



Magis Catholic Teacher Corps

Supplemental Application Packet

Please Return Forms To:
Graduate School Admissions
Eppley Building B 11
Creighton University
2500 California Plaza
Omaha, NE 68178

Creighton
UNIVERSITY



Mission

Magis is a two-year program centered on community living, academic coursework, and Ignatian Spirituality that prepares and supports highly motivated, faith-filled teachers to serve in under-resourced Catholic Schools.

Magis, a Latin term meaning “the more,” is the charism of the Society of Jesus that embodies St. Ignatius’ question in his Spiritual Exercises: “What more can I do for Christ?” Magis teachers respond to this question by exploring a vocation in Catholic education.

Focus

Magis teachers make a two-year commitment to teach in a Catholic school while living in community and pursuing professional and spiritual development. The three pillars of Magis are community, academics, and spirituality. These pillars compose the foundation upon which Magis prepares its teachers for Catholic schools.

Community – Living in community enables Magis teachers to grow together, support one another, and challenge each other to develop personally, professionally, and spiritually.

Academics – Teaching in under-resourced Catholic schools while taking professional education courses enables the Magis teachers to work in service where God calls them.

Spirituality – Developing in one’s own spirituality occurs through coursework, retreats, spiritual direction, community support and activities, and personal reflection.

Timeline for Applying and Acceptance

- PPST (M.Ed. only) should be **taken prior to January 1st**.
- Initial contact with the director or assistant director should be made by **January 1st** or prior to beginning the application process online.
- Completed application should be received in the Creighton Graduate School by **March 1st**, though the preferred application deadline is **February 15th**.
- Applications will be processed on a rolling basis as they are received.
- The interview process will begin the first week of March. Interviews will be conducted either by Skype or in person at Creighton University. All applicants will interview with the Magis Director and Assistant Director initially.
- Notification of conditional acceptance will occur in March and April.
- Notification of full acceptance is given once a school placement/position is obtained. This can happen in February if applications are turned in early, and as late as the end of April if interviews with principals are late. Additional interviews with principals of participating schools will be necessary.

- Program orientation, summer community living at Creighton, and professional preparation traditionally begins in late May.

Note: Applicants to the Magis Catholic Teacher Corps who have been conditionally accepted but receive notification that they have not been finally accepted into the program (that is, not obtaining a teaching placement), may call the Graduate School at Creighton University to ask that their graduate application be referred to another program at Creighton for consideration. The fees associated with the original filing of the graduate admission application will “transfer” to most other graduate programs at Creighton University.

Admissions Criteria and Checklist

Applicants are to meet the following criteria in order to be officially accepted into the Creighton University Graduate School and the Magis Catholic Teacher Corps.

Send the following information directly to the Creighton University Graduate School:

1. Completed online **Graduate School Application**
2. **\$50.00 application fee**
3. **Official transcripts** from each undergraduate/graduate institution attended (undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.0 required)
4. A **curriculum vitae or professional teaching resume** in PDF format. Please make sure it is well presented, proofread, and has a professional e-mail address (e.g. NOT hotgirl@yahoo or huskerfan@gmail). We will be sharing these with potential principals.
5. **GRE Report—ONLY REQUIRED FOR THE M.S. in Counseling.** Not required for the M.Ed in Secondary Teaching or the M.S. in Teacher Leadership. Contact the directors if you have questions about which program pertains to you.
6. Satisfactory scores on the **Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST)**. Be sure to request that your scores be sent to the Creighton University Education Department. This is required for all Magis Catholic Teacher Corps applicants.

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| Reading Score: | 170 - minimal acceptable score / CBT 316 |
| Math Score: | 171 - minimal acceptable score / CBT 316 |
| Writing Score: | 172 - minimal acceptable score / CBT 318 |

*You may find more information on the PPST (Praxis I) and the GRE at www.ets.org. **These tests should be taken by January 1.***

7. **Four letters of recommendation** using the online Graduate School Recommendation form, plus an actual letter written by the recommender focused on the instructions listed below.

Magis requires **one letter (in addition to the Graduate School Recommendation Form from each of the following:**

- A professor/academic reference
- A work or volunteer supervisor (ideally from a teaching related position)
- A housemate/community member (not a family member)
- A chaplain, campus minister, priest, rector, or any spiritual director/leader

Instructions for Recommendation letters: 4 specific letters are required in addition to the electronic Graduate School form. Recommenders should follow descriptions when they write their additional letter. Specific examples from the recommenders are most helpful.

Letter # 1 - Academic: should be from a professor or someone who can attest to your academic ability and capability for graduate coursework. In the additional letter, the academic recommender should include the applicant's writing ability, reading ability, ability to meet deadlines, honesty, maturity, flexibility, creativity, responsibility, openness to growth and ability to accept constructive criticism.

Letter # 2 - Employment: should be from a work or volunteer supervisor, ideally one in a teaching related position. In the additional letter, employment recommenders should attest to the applicant's responsibility, maturity, leadership, humility, ability to manage stress, tolerance, honesty, flexibility, work ethic, experience with youth, openness to growth, ability to accept constructive criticism and ability to respond to adversity.

Letter # 3 - Community: should be from a community member or housemate, someone who is not a family member. In the additional letter, the community recommender should include the applicant's responsibility to others, likability, empathy, tolerance, honesty, flexibility, patience, openness to growth and importance of faith.

Letter # 4 - Spirituality: should be from a spiritual director, chaplain, campus minister, priest, etc. In the additional letter, the spirituality recommender should include the applicant's ability to articulate faith, degree to which the applicant reflects Christian values in everyday actions, involvement in service activities, openness to spiritual growth, humility, openness to constructive criticism, ability to manage stress, humility, response to adversity, empathy, responsibility to others, tolerance to those who may be at different points in their spiritual journey. Please note that non-Catholic applicants are most welcome to apply.

