

Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary)



(Information last updated on 4th September 2024)

Catholic Primary School Religious Education Accreditation

Teachers in Catholic primary schools are normally required to teach Religious Education. The terminology used is that a teacher would be 'accredited' to teach Religious Education in Catholic schools within a particular diocese.

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 you were to seek to teach in a Catholic school (which, for a primary school, will include teaching RE), 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* for any school in that state.

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)
EDRE290 ¹	Religious Education 1: Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment	Nil (P)
EDRE291 ¹	Religious Education 2: Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment	EDRE290 (P)
THCT202	Christian Symbol, Ritual and Sacrament	THBS100, THCT100 (P); THEO228 (I)

The 'Religious Education' teaching specialisation in this degree

All primary teachers need to be able to teach in all areas of the curriculum, but a 'teaching specialisation' refers to a particular focus in your studies to develop a level of expertise in content, curriculum, pedagogy and assessment which pre-service teachers with a different focus would not have. 'Religious Education' is a teaching specialisation available for students who wish to seek accreditation to Teach Religious Education in Catholic schools. Pre-service teachers who wish to gain accreditation to teach Religious Education in Catholic primary schools are advised to successfully complete each unit in the Religious Education Specialisation sequence

Within the Early Childhood and Primary qualification, the 'Religious Education teaching specialisation' includes 4 out of the 5 units of ACU's RE accreditation sequence. Students should discuss with their Course coordinator the possibilities of completing THCT202 the fifth unit as an 'overload' unit in their final year to achieve the full RE accreditation sequence.

While the 'teaching specialisation' (alone) is shorter than the recommended 'RE accreditation sequence', it facilitates progression towards accreditation. In some dioceses provision is made for teachers to hold Temporary Accreditation to Teach RE for a maximum period while they complete further studies. The administration processes for acquiring RE 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 Religious Education 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.

NSW/ACT only

Students seeking accreditation to teach religious education in Catholic Schools in NSW/ACT, unless they undertake the full sequence of 5 RE accreditation units, should expect that they will be required by their school/diocese, on employment, to complete additional study within four years of commencing employment to meet accreditation requirements to teach in Catholic schools. The requirements for this are determined by the diocese/school where you are employed. One option would be to return as a full fee-paying student to complete additional prescribed ACU units.

¹ Note that the CPA sequence for Secondary is EDRE299 and EDRE399, and must not be confused with the primary sequence.