

PATHWAYS TO TEACHING (TK-12)

Document developed by the Academic Counseling Center April 2024

Elementary School Teachers (K-6) need to teach many subjects; therefore a **Multiple Subject Credential** is required and enables you to teach all subjects in a self-contained classroom. A Liberal Studies/Arts or Child Development major is recommended to help you qualify for the preliminary credential. If you plan to teach Art, Physical Education (PE), or Music at the elementary school level, you should major in that subject and pursue a single subject credential.

Junior or Senior High School Teachers (7-12) generally teach one subject, so a **Single Subject Credential** is required. High School Teachers are specialists in their subject matter--Agriculture, Art, Biological Sciences, Business, Chemistry, English, GeoScience, Health Science, Home Economics, Industrial Tech, Languages other than English, Math, Music, PE, Physics, and Social Science (includes: Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology).

Special Education: The Education Specialist Instruction Credential authorizes the holder to teach in a specialized area of disability such as Mild/Moderate Disabilities, Moderate/Severe Disabilities, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Visual Impairments, Physical and Health Impairments, and Early Childhood Special Education. A Multiple or Single Subject is not required. You should take the CSET for the grades you want to teach (Multiple Subject Exam for K-6 or Single Subject Exam for 7-12).

Early Childhood Education: If your interest is with infants and toddlers, you may consider majoring in Child Development or Early Childhood Education (ECE). This career does not currently require a teaching credential; however, it does require other coursework that can be satisfied by SBCC's ECE program. Many California State Universities offer a Bachelor's Degree in Child Development or Early Childhood Studies.

Tips for transfer planning: All students must complete the minimum admissions requirements prior to transfer. Completion of all General Education requirements is strongly recommended. Once you have decided the grade level you would like to teach, you will need to determine your major and where you want to transfer. If you plan to teach Art, PE, or Music at any level, you should major in that subject and pursue a Single Subject credential.

Teaching Credential: Many colleges and universities offer teacher education programs. A fifth year of professional education is required to earn a preliminary credential. Some colleges and universities offer a blended program, allowing you to earn a bachelor's degree and teaching credential simultaneously. NOTE: Individuals who complete a teacher preparation program and receive a preliminary credential must then earn a professional clear credential within five years

Preparing for a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential: Liberal Studies is the preferred major and available at 22 of the 23 CSU campuses, and only at one UC campus-Riverside. (Child Development is an option as well). Prospective CSU or UC Riverside students should follow the Liberal Studies articulation agreement (teaching option, if offered, is strongly advised) on www.assist.org. Completion of a Liberal Studies does waive CSET, however the institution may still require the exam for admission to the credential program. Students interested in teaching K-6 and transferring to a UC (other than UCR) need to choose an alternate major, complete as much preparation for that major as possible, and usually follow IGETC. Popular majors at the UC for elementary teachers include: English, History, Sociology, Psychology and Communication. Some schools, such as UCSB, also offer an education minor. (UCSB Ed. and Applied Psych: 3 tracks- Applied Psychology/Education Studies/Teacher Prep).

Preparing for a Single Subject Teaching Credential: Students who are interested in teaching grades 7-12 should major in the field of study they want to teach. Use www.assist.org to determine the appropriate requirements for your major and follow IGETC or the CSU GE-Breadth requirements unless you are a math or science major. Some schools, such as UCSB, also offer an education minor.

Requirements for the Multiple Subject or Single Subject Preliminary Credential (issued for a max of 5 years):

1. Obtain a **Baccalaureate Degree (BA/BS)** from a regionally accredited college or university.
2. Pass the California Basic Educational Skills Test (**CBEST**). The CBEST is designed to test basic reading, writing and mathematics skills important for teaching. It is not designed to measure the ability to teach those skills. You may want to take the CBEST upon completion of your final Math and English courses at SBCC. It is valid for life. **There are other options available to meet this requirement: ie. coursework in Math and English.**
3. **Verify subject matter competence:**
 - **K-6:** achieve a passing score on the California Subject Exam for Teachers (CSET).
Multiple Subject Exam:
 - Subtest I: Reading, Language and Literature; History and Social Science
 - Subtest II: Science; Mathematics
 - Subtest III: Physical Education; Human Development; Visual & Performing Arts
 - **7-12:** achieve a passing score on the appropriate **single subject matter examination(s)** on the CSET or complete a commission-approved single **subject-matter program**.
4. For Multiple Subject/Special Ed only: pass the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (**RICA**).
This is not taken within an undergraduate program.
5. Complete a **teacher preparation program** including successful student teaching, a U.S. Constitution course or exam, developing English Language skills courses, a foundational computer technology course and obtain a formal recommendation for the credential by the California university where the program was completed.

What is subject matter competence and how does it differ from a teacher preparation program?

Teacher preparation programs provide knowledge of **HOW** to teach; subject matter competence is knowledge of **WHAT** is taught. Subject matter competence is a requirement for all multiple subject and single subject credentials. For K-12 teacher candidates it is required that subject matter competency is assessed by either passing specific examinations or by completing an approved degree program which is approved.

What is a teacher preparation program?

Teacher preparation is a professional program which includes student teaching and develops the skills needed for serving in the classroom. It includes coursework in areas such as teaching methodologies, curriculum development, and classroom management. Approved teacher preparation programs are those that have been approved by the CA Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Find the nearest program for the type of credential you want. Visit "Find the Right Preparation Program" at www.teachcalifornia.org.

Students are advised to take the following SBCC courses to best prepare for taking the CSET (Multiple Subject Exam) and to prepare for various credential programs. These courses may not necessarily be required for transfer or major preparation.

- Sciences: Biology 100, Earth 111, Physical Science 103
- Early Childhood Education 102 (Child, Family & Community), 120 (Child Growth & Dev. for Educators)
- Education 101, 291, 295 (Ed 291 & 295 are not UC transferable, however the hours worked may be used as part of the 60 minimum needed for Field Experience at UCSB, as determined by the pre-professional coordinator).
- Health Education 101 (Can substitute for Ed 109 Health Ed, specifically designed for teachers, at UCSB)
- History 101 (US), 107 & 108 (World), and 109 (California)
- Math 108 (Math for Elementary Teachers) - is transferable to both UC/CSU. It meets CSU admissions requirements and covers area B4 on the CSU GE pattern. Math 108 does not meet UC admission requirements. However, it replaces Math 100A (Math for Elementary Teaching I) at UCSB
- Political Science 101 at SBCC or exam on the U.S. Constitution (AP exams cannot be used to meet this requirement)
- Psychology 145 (Human Development)

The following websites may be of interest to future teachers:

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing: www.ctc.ca.gov
CBEST (California Basic Education Subject Test): www.cbest.nesinc.com
CSET (California Subject Exam for Teachers) www.cset.nesinc.com
Cal State Teach: www.calstateteach.net (ONLINE Programs)
California Student Aid Commission: www.csac.ca.gov (click on APLE and CalGrant T)

California State University: www.calstate.edu/teachered
RICA www.rica.nesinc.com
California Department of Education: www.cde.ca.gov
Teach California: www.Teachcalifornia.org