

Association of Unity Churches International

Certified Spiritual Educator (CSE)

► What is the Certified Spiritual Educator Program?

The CSE is a spiritual course of study and certification offered by the Association of Unity Churches International that provides a consistent foundational base of knowledge and skills necessary for effectual and ethical excellence in Unity youth and family classroom ministry.

► For whom is the program created?

Certification as a Spiritual Educator is recommended for individuals who serve Unity youth as volunteer nursery and preschool helpers, children's teachers, teen leaders, and youth ministry staff. It can be taken as a separate program or the beginning tier of a three-tiered curriculum devoted to developing spiritual leaders in Unity youth and family ministry. (The other tiers are the Licensed Unity Teacher specializing in Youth and Family Ministry, and the Youth and Family Minister.)

► Why would I want to do this?

Have you walked into a classroom and wondered if the children knew more than you? Do you wish you knew more about the Bible or had a deeper understanding of Unity teachings? Have you wondered how to put together a lesson that engages the class? Or thought that there had to be a better way to handle behavior in the classroom? Do you desire that your Unity youth have the best possible ministry? Are you having fun? Engaging in this course of study will help you to build confidence and assure you are creating a spiritual environment in which children and teens can thrive. You will also be embarking on a spiritual journey of self-discovery. The benefits are endless!

► When I finish what will I have learned?

When certified, an individual will have:

- Working knowledge of Unity principles and the twelve powers.
- Familiarity with the Bible structurally, historically and metaphysically.
- Working knowledge of metaphysics including terms, definitions and age-appropriate sequence.
- Foundation in prayer.
- Ability to assess and create an environment for spiritual discovery that is safe, age-appropriate, supportive and encouraging.
- Awareness and application of risk management components.
- Experience in identifying, rating, and writing curriculum for ministry classes.

► **What are the requirements to complete the program?**

To become a Certified Spiritual Educator one must:

1. Attend the Child/Teen Ministry Week, Summer Session C (40 hours)

- If possible, take this first as it provides an integrated study of child development, classroom management, curricula, and how to create an environment of spiritual self-discovery for children and teens. You can, however, attend it at anytime during the CSE program of study.
- This is currently offered only in the summer during Session C of the Spiritual Education and Enrichment (SEE) program through the auspices of the Association of Unity Churches International. (Usually held at Unity Village.)
- If you are unable to make two trips to Lee's Summit, MO, then take this week as the very last piece of the program and stay over to complete the two-day assessment intensive. (refer to step #9)
- Please note that **this week is open to anyone** who wishes to attend whether in the CSE program or not.

2. Complete the following 10 classes/ 100 hours of SEE (Spiritual Education and Enrichment Classes) for credit. Please note: SEE courses changed September 1, 2008.

Courses required before Sept. 1, are in parentheses. If you received credit for any of the previous classes before Sept. 1, those credits will count towards CSE. If you have any questions, please contact the Children's & Family Ministry Coordinator.

- Bible Overview – Hebrew Scriptures (*previously* Bible Overview)
- Bible Overview – Christian Scriptures (*previously* Interpreting the Bible)
- Jesus' Teachings in the Bible
- Lessons in Truth
- The Twelve Powers
- Metaphysics I, Part 2 (*previously* Metaphysics I)
- Metaphysics II, Part 1 (*previously* Metaphysics II)
- Life of Prayer
- Meditation Practices
- Development of the Unity Movement

These courses can be taught by your local minister or licensed Unity teacher (LUT), or can be taken through Unity Institute online or at the Spiritual Education and Enrichment A or B weeks at Unity Village, Missouri. Talk with your minister or LUT about what classes they may be able to provide. For more information about classes offered through Unity Institute at Unity Village, go to http://www.unityonline.org/learn_see.htm.

3. Have two years teaching experience in Unity youth ministry.

By two years, it means that you have consistently taught, led, co-facilitated, or sponsored a children's or teen class/group for at least two consecutive years.

4. Attend two Unity regional or national training events.

This includes trainings by regional education consultants, regional youth team weekends, Spirit's Light Foundation Conferences, The Directors Forum (sponsored by Unity regional consultants), other specialized youth ministry trainings, etc.

