



Magis

Application Packet

2010

Please Return To:
Graduate School Admissions
Administration Building, Room 132
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

- Applications are available in September for the following summer’s cohort.
- PPST (M.Ed. only) should be **taken prior to January 1st**.
- Initial contact with the director should be made by **January 1st**.
- Completed application should be received in the Creighton Graduate School by **March 1st**.
- 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 both by phone and in person at Creighton University. All applicants will interview with the Magis director, a current Magis teacher, and a faculty member from the Education Department.
- 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 January or 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 may be required.
- Program orientation, summer community living at Creighton, and professional preparation will begin on May 27th.

Note: Applicants to the Magis Catholic Teacher Corps who receive notification that they have not been accepted into the program 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 Graduate School Application
Applications are available online at:
<http://www2.creighton.edu/gradschool/admissioninformation/onlineapplication/index.php>
2. Completed Magis Applicant Information Sheet (p. 5 of this document)
3. \$50.00 application fee (may be paid online if you apply to the graduate school online)
4. Official transcripts from each undergraduate/graduate institution attended (undergraduate QPA of 3.0 required)
5. A curriculum vitae or professional teaching resume. 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.
6. 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 Molly if you have questions about which program pertains to you.
7. Satisfactory scores on the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST). **Be sure to request that your scores be sent to the Creighton University Graduate School. ONLY REQUIRED FOR THE M.Ed in Secondary Teaching.**

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 Certified elementary and secondary teachers need not re-take the PPST. **These tests should be taken by January 1.***

8. Three letters of recommendation **using the Graduate School recommendation form** <http://www2.creighton.edu/gradschool/admissioninformation/forms/index.php> **and the Supplemental Recommendation Form (p. 6)**. These should be sealed and signed across the seal by the recommender. Be sure to provide stamped and addressed envelopes to each recommender.

Magis requires **one letter from each of the following**:

- A professor/academic reference
- A housemate/community member (not of your family)
- A chaplain, campus minister, priest, rector, or any spiritual director/leader

9. A one-page essay on **each** of the following topics for a **total of three essays**:
A detailed topic guide can be found on page 12. You do not need to submit an additional writing sample to the Graduate School.

- What moves me to teach?
- Explain your concept of community, and give an example of how you have resolved a conflict with someone in your community (someone you have lived/worked with closely).
- Describe your experience and interest in matters of spirituality and spiritual growth.
***Note:** Magis candidates are expected to be interested in their spiritual development regardless of religious affiliation. Non-Catholic applicants are welcome.*

Send the following information directly to the Magis director prior to final acceptance:
These forms can be found in this application packet. They must be notarized.

- Letter of Intent
- Waiver and Release
- Policy Pertaining to Mental and Emotional Capability
- Policy Pertaining to Students with Convictions
- Approximate Costs

Obtaining a Teaching Placement:

Magis teachers apply for jobs in Catholic schools in the (arch) dioceses we serve that have openings. The Magis Director effectively brokers interviews and participates heavily in this process to secure the Magis placements. Many candidates are offered more than one placement and will be guided by the director in making a mission-oriented choice. 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.



Applicant Information Sheet

Authority for selection and retention of students in the Education Department rests with the Selection and Retention Committee. Policies are formulated through the involvement of all members of the Education Department in accordance with Graduate School Policy. Students are notified in writing regarding admission status once the committee has reviewed their applications.

PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY

Personal Information:

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Social Security Number
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Current Address	City
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State	Zip Code	Cell Phone	Home Phone
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E-Mail Address	Parent(s) Name
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Permanent/Home Address, City, State, and Zip
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Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Gender
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Religious Affiliation (optional)	Race/Ethnicity (optional)
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Educational Background:

Secondary School	City	State	Date of Graduation
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University/College	Dates of Attendance	Major/Minor	Degree	QPA
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University/College	Dates of Attendance	Major/Minor	Degree	QPA
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Please attach a recent photo of yourself here. It will be sent to principals who may interview you.
Thank you!

Please list other service programs, employment, etc you are considering for the coming year:



Supplemental Recommendation Form

Name of Applicant: _____

Directions: Based on your familiarity with the candidate, please rate him or her on the following characteristics, with **5 being the highest rating**. Please circle NB if you have *no basis* for evaluation.

