



Preparing to Teach Middle School, High School, or College

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. Students interested in teaching at the college level need to get a degree in the subject they wish to teach. Generally speaking, a student will need a Masters degree or higher to teach at the community college level, and a PhD. to teach at the University. A Single Subject Teaching Credential is ***not*** necessary for the college level.

Specific Single Subjects are:

Art	Industrial & Technology Education	Biological Sciences
Business	Language other than English	Chemistry
English	Mathematics	Geosciences
Health Sciences	Music	Physics
Home Economics	Physical Education	Social Science

How long does it take? A bachelor's degree is between 120-124 units (typically 4-5 years to complete). In addition, a Teaching Credential Program takes approximately 1-2 years to complete.

Single Subject Credential Requirements:

1. **Education:** Earn a bachelor's degree or equivalent from a regionally accredited college or university.
2. **CBEST:** Pass the California Basic Education Skills Test (CBEST). This can be taken at any time, preferable as an undergraduate. To obtain more information about the CBEST, log on to www.cbest.nesinc.com
3. **Professional Teacher Preparation:** Complete a professional preparation program in secondary education, including an internship of successful student teaching. The California College or University where the program was completed must recommend the teacher candidate for the credential.
4. **Provision and Principles of the U.S. Constitution:** Completion of a course in the provisions and principles of our Constitution (Political Science 100 at Cypress College) or passage of an examination in the subject.
5. **Subject-Matter Competence:** This can be met by achieving a passing score on the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET) for the appropriate single subject area. Cost for the CSET is approximately \$216. To obtain more information on the CSET examination log on to www.cset.nesinc.com

6. **Completion of the Developing English Language Skills**, including Reading requirements by successful completion of a comprehensive reading instruction course.
7. **Pass the Reading Instruction Competency Assessment (RICA)**. Cost: \$134. For more information on the RICA go to www.rica.nesinc.com
8. **Character and Identification Clearance:** You must submit the appropriate paperwork along with fingerprints to the California Commission on Teaching Credentialing. *Students with a criminal record are strongly recommended to see the Teacher Preparation Coordinator to find out more about this clearance.*

College Major for Teaching. Under new federal legislation known as No Child Left Behind, teachers new to the profession must have an undergraduate major or equivalent in the subject taught. For example, students who want to teach Math should major in Mathematics. The CSET exam may be passed in lieu of majoring in the subject taught.

Basic Recommendations:

- Enroll in the Future Teacher Classes at Cypress College.
- Earn good grades. Most teaching credential programs require a minimum 2.7 to 3.0 grade point average.
- Seek advisement from Velia Lawson, the Teacher Prep Counselor, since teacher education requirements differ at each university.
- Take the CBEST as soon as you have completed a general education level English and Mathematics course at Cypress College.
- Get as much early fieldwork experience in secondary classrooms as you can. You are strongly encouraged to sign up for COUN 110 to get some of this early fieldwork experience.
- Explore your transfer options. What kind of campus suits you best?

For both Multiple Subject (elementary credential) and Single Subject (secondary credential) information:

CSUF:

Center for Careers in Teaching
(714) 278-7130
www.fullerton.edu/cct

CSULB:

TEPAC (TP Advising Center)
(562) 985-9259
www.ced.csulb.edu/tpac

For More Information:

For Teacher Preparation counseling please call Velia Lawson, the Teacher Preparation Counselor, at (714) 484-7015 to schedule an appointment. She can help you choose the best classes for your particular transfer needs. For information about the CBEST (exam), CSET (exam), and Character Reference Forms (if you have a criminal record) please see Dennis Davino, the Teacher Preparation Director in his office, Fine Arts Building, First Floor, Suite 136. The Cypress Teacher Preparation website is www.cypresscollege.edu/tpp/.

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