



Preparing to Teach Elementary School

There are several types of credentials offered by the state of California that students can receive. Students interested in teaching at the Elementary level will be obtaining a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. The Multiple Subject Teaching Credential authorizes the holder to teach in a “self-contained” classroom. The teacher instructs all subjects to the same students on a daily basis.

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.

Multiple Subject Teaching Credential Requirements:

1. **Education:** 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 multiple subject teacher preparation program, including 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 passing the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET). For more information on the CSET go 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. As an elementary teacher you will need to teach many subjects, namely, Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Sciences, Visual & Performing Arts, Physical Education and Human Development. It is recommend that students major in a subject that will encompass all of these areas; such as Liberal Studies. However, other majors such as Human Development, Human Services, or Psychology are also options for Elementary Teaching.

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 Preparation 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 elementary 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 Transfer Institutions:

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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