

On the other hand, the Novitiate was where high school graduates spent a year or more of religious and spiritual formation of becoming Christian Brothers. The Novitiate building was on the north side of the Main Chapel with individual rooms for each candidate. The Novices were involved in study of the Institute, prayer and meditation, spiritual reading and individual counseling with the Director of Novices to better discern their desire and ability to live the life of a Christian Brother. Recreation and sports were also part of the program.

At the end of the Novitiate, the Novice would pronounce their temporary vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and then move on to college courses at St Mary's College in Moraga. Final vows were taken after several years of temporary vows.