



K-12 Teacher Advising Sheet

Requirements to Become a K-12 Teacher

- **Earn a Bachelor's degree**
 - a. For a **Multiple-Subject Teaching Credential** you should major in a subject that covers a wide variety of different disciplines, such as Liberal Studies or a similar major.
 - b. For a **Single-Subject Teaching Credential** you should major in the subject you intend to teach.
- **Pass the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST)**

If you are a Pierce College student, you may take this exam now.
- **Demonstrate Subject Matter Competency**
 - c. For a Multiple-Subject Teaching Credential, you must pass a three-part California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET) test.
 - d. For a Single-Subject Teaching Credential, you must either pass the CSET test for your subject, or you must complete an approved Single Subject Matter Preparation Program as part of your undergraduate degree (this is a "teacher preparation" major in a specific subject).
- **Complete a Teaching Credential Program**

These are usually "fifth-year" programs completed after you finish your Bachelor's degree. Some universities offer "integrated" programs where you complete preliminary credential coursework during your undergraduate education. Many local universities offer teacher credentialing programs, including CSUN. You can earn a Bachelor's degree from one university and complete a teaching credential program at a different university. Students must earn a 2.67 GPA in order to be admitted to a Credential program.

Types of Credentials

- A **Multiple-Subject** Credential qualifies you to teach elementary school, typically from Kindergarten through 5th or 6th grade. You usually teach a variety of subjects to one class of students.
- A **Single-Subject** Credential qualifies you to teach in one subject, like Math or English. Most single-subject teachers work at Middle or High Schools and teach 6th through 12th grade.
- An **Education Specialist** Credential qualifies you to teach from Kindergarten through 12th grade in a special education environment. People pursuing this credential start by meeting the subject matter competency for either a Multiple-Subject or a Single-Subject credential.

Salary Information

The median wage in 2008 for Elementary School Teachers, except Special Education in California was \$58,677 annually and the median wage for Secondary School Teachers, except Special Education in California was \$62,779 annually (www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov). The median is the point at which half of the workers earn more and half earn less.

Recommended Websites

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing	www.ctc.ca.gov
CBEST	www.cbest.nesinc.com
CSET	www.cset.nesinc.com
TEACH California	www.teachcalifornia.org

Select Programs

California State University, Channel Islands	
Liberal Studies Program	http://liberalstudies.csuci.edu/
Credential Program	http://education.csuci.edu/
California State University, Northridge	

Liberal Studies Program
Credential Program

www.csun.edu/liberalstudies
www.csun.edu/~sch_educ/cred/

Note: Information is subject to change without notice. Check with the individual campus for the most up-to-date information.