## Requirements to Become a K-12 Teacher

### Earn a Bachelor’s degree

* 1. 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, but can major in any subject.
  2. 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. You should take the CBEST before applying to the credential program.

### Demonstrate Subject Matter Competency

* 1. For a Multiple-Subject Teaching Credential, you must pass a three-part California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET) test. Most universities or colleges required that you passed your CSET prior to enrolling in a credential program
  2. RICA (Reading Instruction Competence Assessment), the RICA requirement generally applies to candidates who complete Multiple Subject Teaching or Education Specialist Instruction Credential programs though accredited California colleges or universities or via district inter programs.
  3. 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). Most universities or colleges required that you passed your CSET prior to enrolling in a credential program.

### 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.
* An Adapted Physical Education Credential qualifies you to provide specialized and adapted physical education services.
* A Reading Specialist Credential qualifies you to provide Reading assessment services such as serving as a literacy leader, provide mentor services to teachers, staff development, and other literacy services.

## Salary Information

The annual median wage in 2021 for California Elementary School Teachers was $89,553, for Middle School teachers it was $87,156, and for Secondary School Teachers it was $88,374 ([labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/](https://labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/data/oes-employment-and-wages.html)). The median is the point at which half of the workers earn more and half earn less.

## Recommended Websites

| **Website** | **Website address** |
| --- | --- |
| California Commission on Teacher Credentialing | [ctc.ca.gov/](https://www.ctc.ca.gov/) |
| CBEST | [ctcexams.nesinc.com/](http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/) |
| CSET | [ctcexams.nesinc.com/](http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/) |
| TEACH California | [teachcalifornia.org/](https://www.teachcalifornia.org/) |
| RICA | [ctcexams.nesinc.com/](http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/) |

## Select Programs

| **Website** | **Website address** |
| --- | --- |
| California State University, Channel Islands | (look below) |
| Liberal Studies Program | [liberalstudies.csuci.edu/](https://liberalstudies.csuci.edu/) |
| Credential Program | [education.csuci.edu/](https://education.csuci.edu/) |
| California State University, Northridge | (look below) |
| Liberal Studies Program | [csun.edu/liberalstudies](www.csun.edu/liberalstudies) |
| Credential Program | [csun.edu/eisner-education/credential-office](https://www.csun.edu/eisner-education/credential-office) |
| Loyola Marymount University | [soe.lmu.edu/](https://soe.lmu.edu/) |
| University of California, Los Angeles | (look below) |
| Education Studies Minor | <https://seis.ucla.edu/departments-and-degrees/department-of-education/education-minor> |
| Graduate School of Education and Information Studies | [gseis.ucla.edu/](https://gseis.ucla.edu/) |
| Pepperdine University | (look below) |
| Undergraduate Program | [seaver.pepperdine.edu/humanities/undergraduate/teachereducation/](https://seaver.pepperdine.edu/humanities/undergraduate/teachereducation/) |
| Graduate School of Education | [gsep.pepperdine.edu/about/](https://gsep.pepperdine.edu/about/) |

Note: Information is subject to change without notice. Check with the individual campus for the most up-to-date information. *Web site links are provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only; they do not constitute an endorsement or an approval by the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) and/or Los Angeles Pierce College (LAPC) of any of the products, services or opinions of the corporation or organization or individual. The Los Angeles Community College District and/or Los Angeles Pierce College bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality or content of the external site or for that of subsequent links. Contact the external site for answers to questions regarding its content.*