

Master of Religious Education (MRE)

Faculty of Theology University of St. Michael's College

*A centre of excellence for
theological studies*

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University of St. Michael's College is a federated College in the University of Toronto, our identity is explicitly Christian and Catholic, rooted in the heritage of the Congregation of St. Basil. We are a Faculty of Theology engaged in the exploration and proclamation of the mystery of God in contemporary culture.

We commit ourselves to the faithful and creative interpretation and articulation of the biblical, liturgical, theological, ethical, pastoral, historical and cultural dimensions of our Catholic faith. We reflect our Catholic identity in our faculty, our programs, and our commitment to the formation of our students for service in the church and society.

We are a founding member of the Toronto School of Theology and an Accredited Member of the Association of Theological School in the United States and Canada. Our commitment to diversity in terms of gender, ethnicity, race, and culture is reflected in our students, staff and faculty. We strive to create a community of hospitality, equality, collegiality, and justice for all. Our communal life hinges upon the habits of study and worship. We offer diploma and degree programs in Theology and Religious Education: M.Div., M.R.E., M.T.S., M.A.C.L., M.A., Th.M., D.Min., Th.D. and Ph.D.

MASTER OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (MRE)

Goals

This professional program is designed to prepare individuals for the ministry of religious education. It welcomes women and men from various aspects of this ministry such as teaching or supervising in schools, parishes, dioceses, or international settings. The curriculum assists students:

- To reflect on Scripture and Tradition in light of their original contexts.
- To interpret them in light of present-day Church teaching and in terms of contemporary thought and experience.
- To understand the psychological and sociological dimensions of religious education.
- To understand the history and theology of the teaching ministry in the Church.
- To reflect on the theory and practice of religious education in its current varied contexts.
- To engage in peer-group and field-based learning for the integration of faith and the practice of the teaching ministry.

Admission Requirements

- A bachelor's degree or its equivalent, with at least a B- standing (GPA 2.7), from an accredited institution.
- Official transcripts of all previous studies sent directly to the Faculty by the granting institutions.
- Two letters of recommendation.
- A "Letter of Intent" from the applicant.
- Payment of a non-refundable application fee (\$25).

Additional Requirements for Admission to the MRE

Applicants must have completed at least one year of full-time experience in teaching or other forms of education ministry. Applicants without full-time experience should provide a resume detailing comparable experiences. The teaching experience need not be in school-based education, but may be of a more informal nature. If there is some question, an interview with the Basic Degree Director may be required.

Program Requirements

Depending on a student's qualifications, between sixteen and twenty courses, or their equivalent in the case of transfer students, are required for the MRE degree. An average of B- (2.7 GPA) with no mark below B-, is requisite for the granting of the degree.

Application Information

The completed application form, together with the application fee and the Letter of Intent must be received by the Student Services Officer as follows:

- by the last Friday in June for those wishing to begin studies in September.
- by the last Friday in November for those wishing to begin studies in January.
- by the last Friday in March for those wishing to begin studies in the Summer A term (April-May).
- by the last Friday in May for those wishing to begin studies in the Summer B or C terms (July-August).

Letters of recommendation must be submitted directly by the person writing the letter. Official transcripts must be submitted directly by the respective educational institution.

All degree programs must be completed within eight years of initial registration. They may be earned on a full-time or part-time basis. At least one half of all courses for degree programs must be taken from St. Michael's Faculty of Theology.

Curriculum

Scripture

1. Intro to the Old Testament (SMB1007)
2. Intro to the New Testament (SMB1051)
3. any course in Scripture

*Systematic Theology*¹

4. Foundations of Theology (SMT1101)
5. one course in Trinity or Christology
6. one course in Sacraments or Liturgy

Ethics

7. Fundamental Themes in Christian Ethics (SMT1904)
8. Social Teachings of Catholic Church

History

9. any survey course: History of Christianity I, II or III, or History of Catholicism (1648-present)

Pastoral

10. Theology of Ministry (SMP2600)
11. Field Education & Theological Reflection Seminar (SMF3010)

Religious Education

12. Faith Development Across the Lifespan
13. Catholic Educational Documents
14. Religious Education Elective
15. Religious Education Elective
16. Religious Education Elective ²
17. Religious Education Elective ³

Free Electives

18. Free Elective
19. Free Elective ⁴
20. Free Elective ⁵

1 Core Systematic and Ethics courses must be taken from offerings in the Roman Catholic tradition.

2 A student who holds a Bachelor of Education degree may be exempt from one Religious Education elective.

3 A student who has completed OECTA III Religious Education Specialist certification may be exempt from one Religious Education elective.

4 A student with one year of full-time teaching experience may be exempt from one free elective.

5 A student with a second year of full-time teaching experience may be exempt from one free elective.