**Creighton University Mission Statement**

Creighton is a Catholic and Jesuit comprehensive university committed to excellence in its undergraduate, graduate and professional programs.

As Catholic, Creighton is dedicated to the pursuit of truth in all its forms and is guided by the living tradition of the Catholic Church.

As Jesuit, Creighton participates in the tradition of the Society of Jesus which provides an integrating vision of the world that arises out of a knowledge and love of Jesus Christ.

As comprehensive, Creighton's education embraces several colleges and professional schools and is directed to the intellectual, social, spiritual, physical and recreational aspects of students' lives and to the promotion of justice.

Creighton exists for students and learning. Members of the Creighton community are challenged to reflect on transcendent values, including their relationship with God, in an atmosphere of freedom of inquiry, belief and religious worship.

Service to others, the importance of family life, the inalienable worth of each individual, and appreciation of ethnic and cultural diversity are core values of Creighton.

Creighton faculty members conduct research to enhance teaching, to contribute to the betterment of society, and to discover new knowledge. Faculty and staff stimulate critical and creative thinking and provide ethical perspectives for dealing with an increasingly complex world.

**Education Department Mission**

The mission of Creighton University’s Education Department is to empower undergraduate and graduate students to become effective, caring teachers, school administrators, and counselors who desire to work with students and families in schools and agencies.

**Program Purpose**

Magis Catholic Teacher Corps is a two-year graduate teaching service 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.
**Program Pillars**

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 are the foundation upon which Magis prepares its teachers for Catholic schools.

**Community** – One of the charisms of the Society of Jesus is recognizing the reality of community in our world. Our lives impact the lives of others, directly and indirectly, every day. Magis communities allow individuals to grow personally, professionally, and spiritually, and provide a valuable support network for beginning teachers. People come with diverse backgrounds and expectations of community, and have committed to each other in a spirit of service and generosity.

Practical expectations of community living include sharing a community dinner at least once a week, prioritizing community activities and housemates, spirituality and reflection, simple living, and good stewardship of the Magis community residences.

**Academics** – Magis teachers engage in a rigorous graduate program that prepares them for their teaching experience. Experienced professors teach the graduate classes and provide the Magis teachers with the theoretical framework they need for success in the classroom. During the first summer, Magis teachers complete a teaching practicum experience in preparation for the first year of teaching.

The bulk of course work is completed during the two summers. During the school year, distance-learning courses are delivered on-line. With growing enrollment in Education courses, students in or near Omaha have the option to take on-campus courses to accommodate those at a further distance.

In addition to the support of the faculty at Creighton University, the Magis teachers benefit from the experience of mentor teachers and school administrators. The support of the Magis director, assistant director, and/or field experience supervisor is provided through visits to the Magis teacher’s classroom throughout their two-year experience.

**Spirituality** – Developing in one’s own spirituality occurs through coursework, retreats, spiritual direction, community, and personal reflection. A spiritual life is not a life that is exceptional for its holiness; it is rooted in ordinary. It embraces circumstances, cultures, personalities and challenges. In Ignatian terms, a spiritual life is one that looks for God in all things. Magis forms teachers who are well-rounded people interested in personal and spiritual growth. Catholic schools, at their best, are staffed with faith-filled men and women that see their work as God’s work, their careers as co-creative.

Spirituality nights, monthly faith sharing with a Magis chaplain, and personal spiritual direction are ways to provide individual and communal prayer and reflection. Spirituality comes alive when Magis teachers recognize that sharing their faith experiences with each other enriches everyone involved. Magis teachers should be sensitive to various stages of spiritual development and the diverse perspectives, experiences and levels of comfort teachers bring to the conversation.

*In Magis Catholic Teacher Corps, intentional community living, a commitment to Catholic education, simple living, and spirituality are all intimately connected to faith in a generous and compassionate God who invites us to serve one another.*
### 2014 Timeline for Applying and Acceptance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prior to beginning the application</th>
<th>Initial contact with director or assistant director is necessary to check transcript eligibility.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 31, 2014</td>
<td>Praxis I - PPST must be completed. Designate Creighton as score recipient.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 31, 2014</td>
<td>Completed application is due</td>
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<tr>
<td>February, 2014</td>
<td>Application review &amp; interviews (in person or via Skype)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of March 17, 2014</td>
<td>Notification letters sent for full acceptance, wait list, or denial</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 24, 2014</td>
<td>Commitment date/placement forms due</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 25-27, 2014</td>
<td>Spring Orientation Retreat on Creighton University’s campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late May, 2014</td>
<td>Arrival on campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 9, 2014</td>
<td>Opening Day of Reflection</td>
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<tr>
<td>June &amp; July, 2014</td>
<td>Summer Sessions for graduate coursework</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 20-24th, 2014</td>
<td>Summer Retreat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August, 2014</td>
<td>Move to placement communities &amp; report for teacher in-service at placement schools</td>
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Admissions Criteria and Checklist

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

1. Completed online Graduate School Application.

*Important note: When starting the on-line application, please select one of the following programs:
If you do not have a teaching certificate, select:
Magis Catholic Teacher Corps (M.Ed. Secondary Teaching)

If you currently hold or will obtain a teaching certificate by the time you begin Magis, selection one of the following programs:
Magis Catholic Teacher Corps (MS School Community Leadership)
Magis Catholic Teacher Corps (MS Secondary School Administration)
Magis Catholic Teacher Corps (MS Elementary School Administration)
Magis Catholic Teacher Corps (MS COU Secondary School)
Magis Catholic Teacher Corps (MS COU Elementary School)

Upload the following information directly to the Creighton University Graduate School application website.

