

Preparing to Teach Middle School or High School

There are several types of credentials offered by the state of California that students can receive. Students interested in teaching at the middle school or high school level will earn a **Single Subject Teaching Credential**. A Single Subject Teaching Credential authorizes the holder to teach a particular subject, such as English or math. Specific single subjects include:

Art	English	Industrial & Tech Education	Music
Business	Geosciences	Language other than English	Physical Education/Kinesiology
Biological Sciences	Health Science	Mathematics	Physics
Chemistry	Foundational Level Science	Foundational Level Math	Social Science

Duration

While the length of time for completion of a bachelor degree may vary from student to student, the degree typically takes 4-5 years full-time to complete. A bachelor degree is between 120-124 units. In addition a professional preparation program takes about 1 year to complete, if attending school full-time.

Single Subject Credential Requirements

- **Education:** A bachelor degree or equivalent from a regionally accredited college or university.
 - **Basic Skills Requirement:** This requirement can be satisfied by passing the California Basic Skills Test (CBEST) or by considering one of the alternative options that have been approved by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC). For more information on the CBEST, go to <http://www.cbest.nesinc.com>.
 - **Professional Teacher Preparation:** Complete a CCTC approved single subject teacher preparation program, including student teaching.
 - **Provisions and Principles of the U.S. Constitution:** Complete a U.S. Constitution course with a "C" or better (Political Science 103 at Citrus College) or equivalent exam.
 - **English Language Skills:** Complete a Developing English Language Skills course, including reading requirement by successful completion of a comprehensive reading instruction course.
 - **Character and Identification Clearance:** Submit the appropriate paperwork along with fingerprints to the CCTC.
 - **Subject Matter Competence:** Can be met by one of two ways:
 1. Students complete a commission approved subject matter program. Students who graduate from an out-of-state institution will most likely need to take the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET) for the appropriate single subject area.
- OR**
2. Achieve a passing score on the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET) for the appropriate single subject area. For more information, go to <http://www.cset.nesinc.com>.

College Majors for Teaching

Under federal legislation known as No Child Left Behind, teachers new to the profession must either have an undergraduate or graduate major or equivalent in the subject taught. For example, students who want to teach math should major in mathematics. If not, students must pass the specific subject CSET to demonstrate subject matter competency. See a counselor for help with major selection.

Basic Recommendations

- Seek advisement since teacher education requirements differ at each university.
- Earn good grades. Most credential programs require a minimum 2.7 to 3.0 grade point average.
- Take the CBEST as soon as you have completed your transferable level English and mathematics courses.
- Obtain as much experience in the classroom as possible. Stop by the STEM Center (math/science) and Learning Center (all other subjects) to find out about tutoring opportunities.
- Explore your transfer options. What kind of university campus suits you best?