5. Read and review the Youth and Family Ministry Guidebook, The Uniteen Program Guide and the YOU Resource Manual.

Reviews are 1 – 2 pages giving a brief synopsis of the book and how you would use the information. A guideline for book reports is provided upon enrollment in the program.

6. Submit three original lesson plans with a personal evaluation of its use in the classroom. Choose a Unity principle or teaching and (1) write a lesson on that concept for three different age groups or (2) write a series of three lessons developing that concept for one age group. A lesson format guide and lesson evaluation sheet is provided upon enrollment in the program.

7. Submit recommendations from your spiritual center's minister, the regional consultant and two references of your choice (one must be from the youth and family ministry director if that applies to your situation). A reference form is provided in the enrollment packet.

8. In keeping with our commitment to support safe environments for children and teens:

- a) a police background check is required of all applicants. This can be a copy of a background check done by your church or you can submit a form (provided by the Association of Unity Churches International) to have a background check completed through the Association for a fee. An information sheet is provided upon enrollment.
- b) a psychological interview and test is required before taking the intensive. Arrangements for this interview will be made when you register to attend the Child/Teen Ministry Week. The cost is additional to the cost of the Child/Teen Ministry Week or the CSE Intensive.

9. Attend a two-day assessment intensive that includes:

- Written and oral tests on basic Unity principles and best practices in youth and family ministry.
- Teaching a children or teen ministry class.
- Sharing circles on selected topics of children, teen and family ministry.

This intensive is offered only at Lee's Summit, Missouri, through the Association of Unity Churches International. It is scheduled at the end of Summer Session C (usually around the second weekend of August). Currently the intensive is held every other year depending on the number of participants ready to graduate. Be sure to check with the Children's Ministry Coordinator as you near completion of the CSE requirements to find out when the next intensive is scheduled.

► Where do I have to go to complete the requirements?

Requirement 1 and 9 must be completed at the Association of Unity Churches International's home office in Lee's Summit. Requirement 2 can be fulfilled in your home church, regional churches or through Unity Institute at Unity Village. Requirements 3 – 8 can all be done in your local Unity ministry. In summary, except for the Child/Teen Ministry Week and the Intensive, all can be done in your local church.

► How do I start?

To begin the CSE program, contact the Children's Ministry Coordinator at the Association of Unity Churches International and ask for an application form. An application will be sent to you to complete and return.

When the application is approved, a packet of information will be mailed to you with guidelines on how to complete the requirements and suggestions on how to schedule your course of study.

► Is there an application fee?

No.

► When I am certified am I done with the program?

In Unity we recognize that we are life-long learners. Therefore, it is required that a certified spiritual educator maintain his/her credential by submitting evidence of continuing education every two years. This helps keep you connected with the ever-evolving best-practices in youth and family ministry and network with youth and family workers.

Suggested avenues include:

- Professional training/Unity conferences
- Continued attendance at regional training and events
- Study of Truth principles relating to children/teens/intergenerational ministry
- Self-discovery/improvement classes
- Portfolio (documented evidence of growth; for example courses developed, lessons, etc.)

► Whom do I contact if I have more questions?

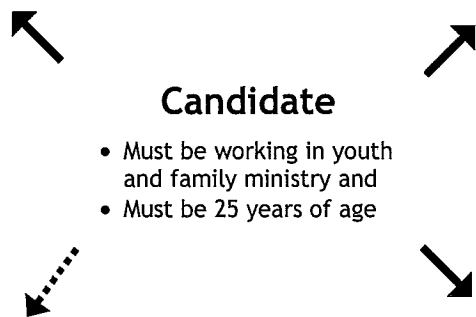
For more information about the Certified Spiritual Educator program, please contact the Children's Ministry Coordinator at 816.524.7414 ext. 338 or kid@unity.org.

Certified Spiritual Educator Program Summary



- Application
- Child/Teen Ministry Week
- Two-Day Assessment for Credentials
- Psychological Test and Interviews

- 2 years experience in Unity
- Book Reviews
- 10 Classes of SEE
- 3 Lesson Plans
- Recommendation Letters
- Background check



Candidate

- Must be working in youth and family ministry and
- Must be 25 years of age



- Option:
- Can take 10 classes of SEE online or at Unity Village

Regional Level

South Central, Northwest, Great Lakes, Southwest, West Central, Eastern, Southeastern, Canada, Puerto Rico

- 2 training events
- recommendation