

Certificate in Catholic School Leadership Course Descriptions

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: Catholic School Leadership I (3 credits)

Centered on the core principles of Catholic education, this course provides an introduction to the large body of leadership and organizational theory and its relationship to the position of Catholic school leader. Students will examine the Catholic school through the lens of organizational structure, strategic planning, policy development, continuous improvement, and key performance metrics in order to consider how theory is used to promote excellence across the operations of a Catholic school. Students will also gain practical experience by mapping organizational structures of Catholic schools, creating strategic plans, and developing models for policy implementation with specific consideration to the Catholic school environment.

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 the complexities of their organizations in light of core business principles and Catholic moral requirements. With a focus on the tools required for running an efficient and organizationally sound Catholic school in the 21st century, this course gives students theoretical training and practical experience in small business operations management such as right pricing and product valuation; finance and budgeting; governance management; communications and marketing; and relationships with federal, state, and school district funding.

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, this course includes instruction on all levels of the law while maintaining a core focus on employment law and school-related law for the Catholic school. The principles underlying legal issues (such as “the school knew or ought to have known”) are examined in light of specific cases that typically arise in Catholic schools, and students will review numerous case studies and court decisions to sharpen their ability to apply legal and Catholic moral reasoning.

DVPT 675: Catholic School Leadership II (3 credits)

This course applies the theory and principles addressed in *Catholic School Leadership I* to the practical exigencies of routine leadership in a Catholic school. With a focus on instructional leadership illuminated by the Catholic approach to education, it develops techniques for honing the necessary skills needed to hire, manage, and develop personnel effectively and in a manner consistent with Catholic ethical principles. Students will explore strategies for managing conflict and maintaining strong relationships with parents and other constituencies.