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL QUALITIES

	1	2	3	4	5	COMMENTS
Responsibility	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Maturity	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Leadership	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Creativity	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Humility	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Ability to Manage Stress	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Work Ethic	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Response to Adversity	1	2	3	4	5	_____

ABILITY TO LIVE IN COMMUNITY

Responsibility to Others	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Likability	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Empathy	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Tolerance	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Honesty	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Flexibility	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Patience	1	2	3	4	5	_____

SPIRITUALITY

Reflecting Christian Values in Everyday Actions	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Ability to Articulate Faith	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Involvement in Service Activities	1	2	3	4	5	_____
Openness to Spiritual Growth	1	2	3	4	5	_____

GENERAL IMPRESSIONS *Please include the following in your letter:*

Please make a statement concerning your overall impression of this person's ability to assume responsibility as a teacher in a Catholic school. State any impressions you have about this person's maturity and ability to live in community. Finally, please provide any additional information you may have regarding this person's motivations for wanting to participate in the Magis Catholic Teacher Corps, be they practical, personal, religious or humanitarian.

Signature

Date



ommendation form with the Graduate school form and your letter of envelope provided. Please sign and date the sealed envelope flap. istance.

Letter of Intent

I, _____, agree to participate in the Magis Catholic Teacher Corps. I am aware of my rights and responsibilities as a Magis participant including, but not limited to:

- participating in the two-year cohort for a Master of Education in Secondary Teaching with certification OR a Master of Science in Teacher Leadership through the Education Department at Creighton University, OR a three-year commitment for the Master of Science in Counseling.
- teaching full-time in a Catholic school and all that entails.
- living in a faith-filled community home with other members of the Magis Catholic Teacher Corps.
- contributing to housing costs and budget for food, utilities, etc in the Magis community.
- respecting the physical health of the community.
- fully participating in the pillars of community and spirituality, including retreats.
- maintaining a single lifestyle for the duration of the program.
- successful completion of all course requirements.

Note: A student who accumulates more than 6 credit hours of a C grade, or any one grade less than C, in his or her graduate program will be disqualified from the Graduate School.

I understand that over the two-year period of the program I will be paid a volunteer teaching stipend and that my placement school will pay a contracted amount to Creighton University to contribute to the administrative costs and operation of the program.

I understand that 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 will assist in this process. However, it is the responsibility of the Magis candidate to complete all necessary requirements. Final acceptance into the Magis Catholic Teacher Corps includes meeting all criteria and placement in an acceptable teaching assignment in a Catholic school.

I agree to fulfill these responsibilities to the best of my abilities. I understand that I may be dismissed from the Magis Catholic Teacher Corps at any time for improper conduct or for failure to meet my professional obligations. I understand that Magis has and will incur significant expenses on my behalf. If I resign my position before completion of the Magis program without Magis consent, I agree to reimburse Magis for the fees and program expenses incurred during my participation in the program. In addition, if I leave my school placement or am dismissed by Magis during the course of the program, I agree to reimburse Magis for my share of any expenses incurred by the program.

Printed Name

Date

Signature

Date



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: _____



Policy Pertaining to Mental and Emotional Capability

I, _____, _____
Printed Name of Student Social Security Number

being first duly sworn under oath, state that, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the following is true:

_____ I do not have an order to determination currently in effect by a court or any other governmental body that finds me to be any of the following:

- a. A mentally ill and dangerous person
- b. mentally incompetent to stand trial
- c. acquitted of criminal charges because of insanity
- d. an incapacitated person in need of a guardian
- e. unable to manage my property due to mental illness, mental deficiency, chronic use of drugs or chronic intoxication
- f. a current inpatient or resident in a mental health facility due to a determination by a qualified mental health professional

_____ I have one or more of the above orders or determinations:

I further agree that if I incur any of the above-identified orders or determinations in the future, I will immediately notify the director of Field Experiences and Certification and report such order(s) or determination(s).

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. **They 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. The Magis program pays rent for all residences not provided by the Magis placements. This varies from site to site.

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 (\$1100.00/month in 2008-2009), 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 the Magis program will provide university housing and a meal stipend. Magis will cover the cost of tuition for the 38 hour program, the university fee, and retreats/Magis planned activities.

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

Signature

Date



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 with your application materials.

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.

A screening committee will evaluate the following aspects of this statement:

1. relevance of your comments to your stated goals
2. quality of your communication skills in composition

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.