



Christian Education Associate Baseline Knowledge for CEA Content Areas

Baseline Knowledge for Reformed Theology

- God's Grace and human gratitude as the basic orientation
- Through baptism, we are part of a connectional and ecumenical church
- Always reforming the church according to the Word of God
- Confessing our faith in various times and places (not fixating in one book or time period)
- Thinking faith
- True worship of the Triune God vs. idolatry

Baseline Knowledge for Human Growth and Faith Development

- Identify psychological and faith development theories that offer age specific perspectives across the life span.
- Psychological development and faith are shaped by socio-cultural dimensions.
- Design and evaluate educational events that demonstrate understanding of theoretical foundations of faith and human development.
- Utilization of a variety of teaching methods that address psychological foundations.
- Critically reflect on intersections of psychological and faith development theories
- Analyze curriculum resources using psychological and faith frameworks.
- Engage and reflect upon faith in particular situations and experiences

Baseline Knowledge for Worship and Sacraments

- Worship is our response to God. It is communal and theologically grounded.
- The pattern of Presbyterian worship: Gathering around the Word, Proclamation of the Word, Responding to the Word, and Bearing the Word of God into the World
- Articulate the teachings of the PC(USA) on worship, baptism and sacraments using the Directory for Worship
- Presbyterians recognize two sacraments: baptism and the Lord's Supper which a "means of grace". They are signs and symbols of God's covenant already established with us.

Baseline Knowledge for Biblical Interpretation

- Scripture is God's word. The Old and New Testaments testify to Jesus Christ our savior.
- The Holy Scriptures are a record of how God revealed Godself to and related with our ancestors of faith.
- The Holy Scripture is the "rule of faith and life."
- All interpretations of Scriptures need to obey and uphold God's commandments to love God and neighbor.
- All Scriptures and its interpretation are inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Baseline Knowledge for Presbyterian Polity, Program, and Mission

- Governed by Presbyters (Ruling and Teaching Elders) is a shared power of Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ruling Elders.
- Connectional nature of Presbyterian polity is illustrated by interdependence of four councils with review and control by the higher councils.
- Elected leadership seeks the Will of Christ rather than being representative of the membership.
- Ordination occurs only by Councils.
- Intentional connection between Reformed theology and Presbyterian polity. (belief affects actions).
- Presbyterian Polity is governed by the PCUSA constitution (Book of Confessions and Book of Order)

Baseline Knowledge for Religious Education Theory and Practice

- Religious education engages learners in biblical and theological perspectives.
- Educational theory conveys multiple definitions and approaches to religious education.
- A variety of teaching strategies offers opportunities for learning to diverse participants.
- Religious education assesses ministry contexts to support learning.
- Evaluation and assessment of educational events is a necessary component of religious education.
- Reflection on personal biblical, theological and educational beliefs supports effective Christian education.



Please Note: This is an excerpt from the Educator Certification Handbook. For more information, please download it in its entirety at pcusa.org/christianeducators.