
EDRE399 (a semester 1 unit, included as the CPA unit for the ‘second teaching area’ on the map)	EDRE399 (a semester 1 unit, included as the CPA unit for the ‘second teaching area’ on the map)

[#] Students are advised to consult with their course co-ordinator about studying THBS100 as an overload unit in the same semester as PHIL107, which would facilitate their ability to complete THBS202 in a later semester, and thus be ‘one step closer’ to meeting the requirements for teaching RE in Catholic schools. Students should consult with their course co-ordinator regarding permission for an overload.

* EDRE299 and EDHI299 would be available in the same semester. By completing EDHI299/EDRE399 the requirements for SoR in the government sector would be met; by completing EDRE299/EDRE399, students would be ‘one step closer’ to meeting the requirements for teaching RE in Catholic schools.

³ The ACU major/minor is called “Study of Religions” whereas the NSW HSC study is “Studies of Religion”.

NSW and Queensland: 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 SoR program in either NSW or QLD. Students should discuss the possibility of studying THBS100 (NSW and Qld) and possibly EDRE299 (NSW only) as overload units (as they are not included in the SoR sequence) with their course co-ordinator. This would bring them 'closer' to meeting the requirements for RE accreditation, &/or investigate the diocesan position on Temporary Accreditation.

It is possible that students who do not know their likely career destination may find that the SoR sequence is more flexible. NSW and QLD students who are committed to working in the Catholic sector would be advised to complete the Theological Studies program.