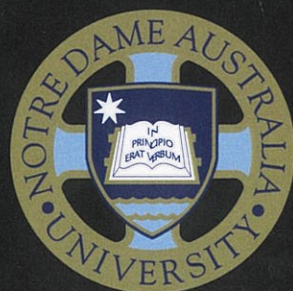


## Contact us

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# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN CATHOLIC THOUGHT

Philosophy & Theology

# Graduate Certificate in Catholic Thought



In July 2019, the University of Notre Dame Australia will offer the Graduate Certificate in Catholic Thought. The certificate will be of particular interest to any secondary teachers involved in the NSW "Studies in Catholic Thought" NESA-endorsed Stage Six Course. It will also appeal to laypersons, clergy, and those in ministry who have interest in the Catholic tradition of thought, and how that can be conveyed to a range of persons in contemporary Australia.

The program focuses on two themes central to the Catholic tradition – the "human person" and the "good life". It is through exploration of these themes that you will develop a deeper understanding of the richness of Catholic belief, thinking and tradition.

Teachers will come away from each course of the Graduate Certificate with deepened knowledge and understanding of Catholic Thought, and with prepared resources to use in the classroom. Those who are not teachers will have assessment tasks tailored to their interests and needs.

This course is designed to meet the needs of all teachers of Studies in Catholic Thought throughout NSW, with the understanding that not all students live in, or can easily come to, the Sydney campus. The face-to-face components of the courses can be delivered in various dioceses through agreement with diocesan offices.

Please contact the dean of the School of Philosophy & Theology to find out more information about these options. ([sydney.philosophytheology@nd.edu.au](mailto:sydney.philosophytheology@nd.edu.au))

## Why study this degree?

The Graduate Certificate in Catholic Thought is ideal for:

- Qualified teachers wishing to gain accreditation to teach "Studies of Catholic Thought" in NSW secondary schools;
- Qualified teachers wishing to gain a Religious Education Coordinators (RECs) qualification in the Sydney Archdiocese;
- People wishing to deepen their understanding of the Catholic intellectual tradition; and Clergy

## Program Summary

Those undertaking the Graduate Certificate in Catholic Thought will study philosophy and theology from within the Catholic liberal arts tradition, with a focus on the main themes of the "human person" and the "good life".

You will learn why the Church teaches various contemporary moral and social issues and will investigate the Catholic tradition of the arts, including: painting, sculpture, music, architecture, film, and literature.

## Delivery

To make it possible for teachers to take these courses alongside their other commitments, they are all offered in the Blended learning mode. This means that intense face-to-face teaching is complemented by online learning activities and assessment tasks. The interpersonal dimensions of teaching, which characterize Notre Dame's approach to education, thus remain in place.

## Roll-out Schedule

- **2019**
  - Beginning 8th July: The Human Person in Catholic Thought
  - Beginning 29th July: The Good Life in Catholic Thought
- **2020**
  - Semester 1: all courses offered
  - Semester 2: Teaching What the Catholic Church Teaches; Education in the Catholic Liberal Arts Tradition

## Entry Requirements

Applicants must have the equivalent of a Bachelor's degree.

## Fees

This Program has the following loan scheme(s) available for eligible students:

### FEE-HELP

The FEE-HELP loan scheme assists eligible fee-paying students with the payment of all, or part, of their tuition fees, not including additional study costs such as accommodation or textbooks. Your FEE-HELP debt will be indexed each year in line with the Consumer Price Index. Please note, from 1 January 2019, students studying an undergraduate program at the University of Notre Dame Australia will no longer be charged the 25% FEE-HELP loan fee.

For further information, or for indicative fees for domestic or international students, please visit our fees page at [www.notredame.edu.au/study/fees](http://www.notredame.edu.au/study/fees).

## PHTH6008: The Human Person in Catholic Thought

The concept of the Human Person is central to understanding Catholic Thought. This course addresses contemporary challenges to understanding what it means to be human. It takes students through key philosophical and theological principles and concepts that have formed the Catholic understanding of what it means to be human. By engaging with philosophical texts, Scripture, and works of art and literature, it traces the development of Catholic teaching on the human person in the history of the Church. The course uses the methods of learning and teaching from the Catholic liberal arts tradition.

## PHTH6009: The Good Life in Catholic Thought

The "Good Life" is central to understanding Catholic Thought. This course addresses what it means to lead a good life as a human person. It focuses on philosophical and theological developments of the theory of natural law and the meaning of virtue. Through engaging with philosophical texts, Scripture, and works of art and literature, it traces the development of principles for leading a good life throughout the history of the Church, with particular focus on what it means to follow Christ. The course uses the methods of learning and teaching of the Catholic liberal arts tradition.

## PHTH6010: Teaching What the Catholic Church Teaches

This course is designed for those who are called upon daily to respond to social and moral issues. It selects and explores the Church's responses, both prophetic and reflective, to controversial issues that touch upon what it means to be human and to lead a good life. It focuses on why the Church teaches what it teaches, particularly in Catholic Social Thought. Students will develop skills so that they can explain clearly what the Church teaches. It focuses on the perennial need for civil discourse in society.

## PHTH6011: Education in the Catholic Liberal Arts Tradition

This course provides an overview of the development of different approaches to education in the Catholic liberal arts tradition. It includes considerations of Catholic sacraments and liturgy as ways of knowing God and one another. It examines in particular the principles and practices of biblical exegesis in the Catholic tradition, the method of Socratic dialogue and learning, the text-based method of shared inquiry, and the great books method of analysis. Those who take the course will learn how to teach using all of these methods. At the same time, they will become acquainted with key texts and ideas in the Catholic Thought.

## Further Information

If you would like further information regarding the Graduate Certificate in Catholic Thought, please contact the Prospective Students Office on

(02) 8204 4404  
[sydney@nd.edu.au](mailto:sydney@nd.edu.au)

and/or:

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Dean, School of Philosophy & Theology  
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