



Classical Educator Professional Development Workshop Series

*A Hybrid of In-Person and Online Professional Development for
Teachers to Help Them Redevelop Instructional Methods
in order to Improve Student Outcomes*

Principal Instructors:

Dr. Ryan Messmore

Director of the Credential Program

Dr. DeAnn Stuart

Associate Director of the Credential Program, Senior Faculty

Dr. Aly Barnes

Head of Cohort, Senior Faculty

Allison Buras

Faculty

Alisha Barker

Literacy Specialist

Dr. Merrill Roberts

STEM Specialist

Professional Development Overview

This professional development series is a carefully-crafted program developed by master teachers for classroom teachers. Our goal is to assist teachers as they redevelop their instructional methods in order to address learning loss and improve student outcomes. Our classical educator professional development series consists of 135 hours of direct instructional time and related projects, activities, and collaborative sessions. Teachers learn through a hybrid of in-person and on-line courses and seminars across a total of three academic semesters.

Learning loss can be recovered and student outcomes improved when teachers know how to grab student attention, to maintain it, to identify holes in learning, and to craft lesson plans that respect the dignity of the child and the natural, research-based ways individual students learn best. Our goal is to renew teachers' love for the classroom (thereby reducing attrition), to introduce teachers new and old to best practices in education, and to teach them how to assess and amplify student learning.

JULY 29-AUGUST 2, 2024

Cornerstone Workshop: In-Person
Aquinas College, Nashville, Tennessee
30 contact hours

Presentations and hands-on workshops in pedagogy, child anthropology, classroom management, assessment, and student literacy

SEPTEMBER 1-DECEMBER 15, 2024

Online synchronous and asynchronous classes
15 contact hours

Presentations and hands-on workshops that focus on student literacy (increasing reading accuracy and fluency, reading nonfiction texts, developing vocabulary), study skills, note-taking strategies, fostering classroom dialogue, virtue education, and other topics. Teachers will also have to submit one recorded lesson to a trained observer.

JANUARY 16-20, 2025

Midwinter Workshop: In-Person
Aquinas College, Nashville, Tennessee
30 contact hours

Presentations and hands-on workshops on the arts of language (grammar, logic, and rhetoric), mimetic instruction, and constructing valid assessments. Specific workshop presentations in narration, recitation, copywork, rendering, dictation, imitation, music, and drama. Teachers will have to prepare a lesson, teach it in front of their peers, and receive a critique.

FEBRUARY 1-MAY 15, 2025

Online synchronous and asynchronous classes

15 contact hours

Presentations and hands-on workshops that focus on spelling, the disputed question (a form of argumentation), integration, differentiated instruction, improving student writing, and math and science methods. Teachers will also have to submit one recorded lesson to a trained observer.

JUNE 23-27, 2025

STEM/ Capstone Academic Workshop: In-Person

Aquinas College, Nashville, Tennessee

30 contact hours

The first part of our final in-person professional development workshop continues our study of math and science methods. The second part of the workshop involves an academic workshop that invites teachers to step into the shoes of their students by becoming learners themselves. When teachers become reinvigorated about learning, they pass that enthusiasm on to their students. The capstone academic workshop gathers great works from across cultures, disciplines, and eras. All of the texts are carefully selected to help teachers understand the importance of STEM subjects in a fully integrated education. The workshop will end with a session designed to help teachers with interdisciplinary planning.

JULY HISTORY INTENSIVE

Online synchronous and asynchronous classes

10 contact hours

A 3-day workshop on history methods. Teachers will discover major themes across times and geographic locations. They will then learn best practices in history instruction from veteran teachers and will write a history-based lesson plan they can integrate into whatever subjects they teach. We will survey participating teachers in order to determine the best days for this intensive workshop.

SEPTEMBER 1-DECEMBER 15, 2025

Online synchronous and asynchronous classes

15 contact hours

The final component of our program deepens teachers' formation in the philosophy of education, its history, and contemporary considerations of what form education should take. Teachers will write a philosophy of education and will compile a professional portfolio as their final project.