

PK-3 Early Childhood Education Credential Program Summary of Credential Requirements

ADMISSION DEADLINES (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Semester	Cal State Apply Deadline	Document Deadline (Pending documents must be submitted by this date)	Semester Dates
Fall 2025	<i>Application period is closed</i>		
Summer 2026	Updated Domestic - March 1, 2026 International - Feb 1, 2026	Updated Domestic - March 20, 2026 International - Feb 20, 2026	Start: 6/1/2026 End: 8/7/2026
Fall 2026	Domestic - April 1, 2026 International - April 1, 2026	Domestic - April 20, 2026 International - April 20, 2026	Start: 8/19/2026 End: 12/16/2026

1. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The admission requirements below must be uploaded with your CSU Apply application except for transcripts which must be sent directly to SJSU Graduate Admissions & Program Evaluation (GAPE).

Cal State Apply Application	On the Cal State Apply Home page, scroll down to select the start term to which you are applying. Start your Cal State Apply application by creating an account. Once you complete all admission requirements below, upload your documents and submit your application. Be sure to submit your application by the deadline of the semester you plan to start the program. Application Fee: \$70
Resume	Prepare a 1-2 page resume that details your college- and post-college-level academic, employment, and volunteer experiences.
Personal Statement(s)	<p>All PK-3 ECE Credential applicants: must provide an essay (1-2 pages in length, double spaced, and 12-point font) on: When you interact with young children, how do you like to engage with them to support their learning/development? Why is this important to you?</p> <p>Critical Bilingual Authorization Program (CBAP) applicants must provide a second personal statement (1 page max.) on: Why do I want to be a bilingual teacher?</p> <p>The essay should be written in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spanish for those pursuing a Spanish bilingual authorization, ● Mandarin for those pursuing a Mandarin bilingual authorization, ● English for those pursuing Vietnamese Language bilingual authorization <p>Note: After admission, completion of the CBAP requires meeting the language competency</p>

	<p>requirement, described here.</p>
<p>Subject Matter Competency (SMC)</p>	<p>The SMC assessment process should be started 4 weeks before the application deadline.</p> <p>Submit your completed (unsigned) SMC Assessment form to (1) the PK-3 SMC Assessment Google Survey and (2) to your Cal State Application. See link for details</p> <p>Students may be conditionally admitted to the program with partial SMC requirement met, however, it must be fully met prior to Phase I Student Teaching (EDEL 143). See link for details.</p>
<p>Certificate of Clearance</p>	<p>The certificate of clearance is a background check process required of all CA teachers who work with children in public schools. A certificate of clearance granted by CTC is valid for 5 years. See link for details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificates can take several weeks to process; plan accordingly. Note it is a multi-step process. Video Guidance • Any CA state-issued substitute or child development permit can be submitted as an alternative • International students should contact International Student and Scholar Services for advising about if a social security or tax ID # is possible in their particular circumstance
<p>Prior Field Experience</p>	<p>Prior field experience hours will be required beginning with Summer 2026 admissions.</p> <p>Prior field experience refers to hours teaching, subbing, volunteering, or observing in a public school, in grades TK-8, or an alternative setting. Experience should be within the last 5 years. SJSU Courses that have a field experience component may meet this requirement, such as LSTP 185, CHAD 159, or ChAD 160.</p> <p>Note: If you plan to apply for PK/TK student teaching equivalency based on work experience and/or a prior fieldwork course, see information below; these forms are not part of the application.</p>
<p>Letters of Recommendation</p>	<p>Two required. Up to 4 may be submitted.</p> <p>In CalState Apply, you will provide contact information for individuals providing recommendation letters (except PK-3 SAGE applicants). An email request will automatically be sent to the recommender on your behalf. Please advise your recommender to look for this email in their inbox, as well as their spam or junk-mail folder, as emails do occasionally get filtered out.</p> <p>The two letters must be from people who have known you in an educational, professional or academic setting, should be from someone who has been in a supervisory role, and should be on letterhead if possible. Letters from friends or family are not accepted. Letters may speak to your ability to work with children, work with colleagues, your work ethic, your intellectual capabilities, or other characteristics pertinent to teaching.</p> <p>Letters must be written within the last 2 years. Applicants may *not* submit letters of recommendation themselves; letters must be submitted directly by your recommenders.</p> <p>Letters should be submitted by the application deadline.</p>
<p>Bachelor's Degree or Higher</p>	<p>For Degree Transcripts from institutions within US/Canada:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree must be from a regionally accredited institution of higher education. • Go to the SJSU GAPE website (scroll down) for guidance on how to submit your official degree transcript(s) to SJSU. <p>For Degree Transcripts from institutions outside US/Canada:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See below for further instructions.

