

## Religious Education (see below for M.R.E.)

The Religious Education Programs provide opportunities for religious educators to deepen their Christian faith and to explore ways for nurturing it in others. The graduate programs in Religious Education are not professional degrees, but intended to enhance the student's practice of their chosen profession. Courses are designed to awaken an intellectual understanding of the Christian tradition, to foster a hope-filled trust in God's promises and to empower an active commitment to the building of the Reign of God. This threefold faith: intellectual, affective, and active becomes the context within which pedagogical approaches are examined and developed in order to enable religious educators to interpret the Christian tradition effectively in contemporary society.

These courses provide a common area of study as well as a base from which students can interact with each other on topics and concerns of mutual interest. Flexibility in the curriculum is provided by making available complementary courses and electives from other programs, so that background needs may be met and personal interest areas explored.

Course content is presented through lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials, private research and practical activities. Community spirit is promoted not only through worship and social interaction in the more formal learning situation, but also through participating in extra curricular activities.

The ***Graduate Diploma in Religious Education (G.D.R.E.)*** is a basic diploma with concentrations in Teaching in a Catholic School or Catholic School Administration directed toward the preparation of persons who wish to engage in religious education in both school and parish environments.

The ***Graduate Certificate in Catholic School Administration (G.C.S.A.)*** is a basic certificate offered for teachers who are preparing to assume leadership roles in Catholic schools.

The ***Master of Religious Education (M.R.E.)*** is an advanced degree designed for the preparation of specialist Teaching in a Catholic School or Catholic School Administration, thus providing an important contribution for those engaged in teaching, administration, leadership and curriculum development.

## M.R.E.

The M.R.E. program is designed for the preparation of specialists in the area of research in religious education or Catholic school administration, thus providing an important contribution to those engaged in teaching, administration, leadership, and curriculum development.

### **Academic Requirements**

Two years of successful teaching experience and a G.D.R.E. required for admission to the program. G.D.R.E. graduates from NTC must submit a letter to the Registrar indicating intent to enrol in the M.R.E. degree and stating intended area of concentration—Teaching in Catholic Schools or Catholic School Administration. Other G.D.R.E. graduates must meet the admission requirements of those entering Newman's G.D.R.E.; this includes the requirement to complete the non-credit THEO 010i Introduction to Theology.

### **Degree Requirements**

Completion of the M.R.E. program requires 18 credits in addition to the G.D.R.E., for a total of 48 credits. Students have the option of:

- a) completing 12 credits of course work and writing a thesis (6 credits); **-OR-**
- b) completing 15 credits of course work and doing a project (3 credits).

### **Residency**

There are no residency requirements. The students will renew their registration each year and will have up to five years to complete the program. Extensions may be given with the approval of the Dean of Theology.

### **Academic Advisor**

Once a student is admitted into the program, an academic advisor will be chosen by the student in consultation with the Director of the Religious Education Department. With the advisor, the student will determine the course of studies to be followed. This will be recorded on a prepared form, signed by both student and advisor and kept in the student's file.

### **Thesis and Project**

The M.R.E. thesis provides the student with an opportunity to review and critique the literature in a particular area of interest and to propose some basic principles or guidelines for a related dimension of Christian religious education. The thesis will be a written paper between 60 and 75 pages in length (6 credits).

The M.R.E. project provides the student with an opportunity to address a need in the church's ministry of religious education and to demonstrate the ability to integrate theory and educational practice in addressing that need. The project report will be a written paper between 30 and 40 pages in length (3 credits).

### **Joint Degree**

Students who apply for and meet the entrance requirements of both the M.Div. and M.R.E. programs may complete both degrees with a total of 120 credits. 24 credits are shared by the two degrees. Specific requirements of both degrees must be met. Details are available from the Registrar.

### **Transfer of Credits**

A student may transfer a maximum of 6 credits toward the M.R.E. for graduate level course work from other recognized colleges and universities. Such credits must not be part of a previous graduate degree program. The transfer of credits is subject to the approval of the NTC Admissions and Evaluation Committee.

### **GENERAL OUTLINE ~ M.R.E.**

THEO 010i Introduction to Theology (non-credit)

### **TEACHING IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

**12 Credits**

REL 513 Church and Culture **-OR-**  
STD 453 Ecclesiology **-AND-**  
REL 591 Guided Reading in Religious Education  
REL 593 Theories of Religious Education  
REL 595 Research in Religious Education

**-OR -**

**CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION            12 Credits**

CSA 585     Special Topics in Catholic School Administration

CSA 587     Issues in Catholic School Administration

REL 591     Guided Reading in Religious Education

REL 595     Research in Religious Education

**IN ADDITION, FOR EITHER CONCENTRATION:**

Thesis, 6 credits **-OR-** Project , 3 Credits + 1 graduate level elective,  
3 Credits