



GRADUATE COLLEGE of EDUCATION

Credential & Graduate Services Center
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"SO YOU WANT TO BE A TEACHER?"

Teacher preparation in California is currently through a post-baccalaureate credential program. You need to complete a baccalaureate degree to apply for a credential program.

The Graduate College of Education offers the following credential programs:

- Multiple Subject (preschool, elementary and/or self-contained classrooms)
- Single Subject (middle and high school; some K-12 as noted below)
 - Art (K-12)
 - English
 - World Languages (K-12)
 - Mathematics
 - Music (K-12)
 - Physical Education (K-12)
 - Science
 - Social Science
- Special Education depending on the program emphasis it can be for early childhood, preschool, K-12, or birth through age 22)
 - Early Childhood Special Education
 - Mild/Moderate Disabilities
 - Moderate/Severe Disabilities
 - Visual Impairment
 - Orientation and Mobility

How can you prepare for admission while you are completing an UNDERGRADUATE degree?

1. Complete the Early Field Experience Requirement (Multiple Subject, Single Subject and Special Education)

Work or volunteer in a public school regular daytime classroom for a minimum of 45 hours. Early Field Experience must be done in a culturally and linguistically diverse classroom and at the grade level at which you are planning to teach. For the Multiple Subject Program, observe in a public K-5 classroom. For the Single Subject Program, observe in a public middle school or high school classroom. For the Special Education Program, the early field experience must be met by volunteer or work experience in a K-12th grade classroom with a CA Credentialed Teacher. The experience must represent your program area choice and be in the kind of environment that matches the credential you are seeking. Contact the San Francisco Education Fund at (415) 695-5400, the Pacifica School Volunteers at (650) 355-9432, or Berkeley School Volunteers at (510) 644-8833 for more information. Students who qualify for work-study and are planning to apply for the Multiple Subject credential can contact America Reads (415-338-1 562). Early Field Experience must be completed within 5 years of applying to the program. Orientation and Mobility Program applicants are exempt from needing field experience in a school setting.

2. Obtain Letters of Recommendation (All Credential Programs)

A minimum of three (3) letters for the Multiple or Single Subject credentials and two (2) letters for Special Education and Communicative Disorders must be submitted at the time of application. One letter must be from the Early Field Experience teacher with whom you worked explicitly describing the cultural and linguistic diversity of the class, in what capacity you worked with this population, and how successful you were. All letters must be written on official letterhead with original handwritten signatures. Letters must be written within five (5) years of applying to the program.

3. Satisfy the Basic Skills Requirement (All Credential Programs)

Different options fulfill this requirement. They cannot be combined:

- A. CBEST (California Basic Skills Examination) For more information and registration see www.ctcexams.nesinc.com. No expiration.
- B. Out-of-State Basic Skills Exam. Not all states' Basic Skills Exams have been approved by the CTC. Contact the Credential and Graduate Services Center at 415-405-3594 to find out if the test you took is approved.
- C. CSET: Multiple Subjects plus Writing Skills. You must pass the Writing Skills test AND all three Multiple Subject subtests to fulfill the Basic Skills requirement. For information and registration see www.ctcexams.nesinc.com
- D. Other Options for Satisfying the Basic Skills Requirement (see chart below)

Examination	English Score Requirement	Math Score Requirement
CSU Early Assessment	"College Ready" or "Exempt"	"College Ready " or "Exempt"
CSU Placement Exams (EPT and ELM)	Score of 151 or above	Score of 50 or above
College Board SAT	Score of 500 or above	Score of 550 or above
ACT	Score of 22 or above	Score of 23 or above
College Board Advanced Placement Examinations (AP)	Score of 3 or above on one of the following: AP English Language and Composition AP English Literature and Composition	Score of 3 or above on one of the following: AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Statistics
<p><i>Since the EAP and the EPT/ELM examinations are linked for CSU admission and placement, the Commission will accept a combination of scores from the EAP and the EPT/ELM examinations to meet the Basic Skills Requirement as long as the individual passes a section of English and a section for Mathematics. For example, an individual may pass the Mathematics EAP and the EPT examination to satisfy the Basic Skills Requirement.</i></p>		

4. Fulfill Subject Matter Competency

Multiple Subject Program: Only the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET) in Multiple Subjects (3 subtests total) fulfills this requirement. For more information and registration, see <http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com>. Scores are valid for 5 years only.

Single Subject Program: Subject matter competency can be fulfilled in two ways.

- Pass the California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET) in the subject area in which you intend to teach. For more information and registration see www.ctcexams.nesinc.com. Scores are valid for 5 years only.
- OR complete a Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) approved subject-matter competency program in the area in which you intend to teach.

Special Education Program: Subject matter competency must be fulfilled by passing the CSET in Multiple Subjects (3 subtests total) or the CSET in a single subject area (must pass subtests for a core subject area). Core areas are Art, English, Music, Mathematics (including Foundational-Level Mathematics), Foreign Language, Science (including Foundational-Level General Science) and Social Science. *Early Childhood Special Education and Orientation and Mobility applicants are exempt from this requirement.*

5. Grade Point Average (GPA) 2.67 for Multiple and Single Subject (Credential Only); 3.0 minimum for Special Education and Single Subject (Credential + Master's).

If you graduate with a GPA lower than the above, you can take courses through the College of Extended Learning or at a community college and earn enough grade points to raise your GPA.

6. Second Language Requirement (Single Subject only)

The Single Subject Program requires experience learning a second language. Fluency is not required. See the online credential program application materials for a complete list of options. The following options are most commonly used:

- A. Complete one college-level course in a language other than English (including American Sign Language). Earn a grade of "C" or better, "Pass," or "Credit," verified by an official transcript from a regionally accredited college or university. Extended Learning units from such institutions are acceptable. College units given based on Advanced Placement (AP) testing in high school is also acceptable.

- B. Complete two years of coursework in a language other than English in grades seven (7) through twelve (12) in a public or private secondary school with an average grade of C or better, verified by an official transcript or a letter from the school.

7. Written English Proficiency (Special Education Only)

Each student earning a Master's degree along with the credential must demonstrate the ability to write English correctly and effectively. To assure that each graduate student has the required proficiency in written English, the major department makes two distinct assessments: Level One and Level Two. The Level One requirement must be met prior to admission. Contact the departments for required scores on a variety of tests.

- A. Score of at least 3.5 /6.0 on the GRE Analytical Writing Test or GMAT Analytic Writing Assessment
- B. Score of at least 4.5 / 6.0 on the essay test of the paper-based [PBT] TOEFL {a minimum score of 24/ 30 on the Writing section of the Internet-based test [iBT] TOEFL)
- C. Score of at least 6.5 /9.0 on the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) writing test, or a concordant score on the Pearson Test of English
- D. A passing status score of at least 220 on the CSET Writing Skills Test

8. Attend an Information Session (All Credential Programs)

We recommend that you attend an information meeting no later than the first semester of your senior year. Check <http://gcoe.sfsu.edu/events/events-all> for a schedule of meetings and a link to reserve a seat.