8. A one-page single spaced essay on each of the three topics for a **total of three essays**. See descriptions online and on the last page of this document.

Send the following information directly to the Magis Catholic Teacher Corps office prior to final acceptance (these forms can be found in this application packet).

- Waiver and Release (must be notarized)
- Approximate Costs

Obtaining a Teaching Placement:

Magis applicants apply for jobs in Catholic schools in the (arch) dioceses we serve that have openings. The Magis Director and Assistant Director effectively broker interviews and participate heavily in this process to secure the Magis placements. Catholic schools participating in the Magis Catholic Teacher Corps may require that Magis candidates proceed through the normal application process: submit teacher applications, resumes, and interview at the school prior to being selected by the school. The Magis Director and Assistant Director will assist in this process, however, it is the responsibility of the Magis candidate to complete all necessary requirements.

Though you may qualify for acceptance to the Creighton Graduate School, please note that you cannot matriculate with the Magis Catholic Teacher Corps unless you are offered a teaching placement. Final acceptance into the Magis Catholic Teacher Corps includes meeting all criteria and placement in an acceptable teaching assignment in a Catholic school in one of the dioceses in Nebraska or South Dakota.



Waiver and Release

WHEREAS, I _____, have requested acceptance to the Magis Catholic Teacher Corps at Creighton University.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of my acceptance by Magis into the teaching program,

I, _____, hereby agree as follows:

- a. I hereby release and forever discharge Creighton University, its trustees, agents, including Magis officers and employees, from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions and causes of action, which I have or may have of whatever kind or nature, either in law or equity arising from or by reason of, or in any way related to any loss, damage or injury, including death, which loss, damage, injury or death is caused by, arises out of, or is in any way related to my participation in the Magis Catholic Teacher Corps, including without limitation, travel to and from the teaching assignment except when Creighton University or Magis is negligent.
- b. I agree that this waiver and release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of Nebraska, and if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.
- c. In signing this waiver and release, I hereby acknowledge and represent that I have read the foregoing waiver and release, understand its content and terms, understand that such terms are contractual, and sign it voluntarily.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Notary: _____

Date: _____

Approximate Costs

This is a delineation of the approximate costs associated with application to and participation in the Magis Catholic Teacher Corps. This is not an exhaustive list and does not include daily living expenses. The purpose is to help Magis candidates understand how to plan financially in the decision to participate in the program. **Actual costs are subject to change.**

MONETARY SUPPORT AND INSURANCE

Orientation and classes for Magis teachers start in late May. Magis teachers do not start working within their schools until August. **Teachers won't be paid a stipend or be insured until they start working at the school. Usually, stipends begin in August/September.** Therefore Magis teachers might want to continue (in June, July, and August) with the insurance that they had before they started the program until they receive insurance (in late August). They will have health insurance from August after their admission throughout the duration of their schooling.

COURSE MATERIALS

Magis teachers are responsible for purchasing their own books and for any other fees associated with coursework.

HOUSING

Creighton University provides free housing in the residence halls during the summer. Magis Catholic Teacher Corps covers rent during the academic year for Magis teachers.

TRAVEL

The program does not pay for mileage to Creighton or to the schools where Magis teachers will be teaching.

TEACHER CERTIFICATION

Magis teachers pay for the provisional teaching certificate. The cost is \$45.00 per endorsement per year. Magis teachers who are not from Nebraska will have to have fingerprints taken and will be charged an additional \$50.00 when they first apply for a provisional certificate (this is a one time expense).

OTHER COSTS

Magis teachers are responsible for any miscellaneous personal expenses, debts, etc. All school loans should be deferred by teachers upon entering the program. Additional debt should be addressed ahead of time. The summer coursework is a full-time load of 11-13 graduate credit hours. **Additional employment is not permitted for the duration of the program.**

STIPENDS

Magis teachers will be paid a monthly stipend. The stipend is paid by the school and usually begins in August or September of the first year (depending on the placement). The stipend is meant to cover food, gas and car insurance, plus a little extra. Stipends in the Archdiocese of Omaha will be consistent (approximately \$1000.00/month in 2010-2011), but stipends in other placement areas may vary depending on the cost of living and housing.

WHAT COSTS DOES THE PROGRAM COVER?

During the summer Magis Catholic Teacher Corps will provide university housing and a meal stipend. Magis will cover the cost of tuition for the selected degree program, the university fees, and retreats.

I understand and accept these costs associated with being a member of the Magis Catholic Teacher Corps.

Signature

Date

Magis Catholic Teacher Corps - Essay Guide

Please complete the following three essays on separate sheets of paper. Each should be approximately one page in length. Sign and date the top of each essay, and submit them online on Creighton's Graduate School website.

What moves me to teach?

Write a narrative statement (not an outline) indicating why you wish to enter the teaching profession in your chosen field. Be sure that your statement fits your objectives.

Please consider the following guidelines:

The contents of this statement should include the strengths and liabilities that you feel you would bring to teaching and your concept of teaching. Describe the experiences that you have had with school-age children or young adults. Be prepared to supply the names of supervisors for these experiences.

Community

This essay should include an explanation of your concept of community and an example of how you have resolved conflict with someone in your community (someone other than a family member you have lived or worked with closely). Describe your understanding of the Magis pillar of community and what you think you can contribute as a community mate.

Spirituality and Spiritual Growth

This essay should describe experience you have had with religion/prayer/spiritual development. This may include your experience in your family, high school or college retreats/formation, or anything you find relevant. Make a statement about where you are in your relationship with God and how you would like to see this develop and form.

***Note:** Magis candidates are expected to be interested in their spiritual development regardless of religious affiliation. Non-Catholic applicants are welcome.