

# STEPS TO BECOME A CALIFORNIA TEACHER

## 1. EARN YOUR BACHELOR'S DEGREE

- Your choice of major corresponds to subject(s) you plan to teach.
  - For Secondary (High School) level, select a major that corresponds with the subject you wish to teach.
  - For Elementary School and Special Education (Elementary) levels, the Liberal Studies major is the best choice at CSUSM. The Liberal Studies major offers two options:
    - The traditional option leads to a Liberal Studies, B.A. degree followed by the credential program.

Please note: Community College students should follow the Liberal Studies articulation agreement found on [www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org) for both options.

## 2. PASS EXAMINATIONS

- Pass the Basic Skills Examination, e.g., California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) sophomore year. There are additional options available to fulfill the basic skills requirement. Please see the School of Education website for details: [www.csusm.edu/soe](http://www.csusm.edu/soe)
- **Demonstrate Subject Matter Competency:**
  - FOR SINGLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL CANDIDATES:**
    - **CSET: Single Subjects** (English, Foundational Level Mathematics, Mathematics, Science (Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geosciences, Physics), Foundational Level Science, Physical Education, Social Science, Spanish
    - **Or, complete a Single Subject Matter Preparation Program.** Single Subject students currently have the option to take coursework in lieu of examinations. Follow the subject matter preparation track for CSUSM Single Subject Matter Preparation Programs.
      - Cal State San Marcos offers a Single Subject Matter Preparation Program in Mathematics and History.
      - For other subjects, it is strongly recommended students complete a degree in the subject they wish to teach AND MUST pass the CSET in that subject area before entering the Single Subject Credential Program.

### FOR MULTIPLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL CANDIDATES:

- **CSET: Multiple Subjects is required for all Multiple Subject Credentials.** Cal State San Marcos issues Multiple Subject Credentials to Middle Level and Special Education concurrent programs.

## 3. COMPLETE A TEACHING CREDENTIAL PROGRAM

### California State University San Marcos, School of Education, Credential Programs:

- are post-baccalaureate, which means you enter them after you finish your bachelor's degree
- include three basic types of teaching credentials: Single Subject, Multiple Subject and Special Education
- include certification to work with second language learners
- include coursework with classroom participation/observation and student teaching
- for bilingual students, offer a BCLAD: Spanish Emphasis

SINGLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL	MULTIPLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allows you to teach in departmentalized classrooms, typically found in High Schools and Middle Schools</li> <li>• Teaching Authorizations offered at CSUSM: English, Mathematics, Foundational Level Mathematics, Science, Foundational Level Science, Physical Education, Social Science, and Spanish</li> <li>• BCLAD Emphasis: Spanish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow you to teach in self-contained classrooms typically found in Elementary Schools and Middle Schools.</li> <li>• This program offers different options:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Elementary School (Traditional)</li> <li>2) Special Education (including internships)</li> <li>3) Middle Level Certificate</li> <li>4) BCLAD Emphasis: Spanish</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

## UNDERGRADUATE OPTIONS FOR ENTERING K-12 TEACHING AT CAL STATE SAN MARCOS

### *Are you planning to teach a specific subject in High School or Middle School?*

#### SINGLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL

CSUSM offers a Single Subject and Middle School Subject Matter Preparation Programs in Mathematics and History. Completion of this program exempts teachers from the CSET Single Subject examinations and is often referred to as a waiver program.

<b>Mathematics</b>	These programs can be completed with careful selection of coursework within the Math and History major, plus a three unit observation course.
<b>Social Science</b>	

Students planning to teach a subject for which CSUSM does not offer a waiver program such as Science, English, Social Science, Physical Education or Spanish should plan on taking the appropriate CSET Exam.

### *Are you planning to teach in a self-contained classroom (more than one subject is taught to the same group of students) in grades K-12?*

#### MULTIPLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL

- This applies to most elementary school teaching assignments.
- This applies to some Middle School teaching assignments where teachers teach two or more subjects to the same students.
- This applies to many Special Education teaching assignments.

The most common major for this option is Liberal Studies. Completion of the Liberal Studies major gives you the best background in subject knowledge required to pass the CSET Multiple Subject examination.

Lower-Division Core requirements for the Liberal Studies major may be completed at a community college.

OPTIONS FOR THE LIBERAL STUDIES (LBST) MAJOR AT CSUSM	
<b>Liberal Studies Major</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B.A. Degree</li> <li>• Enter a Credential Program after B.A. Degree</li> </ul>

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENT FOR ALL CSUSM CREDENTIAL PROGRAMS

Prerequisite Courses:

1. EDUC 350: Foundations of Teaching as a Profession
2. EDUC 364 or Equivalent: The Role of Cultural Diversity in Schooling
3. EDUC 422: Technology Tools for Teaching and Learning

## TESTING

1. BASIC SKILLS—all programs, e.g., CBEST
2. SUBJECT MATTER EXAMS:
  - Multiple Subject/Middle Level = CSET Multiple Subjects
  - Single Subject = CSET in Specific Subject or option to complete subject matter program in lieu of CSET exam
  - Special Education = CSET Multiple Subjects or Specific Subjects

## CO-REQUISITE COURSES

Students should consider incorporating these courses in their lower division education plan

### 1. U.S. CONSTITUTION

College-level course or exam CSU graduates automatically meet the U.S. Constitution requirement

- History 130 or 230 or 330 or 335 or Political Science 100 or 300 @ Cal State San Marcos
- History 101 or Political Science 101 at Palomar College
- History 110 or History 145 or Political Science 102 at Mira Costa College

### 2. HEALTH EDUCATION

A course that includes the following content: nutrition, physiological and sociological effects of abuse of alcohol, narcotics, drugs, and use of tobacco.

- EDUC 571 (includes CPR) or KINE 306 or PE 203
- HEALTH 195 at Mesa College
- HEALTH 101 at Mira Costa College
- HEALTH 100 at Palomar College

### 3. CPR CERTIFICATION

Infant, Child, and Adult CPR

- Must be valid during enrollment in a Teacher Preparation Program

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **GPA Required: 2.67 overall (Current Minimum)**
- **Good writing and communication skills are important factors when considering admission.**
- **Changes in credential requirements are often legislated. Please refer to the Cal State San Marcos website for the latest information [www.csusm.edu/soe](http://www.csusm.edu/soe)**