Christian Philosophy of Education Requirement

One core value of ACSI is to have teachers who are equipped to integrate Scripture, model Christlike values, and be prepared to answer students' questions from a solid foundation of scriptural principles. Teachers bring the truth of God's Word into the study of all subject areas and help students find their way in a world that seems confusing or even conflicting at times. Some teachers have the added responsibility of helping to shape curriculum, guide students with loving discipline, and lead them to a saving knowledge of Jesus.

For all these reasons, teachers need to understand students and the place of faith in Christian education as well as how to integrate biblical truth into the overall curriculum planning and daily instruction. One way to accomplish that is to read, study, and develop a Christian Philosophy of Education (CPoE).

The checklist for CPoE has met several goals:

- Biblical integration is included.
- Fewer books are required than previous ACSI CPoE checklists.
- An additional "View" option has been provided.
- Reading selections on biblical integration are practical.
- The task is divided so that it is very easy to see a way to complete half in each of two years.
- The entire requirement is now due at the end of the third year of teaching.
- Demonstration of learning is done through a paper and actual lessons taught.
- Guidelines for the paper are provided—for the writer and the reviewer.

Teachers new to their schools are not expected to obtain an ACSI certificate the first year. This entire requirement can be completed by the end of the third year of their employment at a school (or during the renewal of the certificate – whichever comes first). We suggest completing it in years two and three.

FIRST HALF: Christian Philosophy

VIEW one of the following:

- Philosophy of Christian Education series by Dr. Derek Keenan (with a subscription). Also available to ACSI members without a subscription here. (3 hours)
- *Worldviews and Cultural Fluency by The Colson Center. (5 modules) Available, with a subscription, on ACSI Professional Development. (Counts toward the "View" portion of both halves of the checklist.)

READ one of the following:

- *By Design: Developing a Philosophy of Education Informed by a Christian Worldview.* Dr. Martha E. MacCullough, 2013
- *Philosophy & Education: An Introduction in Christian Perspective*. George R. Knight, 2006 (4th ed.)
- *Teaching Redemptively*. Donovan Graham, 2009 (2nd ed.) or later

WRITE a paper, four to six pages in length, of your personal philosophy of education as informed by a biblical worldview. Based on elements from the VIEW and READ sections, the paper should address at least the six components of educational philosophy listed below:

- Christian core beliefs and the purpose of education (including a discussion of what we know about God and what we believe is true, real, and of value; as well as the themes of creation, fall, redemption, and the Christian's role in restoration).
- Nature of the learner
- Nature of the teacher
- Nature of the learning process
- A Christian's view of subject matter and curriculum
- A conclusion that includes the writer's view of the goal of Christian education and resulting educational practice

Submit the paper to your administrator for discussion. Do not submit the paper to ACSI.

| Completed by _____ |
| Completed on _____ |
| Verified by (print name) _____ |
| Position _____ |
| Signature _____ |

SECOND HALF: Biblical Integration

VIEW one of the following:

- *Making the Connections: How to Put Biblical Worldview Integration into Practice (Sessions 1-9) by Don Johnson and Dr. Christian Overman. (3.5 hours)
- Your Christian School: A Culture of Grace? By Paul David Tripp (with a subscription).Also available to ACSI members without a subscription by registering here. (4 hours)
- *Kingdom Education for the 21st Century: Sessions 1-13 by Dr. Glen Schultz. (6 hours)
- *Worldviews and Cultural Fluency by The Colson Center. (5 modules, counts toward the "View" portion of both halves of the checklist.)

READ one of the following books:

- *The Whole Truth: Classroom Strategies for Biblical Integration.* Mark Eckel, 2003
- *Virtuous Minds.* Philip Dow, 2013
- *Truth Weaving: Biblical Integration for God's Glory and Their Abundant Living.* D.P. Johnson, 2015
- *Undivided: Developing a Worldview Approach to Biblical Integration.* Dr. Martha E. MacCullough, 2016

WRITE two biblically integrated lessons (in your discipline of choice) and have an administrator observe you teaching them.

Administrators may choose one of the following options:

- Prepare and conduct an in-service training on biblical integration for faculty. This in-service should last for a minimum of approximately 1.5 hours.
- Train new teachers in the concept of biblical integration and model a biblically integrated lesson for a new teacher within their classroom.
- Write two biblically integrated lesson plans (in your discipline of choice) and borrow a teacher's classroom in which to teach them in order to demonstrate biblical integration to a teacher or group of teachers.

| Completed by _____ |
| Completed on _____ |
| Verified by (print name) _____ |
| Position _____ |
| Signature _____ |

Send this completed form with your application, fee, and other renewal requirements. **Do not send separately.** This checklist is not required for your initial ACSI certificate.

Questions? Contact: certification@acsi.org. Videos with a * require a subscription to ACSI's Professional Development Platform
Please note: Both halves of this checklist are required in order to fulfill the Christian Philosophy of Education requirement for ACSI certification.

ALTERNATIVE MODEL—A More Flexible Option

Please note: this page is only for schools desiring to create their own alternative model and is not to be used by those who are simply completing ACSI's checklist from pg. 2 of this document. Also, ACSI schools holding Exemplary Accreditation and ACSI schools with an approved School-Based Professional development plan do not need to submit this application and pay the fee for an alternative model Christian Philosophy of Education. ACSI will, however, need to review and approve the plan and checklist if desiring your plan to be approved as an official alternative model for ACSI Certification purposes. Simply submit your plan and checklist to certification@acsi.org.

A more flexible approach for the Christian Philosophy of Education (CPoE) requirement for a school is to design a CPoE checklist that is unique to that school. This model has a one-time fee associated with it for the approval process. The school checklist will be filed with the ACSI Certification Department. This may be especially appropriate for online schools, international schools, and schools that may want to use a staff member or guest lecturer to present material in lieu of the video presentations.

Step 1: Design a plan that provides a similar amount of material and covers both the Christian Philosophy and Biblical Integration components. The school may choose from the books listed on the current checklist or may include other books or articles to help accomplish the objectives. The school may choose to include video(s) or live presentations. The plan needs to detail the way in which teachers will respond to each component.

Step 2: Create a checklist with all components.

Step 3: Submit the plan, checklist, and $150 here: [Christian Philosophy of Education Alternative Model Application](#)

Step 4: Academic Services will review the checklist and, if necessary, work with the school to finalize it. The final approved checklist will be registered in the ACSI Certification database.

*The approval is valid for 5 years, after which the school would need to review their plan, revise as needed, and reapply for approval.