



**GENERAL INFORMATION: CALIFORNIA TEACHING CREDENTIALS**  
Counseling Division

*Students who are pursuing a career in teaching are strongly encouraged to meet with an El Camino College counselor.*

**Teaching As A Career**

Consider a career in teaching if:

- You have a strong passion for the profession
- You have a sincere interest in working with a diversity of students, parents, and colleagues
- You are able to work unsupervised and to effectively manage a classroom
- You are creative, energetic, compassionate, patient, organized, and flexible

Early field experience in a culturally and/or linguistically diverse classroom is strongly recommended prior to entering this profession. Students should consider volunteering as tutors, camp counselors, peer advisors, recreation aides, and teachers' assistants.

**Types of Teaching Credentials**

***Multiple Subject:*** Designed for prospective elementary school teachers who will instruct students (grades K-5) in a variety of subjects, including language arts, mathematics, social science, physical and life science, physical education, and the arts.

***Single Subject:*** Designed for prospective middle or high school teachers who will instruct students (grades 6-12) in one or more of the following subjects: art, business, English, foundational level math, foundational level science, health science, home economics, industrial and technology education, mathematics, music, physical education, science (biology, chemistry, geoscience, and physics), social sciences, and world language (English language development and languages other than English).

***Education Specialist:*** Designed for prospective special education teachers who will design and implement developmentally appropriate curriculum for students with special needs, including attention disorders, emotional disturbances, mild to severe mental retardation, deaf-blindness, autism, and a variety of physical disabilities.

**Educational Requirements**

All prospective teachers must:

- Possess a **bachelor's degree** from a regionally accredited university
- Complete a **teacher preparation program** inclusive of teaching methods courses, reading instruction, testing/measurement, health education, technology, working with diverse student populations, developing English language skills, fieldwork, and student teaching
- Demonstrate **basic skills proficiency** via satisfactory scores on the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST), CSET Writing, the CSU Placement Exam, the SAT or ACT exams, AP English or AP statistics or calculus exams, or an out of state basic skills test

- Demonstrate **subject matter competency** via coursework or an exam. Prospective elementary school teachers must take and pass the CSET Multiple Subjects (if they did not take the CSET Multiple Subjects Plus Writing Skills to satisfy their basic skills requirement OR if they did not complete an approved subject matter preparation program), and they must also take and pass the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA). Secondary teachers may complete an approved subject matter preparation program at the university level or take the CSET Single Subject in the field they wish to teach. Special education teachers may follow either route, but they must also pass the RICA.
- Demonstrate **knowledge of the principles and practices of the US Constitution** via coursework, an exam, or possession of a degree from a California State University (CSU)
- Obtain a **character clearance**

### Pathways to Earning a Credential

Credential candidates have a number of options with respect to earning a credential:

- *Option 1:* Complete an **integrated program** wherein the bachelor's degree and credential are awarded simultaneously
- *Option 2:* Complete a **traditional program** wherein a bachelor's degree is completed prior to the credential program
- *Option 3:* Current bachelor's degree holders can complete a **district or university intern program** that allows them to teach during the day and complete a credential program in the late afternoon/evening. Note: Foreign degree holders must be legally eligible to work in the United States, must be proficient in the English language, and must have their transcripts evaluated by a California Commission on Teacher Credentialing approved transcript evaluation service.

### Additional Certificates, Authorizations and Credentials

- **Bilingual Authorizations:** Authorizes teachers to instruct students in the student's primary language
- **Degree Authorizations:** Allows credential holders to add additional subjects to their credentials, provided that 32 units have been completed in a specific area or that the CSET has been passed. Note 1: This option is particularly useful for elementary school teachers who wish to teach middle school as well. Note 2: Supplementary authorizations are still available but are not NCLB-compliant.
- **Administrative Services:** Authorizes service as a school administrator, including superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, or assistant principal
- **School Nurse:** Authorizes service as a school nurse, and, with additional coursework, an instructor of courses in health education as well
- **Teacher Librarian Services:** Authorizes service as a school librarian
- **Pupil Personnel Services:** Authorizes service as a school counselor, psychologist, social worker, or child welfare and attendance officer
- **Speech Language Pathology Services:** Authorizes service with students challenged by speech, language, hearing and audiology disorders
- **Clinical Rehabilitative Services:** Authorizes service with students challenged by audiology, orientation, and mobility disorders
- **Designated Subjects:** Authorizes service as an adult educator in vocational or academic subjects

## Useful Resources

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
California Commission on Teacher Credentialing	<a href="http://www.ctc.ca.gov">www.ctc.ca.gov</a> or 916.445.7254
The Occupational Outlook Handbook	<a href="http://www.bls.gov/oco">www.bls.gov/oco</a>
State Examinations	CBEST: <a href="http://www.cbest.nesinc.com">www.cbest.nesinc.com</a> CSET: <a href="http://www.cset.nesinc.com">www.cset.nesinc.com</a> RICA: <a href="http://www.rica.nesinc.com">www.rica.nesinc.com</a>
Course Articulation	<a href="http://www.assist.org">www.assist.org</a>
Financial Aid	Federal: <a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a> California: <a href="http://www.csac.ca.gov">www.csac.ca.gov</a> El Camino: <a href="http://www.elcamino.edu/student-services/fao">www.elcamino.edu/student-services/fao</a>

Note: The information in this handout is subject to change. For the latest requirements, please consult the resources listed above or speak with an El Camino College counselor.

