



## *ACCS Teacher Certification – Grace Academy Requirements*

- Purpose: Teaching certification should verify the presence of demonstrable philosophical understanding and competent teaching skills in the person certified.
- Guidelines: Certification is awarded to a teacher who can demonstrate that he/she has met the following primary requirements. The categories listed below are important and none may be excluded. However, ACCS desires to establish a somewhat flexible process for demonstrating competence. The areas of competence listed below are presumed to be those most common to classical Christian schools. They are not meant to be the only means by which competence might be demonstrated. Grace Academy has set three levels of certification:
  - Provisional (1 year)
  - Permanent (good for entire teaching time while at Grace Academy, with occasional reading or training requirements)
  - Master (good for lifetime while teaching at any classical school, with occasional reading, training, or instructional requirements)
- Verification: Initially, the local school administrator will determine and document whether competency has been demonstrated.
- Nota Bene: Certification can only be granted by ACCS after school accreditation has been granted.

**PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATION:** (*Good for one full school year at Grace Academy*) Candidates must demonstrate that they have met the following qualifications in order to obtain a provisional teaching certificate:

### *I. Philosophy of Christian Education*

Evidenced by the submission of responses to reading survey (provided by school) or written summaries (1-2 pages for each), given to the administrator for review after completing the requisite readings.

- **OT & NT scriptural references** mandating a Christian education
- **The Pattern of God's Truth** – Frank Gaebelien

### *II. Philosophy of Classical Education*

Evidenced by the submission of responses to reading survey (provided by school) or written summaries (1-2 pages for each), given to the administrator for review after completing the requisite readings.

- **The Lost Tools of Learning** – Dorothy Sayers
- **The Case for Classical Christian Education** – Douglas Wilson

### *III. Knowledge of Subject Matter*

Evidenced by the successful completion of thirty hours of college credit in the main content area or successful completion of one year teaching in the applicable level and content area. **(To be verified in writing by administration)**

### *IV. Knowledge of Children*

Such knowledge is best evidenced by biblical parenting of own children. Teachers should become familiar with the resources on training and discipline listed below. In addition, prior experience with children of applicable age(s). **(To be described and verified in writing by administration)**

- **Shepherding a Child's Heart** – Tedd Tripp
- **"Covenant Discipline"** (DVD) – Matt Whitling

#### *V. Knowledge of the Teaching Process*

Evidenced by implementing **The Seven Laws of Teaching** (John Milton Gregory) in the classroom. **(To be verified in writing by administration)**

- **The Seven Laws of Teaching** – John Milton Gregory

**PERMANENT CERTIFICATION:** *(Good for the entire duration of time the teacher is at Grace Academy, with occasional requirements for additional reading and/or training.)*

#### *I. Completion of all requirements for Provisional Certification, plus...*

#### *II. Philosophy of Christian Education*

Evidenced by the submission of written summaries (1-2 pages per book), or a final topical summary (about 5 pages) given to the administrator for review after completing 2 of the 3 the requisite readings:

- **A History of Christian School Education**, Vol. 1 – Paul Kienel
- **Foundations of Christian Education** – Berkhof and Van Til
- **On Christian Teaching** - Augustine

#### *III. Philosophy of Classical Education*

Evidenced by the submission of written summaries (1-2 pages per book), and a final topical summary (about 5 pages), given to the administrator for review after completing the requisite readings:

- **Repairing the Ruins** – Douglas Wilson, Editor
- **Divine & Secular Learning** (selections) - Cassiodorus

#### *IV. Demonstration of Successful Teaching*

A minimum of three years of successful teaching experience. Success is measured by the receipt of positive personnel evaluations during that three-year period. **(To be verified in writing by administration)** Teaching tools and methods appropriate to age and stage of learning should be clearly demonstrated. The following books are resources for learning and implementing such methods.

- **School of Grammar**
  - **The Well-Trained Mind** (Parts I & II) – Susan Wise Bauer
- **Schools of Logic & Rhetoric**
  - **“Progymnasmata”** (DVD and manual) – Christopher Schlect
  - **Socratic Circles** – Matt Copeland

#### *V. Evidence of Continual Learning*

Documented and personal evidence that he/she is continuing to learn and grow in the interest and knowledge of the above areas, particularly in the understanding and application of the classical Christian philosophy. Three practical demonstrations of this continuing interest are:

- a) the amount and type of reading done **(To be verified in writing by administration)**,
- b) the involvement of the teacher in the development of uniquely classical curriculum within the school **(To be verified in writing by administration)**,
- c) and/or full-time attendance and/or teaching at an ACCS sponsored national or regional conference, and/or at an ACCS approved summer teacher training.

**MASTER CERTIFICATION:** *(Good for lifetime while teaching at any classical school, with occasional reading, training, or instructional requirements.)*

*I. Completion of all requirements for the Provisional and Permanent Certifications, plus...*  
**(To be verified in writing by administration)**

*II. Evidence of training in the Trivium*

Specifically, the teacher will demonstrate personal knowledge and understanding of the specific disciplines of Logic and Rhetoric, as well as practical teaching methods appropriate for each level of the Trivium. **(To be verified in writing by administration)**

*III. Demonstration of Successful Teaching*

A minimum requirement of successful teaching for at least five years at Grace Academy.

*IV. Evidence of Continual Learning and Ability to instruct other teachers:*

- a) At least one significant reading in each of the Christian education and classical philosophy/history realms, with prior approval of the administration. A summary paper of approximately five pages will be written addressing each reading and the teacher's understanding of its application.
- b) Participation as an instructor in at least three ACCS sponsored regional teacher seminars or two ACCS national conferences.