

Classical Christian Education

The Classical Christian Education program is a non-degree program designed to empower educators in Classical and Charter Independent schools with a Christ-centered, academically rigorous credential that upholds the core principles of Classical education. By doing so, the program seeks to advance the mission of restoring a Classical Christian tradition that promotes virtue, wisdom, and lifelong learning.

Upon completion of this program, students may apply for credentialing through the Society for Classical Learning.

Classical Christian Education Courses

CCE 601 Education History: The Story and Core Principles of Classical Christian Education 3 hours

This course offers a comprehensive exploration of the historical development and core principles of classical Christian education from its roots in pre-Christian civilizations through its contemporary practice. Students will engage with the foundational telos and pedagogical traditions that have shaped classical Christian education, contrasting them with the emergence of progressive educational movements, particularly in the United States. Through this historical lens, students will articulate the purpose of education as the cultivation of the soul, fostering lives characterized by piety, virtue, and wisdom, while aligning students' affections and beliefs with the true, the good, and the beautiful as grounded in Christian theological and philosophical thought. The course will examine the essential components of a robust classical Christian curriculum, emphasizing the seven liberal arts - both verbal and quantitative - as well as the integration of fine arts, common arts, physical education, and classical languages. A key focus will be placed on the use of primary sources and great works from classical and Christian traditions, the practice of memorization, and the development of eloquent, persuasive expression.

CCE 602 Classical Christian Education Applied as a Living Tradition in the United States 3 hours

This course situates and applies the historic tradition of classical Christian education and the liberal arts within contemporary schools and classrooms in the United States, with attention to our own local places, our national story, and multiple ethnic traditions, as well as the insights and capacities of technology, modern school subjects or disciplines, and the resources of developmental psychology and neurology.

CCE 603 Classroom and School Culture: Shaping Student Loves and Virtues 3 hours

Starting with an overview of the Christian virtue tradition in terms of both concepts and practices, this course will provide students with practical skills in planning and leading their classrooms in rhythms, habits, and practices that intentionally cultivate the virtues of their own students. Students will be able to articulate and practically demonstrate the connections between virtue formation in their classrooms, parent partnerships, and embodied (sacramental or liturgical) learning.

CCE 604 Pedagogy in the Classical Tradition: Teaching in Support of Student Growth and Learning 3 hours

Surveying principles and practices of teaching applied with the strongest results for school-age students and in line with the objectives of classical Christian education (including Socratic teaching approaches, Mortimer Adler's three pillars of instruction, Charlotte Mason's narration practice, awareness of the rhythms, practices, and routines of embodied and liturgical learning, as well as concepts such as *festina lente*, *multum non multa*, *repetitio mater memoriae*, and *docendo discimus*), this course will enable students to plan and deliver lessons in their classroom that maximize student growth and learning. These historic pedagogical insights will be integrated with universal design for learning theory and practice.

CCE 605 Student Assessment in Classical Christian Education: Principles Practices of and Guidance, Feedback, and Evaluation 3 hours

With reference to Socratic learning paradigms, tutorial feedback methods, mentorship, principles of mastery learning, and the use of student work portfolios, this course will survey the history of grading and assessment for school-age students (K-12 in the United States) and offer a variety of options for developing student learning outcomes and assessment methods that maximize the integration of academic and virtue-cultivation outcomes so that the learning experiences for school-age students is humanized with an focus on student guidance and discipleship over simply quantitative evaluations focused on the memorization of information and following directions.

CCE 606 Great Books, Classical Languages, and Fine Arts: Vertical and Horizontal Integration Across the Curriculum 3 hours

This course provides teachers in the classical Christian tradition of education with an overview of the integrations between the curriculum subjects vertically as well as their progression year to year horizontally so that teachers can have clarity about the connections between their classroom objectives and the larger scope and sequence of student learning. Teachers as mentors and exemplars should also demonstrate a love of learning across all subject areas in how they refer to other subjects as well as how they make connections through the integration in lessons, assignments, and projects to include themes and skills from great books, classical languages, and the fine arts into all areas of the curriculum include mathematics and science. As teachers cultivate a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of subjects, they can foster a more cohesive and enriching learning experience for students.

CCE 607 Student Division Level and Subject Area Practicum 3 hours

This course provides teaching practicum experience with proposals and demonstrations specific to the subject areas and grade levels most relevant or of interest to the students. Instructors will facilitate experiential learning, feedback, and coaching as well as incorporating the report from a student teaching assignment at a school accredited or endorsed by the Society for Classical Learning providing teaching experience and mentorship in a real classroom setting.