

CSL Course Descriptions (May, 2022)

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Seven required courses, totaling 19 credit hours, are offered sequentially in a cohort model:

DVDT 510: Fundamentals of the Catholic Faith for Catholic School Leaders (3 credits)

This course presents the essential elements of the Catholic tradition. Through an examination of both primary and secondary texts, students will investigate the Church's understanding of the human person, natural and divine revelation, reason and faith, the role of education in the Church, sacred tradition, Church doctrine, prayer, the sacraments, and Catholic social teaching's engagement with the broader culture.

DVPT 575: Leading for Catholic Mission and Ministry I (3 credits)

Centered on the core principles of mission and ministry of Catholic education, this course introduces students to the leadership practices required to shape and direct Catholic schools. Beginning with a thorough understanding of the benchmarks needed to answer the question: *Is this a Catholic school according to the mind of the Church?*, students gain a foundational understanding of Catholic education precisely as an exercise of mission and ministry within the Catholic community. Focus areas include contemplative leadership, mission focused strategic planning, communication strategies, and the development of school culture; ongoing faith education for faculty, staff, and parents, leading within diversity and diverse learners, and continuous improvement. Students will gain experience and understanding in each of these areas through lectures, guest speakers, reading, group work, in-class projects, case studies, and individual assignments.

DVPT 670: Applied Catholic School Leadership (2 credits)

In this course, each student is paired with an experienced Catholic school leader who will provide on-site mentorship to the student at a Catholic school throughout the academic year. This course allows students to apply the theoretical principles and strategies of Catholic school leadership presented in their coursework to real situations in the Catholic school in order to increase the effectiveness of their practice as a Catholic school leader. Students are able to gain valuable experience in the Catholic school and immediate support for this demanding role. Periodic online class meetings provide an opportunity for students to reflect on their experiences, challenges, and goals in light of the mentorship experience.

DVHS 620: The History, Philosophy, and Mission of the Catholic School (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the origins and philosophical principles that have defined the mission and purpose of Western and Catholic education, both in approach and content, over the course of history from Classical Greece to present day United States. Reading the key texts that have shaped the course of educational history, students will investigate when and why Catholic education has diverged from modern philosophies of education. Additionally, the course examines the historic and current role of the Catholic school in society and within the Church through a careful reading and discussion of Church documents on education.

DVPT 607: Non-Profit Leadership for Catholic School Leaders (2 credits)

This course prepares Catholic school leaders to manage their non-profit, Catholic organizations, while introducing future leaders to core business principles and Catholic moral requirements, precisely as an exercise in ecclesial ministry. With a focus on efficient and organizationally sound managerial practices in an educational environment, this course offers students the theoretical insights and techniques appropriate in the mission focused, ministry minded “small business environment” of a local Catholic school. Areas of emphasis include planning; mission leadership; staff development; budget and finances; communications; marketing; relationship management; and problem solving within school, parish, and Archdiocesan communities.

DVPT 609: Catholic Schools and School Law (3 credits)

This course will equip students with the necessary practical tools for Catholic school leaders to navigate the complexities of the law as it applies to both private and Catholic schools. From the Code of Canon Law to local, state, and federal statutes and regulations, this course includes instruction on all levels of the law while maintaining a core focus on employment law and school-related law for the distinct mission and ministry of Catholic education. Beginning with a broad understanding of law as articulated by St. Thomas Aquinas, and then moving on to practical implications of underlying principles and practices including student-handbooks, hiring practices, employee-handbooks, and legal issues are examined in light of specific cases that typically arise in Catholic schools. Students will review numerous case studies and court decisions to sharpen their ability to apply legal and Catholic moral reasoning.

DVPT 675: Leading for Catholic Mission and Ministry II (3 credits)

Centered on the concepts introduced in Leading for Catholic Mission I, this course will continue to ask students to consider how to answer the question: *Is this a Catholic school according to the mind of the Church? AND How can I as a leader intentionally lead this school in that direction?* Students will focus on what markers make a Catholic school excellent and reflect on the core competencies of Catholic School Leadership in relationship to their own gifts and areas for growth. The course will work to provide the philosophical framework necessary to think like a Catholic school leader and apply that philosophical thinking to many practical case studies a Catholic School Leader will face. Focus areas will include:

- Catholic school culture: Leader’s role as a credible witness of the Catholic Church, the role of a well-articulated mission, personal growth in the core competencies, and personal reflection on leadership as a vocation.
- Academic excellence: Framework of Excellence, recruiting and hiring faculty/staff, ongoing professional development for faculty/staff, and supervision/evaluation of faculty/staff.
- Organizational leadership: Institutional Outcomes of Excellence, the Pastor/Principal relationship, stakeholder relationships, conflict management, and time management.