- $50.00 application fee
- A resume in PDF format
- A Statement of Purpose that describes, in one paragraph, why the applicant is drawn to Magis Catholic Teacher Corps
- Three one-page essays in a single-spaced narrative, focusing on each of the three pillars. The essays should be in one document, with each essay on a separate page. See more specific descriptions in the “Essay Guide.”
- Four letters of recommendation using the online Graduate School recommendation format, plus an actual letter written by the recommender focused on the instructions listed below.
  - Magis requires one letter (in addition to the online 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
  - See detailed descriptions of what should be included in these letters listed in “Guide for Recommendation Letters.”

If your online application is complete, please submit it even if the recommenders have not yet submitted their letters or forms.

2. Official transcripts from each undergraduate/graduate institution attended (undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.0 required) should be sent to:

Graduate School Admissions | Eppley Building B11 | Creighton University | 2500 California Plaza | Omaha, NE  68178
3. **Professional Exams**

**Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) – satisfactory scores.** 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.**
  - Reading Score: 170 - minimal acceptable score
  - Math Score: 171 - minimal acceptable score
  - Writing Score: 172 – minimal acceptable score

- You may find more information on the PPST (Praxis I) and the GRE at [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org).
- All three components of the PPST need to be taken by January 31 since score reports from ETS take 4-6 weeks to arrive in Creighton’s Education Department.

**GRE** — *This is only required for the M.S. in Counseling.* It is not required for the M.Ed. in Secondary Teaching or the M.S. in Leadership. Contact the assistant director if you have questions about which program pertains to you.

4. **Final Forms:** Upon acceptance, send the following information directly to the Magis Catholic Teacher Corps office by March 24.

- **Notarized Waiver and Release** (will be sent upon final acceptance)
- **Approximate Costs** (will be sent upon final acceptance)
- **Notarized Letter of Intent** (will be sent upon final acceptance)
Guide for Recommendation Letters

**Instructions for Recommendation letters:** 4 specific letters are required in addition to the electronic Graduate School recommendation form. Recommenders should follow these descriptions when they write their letter. There is a place for the recommender to upload the letter electronically in PDF format on the application website.

Please share these guidelines with your recommenders so they know the type of program to which you are applying. This helps the recommenders speak to whether you might be a good fit for this program. 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. The academic recommender should include the applicant’s writing ability, responsibility in meeting 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. The recommender 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. The community recommender should speak to the applicant’s responsibility to others, likability, empathy, tolerance, honesty, flexibility, patience, and openness to growth.

**Letter #4 - Spirituality:** should be from a spiritual director, chaplain, campus minister, priest, etc. The spirituality recommender should include the applicant’s ability to articulate faith, involvement in service activities, openness to spiritual growth, humility, empathy, tolerance to those who may be at different points in their spiritual journey. **Please note that non-Catholic applicants are most welcome to apply.**
Magis Catholic Teacher Corps - Essay Guide

Please complete the following three essays on separate pages and place them in one document to upload. Each essay should be approximately one page in length, single-spaced. Submit the document online on Creighton’s Graduate School application website. The essays will be shared with principals.

1) Academics: Why do you feel called to serve as a Catholic school teacher?
Magis participants offer two years of dedicated service as teachers in Catholic schools while balancing the demands of graduate school coursework in education.

Consider addressing the following:
• Strengths you bring to teaching and the challenges you foresee.
• Experiences that you have had with school-age children or young adults.
• Characteristics of model teachers in your life
• Your educational philosophy
• Desire to pursue graduate coursework in education

2) Community: What are your expectations of community living?
Living in community enables Magis teachers to grow together, support one another, and challenge each other to develop personally, professionally, and spiritually. People come with diverse backgrounds and expectations of community. Communities in Magis offer opportunities to share experiences, faith and hope. An integral component of community living involves intentionality in living simply.

Consider addressing the following:
• What you can contribute to community in Magis
• Previous experiences of community
• A time when you resolved a conflict in community
• Your understanding of simple living

3) Spirituality: What draws you to spiritual growth in Magis?
Rooted in Jesuit and Catholic values, Magis Catholic Teacher Corps encourages teachers to be contemplatives in action, both personally and communally. Magis community members bring a diversity of spiritual backgrounds. Magis candidates are expected to be open to and participate in spiritual development through Ignatian Spirituality regardless of religious affiliation.

Consider addressing the following:
• Your current spiritual or reflective practices
• A time when you have struggled with your faith
• How you would actively live out your faith as a teacher, graduate student & community member