



Take the next STEP in developing your faith...

McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame partners with dioceses for faith formation.

Core Course: Introduction to the Catholic Faith

In the documents of Vatican II, the baptized are called to holiness and to greater understanding of their unique role in building the Kingdom of God. An informational and enriching introduction to the Catholic faith and theology, this course will enable you to take greater responsibility in promoting the life and mission of the Church. Using the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults* as a primary text, this course will explore six core areas and will serve as a good foundation for those who seek to continue theological studies or develop theological competency for ministry. Theology is a fascinating and vital subject that challenges those who study it to think critically and personally about human existence, the world we live in and our relationship with God and one another. It is recommended (but not required) as a first course for those new to theological study.

Course Content

Unit 1: Faith Development

Unit 2: Scripture

Unit 3: The Creed/ Jesus Christ

Unit 4: The Church

Unit 5: Sacraments, Liturgy and Prayer

Unit 6: Morality

Course Format

- Asynchronous online course.
- Seven weeks in duration, with one week for orientation.
- Typically 15-20 students in each course.
- In addition to assigned readings from *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, additional lecture material provided online.
- Supplemental readings are provided to encourage further exploration of topic, internet links provided for all readings.
- Weekly written assignments (200-250 word/half a page) required.
- Reflection and optional discussion question for to test your knowledge and assess learning.
- Facilitator-moderated chat sessions with students in course.

Required Texts

- Participants in this course must have their own copy of the [*United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*](#) from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. This book is available to read online, or it can be purchased in paper or electronic form.

Courses are offered six times per year: September, October, January, February, April and June.

Consult the website and course calendar for start dates and to register.

Participation expectations

The course requires about three hours per week. You engage the course at the times that fit best with your other obligations.

- Required reading: approx. 1-2 hours.
- Written discussion of material online: approx. 1-2 hours.
- Live “chat” discussion of material: 1 hour at time set by course facilitator.
- A course participant who successfully completes the course earns 35 contact hours of continuing education and receives a certificate of completion.

Weekly group discussions/ live chats

The live chat component of the course is often participants’ favorite part of their experience. The facilitator sets time, typically in the evenings to gather live with course participants. If you cannot attend the live chats, there are ways to meet this course requirement.

How To Register

1. Go to website mcgrath.nd.edu
2. Click on text “Online Courses” on the white, top navigation bar.
3. Click on the box “STEP Online Courses” for courses in English.
4. Scroll down and click on the box “Courses and Registration.”
5. Search for the title of the course. Upcoming courses are in the top box and all others can be found listed below.
6. Once on course description page, click “Register.”
7. Click on the drop-down box next to "Choose Course Section" to select desired session dates and click “Continue.”
8. On the next page, select your diocesan discount or standard fee and click "Continue."
9. On the Buyer Information” page enter your name, address and required fields and click "Continue" at bottom right on the page.
10. On the “Delivery Address” page, skip the “Login” box and enter your address and verify email. Then click “Checkout as Guest.”
11. On next page, review and click on “Submit Order.”
12. Lastly, check your email inbox for a receipt to confirm that STEP processed your order.

Need help or have questions?

Please call the STEP office 1-866-425-7837 or email stepnd@nd.edu