2.5 GPA	Minimum 2.5 GPA at the bachelor's degree institution (or in the last 60 semester or 90 quarter unit)
Additional Admission Requirements for Students with Degrees from Outside US/Canada	
Foreign Transcript Evaluation (scroll down to step 5)	<p>For Degree Transcripts from institutions outside US/Canada, SJSU and the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) require all foreign degrees to be evaluated by one of their approved agencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This SJSU webpage (scroll down to step 5) provides information about SJSU's requirements. Currently, in addition to WES (World Education Services), "Due to the current global health pandemic, [SJSU GAPE has] also approved the use of Academic Credentials Evaluation Institute, Inc. (ACEI) and Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) for an evaluation of international coursework for applicants at this time." Therefore, WES, ACEI, and ECE are currently accepted by both SJSU and CTC. ● Request a transcript evaluation (from WES, or from ACEI or ECE) as soon as possible. Do not wait until you submit your CalState application. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ View illustrated instructions on how to send documents through WES [pdf]. ○ If you are using courses from your international degree to meet the subject matter competency requirement, you can request a course-by-course evaluation as part of your overall transcript evaluation. <p>See Foreign Transcript Evaluation for additional information.</p>
English Language Proficiency (TOEFL)	<p>Applicants who earned their degree outside of US/Canada must meet the English Language Proficiency Exam minimum proficiency scores. Visit the SJSU Graduate Admissions testing website for up to date information.</p>
2. STUDENT TEACHING REQUIREMENTS	
BEFORE PHASE I STUDENT TEACHING/EDEL 143A	
These requirements need to be verified prior to enrolling students in phase I student teaching. In the event a student is unable to complete these requirements, a registration HOLD may be placed on the student's account until requirements are met.	
Equivalency for Student Teaching (Optional)	<p>Students who choose to apply for equivalency based on prior qualifying preschool teaching experience and/or a prior early childhood practicum course(s) need to complete the relevant verification form(s) within 30 days of program admission.</p>
Subject Matter Competency (SMC)	<p>Students may be conditionally admitted to the program with partial SMC requirement met, however, it must be fully met prior to Phase I Student Teaching (EDEL 143A). See link for details.</p>
Technology Requirement	<p>Summer 2025 admitted students - New technology requirement is in place.</p> <p><i>Students admitted in Fall 24/Sp 25:</i> The technology requirement is met by passing the Google Educator Level I Exam. This requirement may be completed anytime during or upon completion of the program.</p>

DURING PHASE I STUDENT TEACHING/EDEL 143A REQUIREMENTS	
CalTPA Cycle 1	CalTPA is a teacher performance assessment requirement. PK-3 CalTPA Cycle 1 must be completed during Phase I Student Teaching (EDEL 143A).
BEFORE PHASE II STUDENT TEACHING/EDEL 143B REQUIREMENTS	
These requirements should be completed prior to enrolling students in Phase II student teaching. In the event a student is unable to complete these requirements, a registration HOLD may be placed on the student's account until requirements are met.	
U.S. Constitution Requirement	The U.S. Constitution Requirement must be met and may be taken anytime prior to starting Phase 2 Student Teaching (EDEL 143B). See link on how to satisfy the requirement.
CPR	Certification in Adult, Child, and Infant CPR is required for the Preliminary Credential. This requirement may be completed anytime prior to starting Phase 2 Student Teaching (EDEL 143B).
DURING PHASE II STUDENT TEACHING/EDEL 143B REQUIREMENTS	
Literacy Performance Assessment (LPA) Link pending	The Literacy Performance Assessment is an assessment related to teaching literacy, built into the CalTPA Literacy Cycle. The LPA must be completed during Phase II Student Teaching (EDEL 143B)
4. COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS	
The following requirements must be completed prior to filing for your Preliminary PK-3 Credential with Credential Services.	
Literacy Performance Assessment (LPA)	The LPA (above) takes the place of the RICA assessment, which is no longer required as of July 1, 2025.
Credential Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credential coursework must be completed with grade of "B" or better • Maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA in program
5. CREDENTIAL RECOMMENDATION	
Apply for your Preliminary PK-3 Credential	<p>Candidates may file for the Preliminary Credential once all credential coursework and requirements are completed. Visit the Credential Services Office website for instructions on how to file.</p> <p>Credential Services, Sweeney Hall 445 credentials@sjsu.edu</p>