



# ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN ELEMENTARY OR MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER?

**CSUSM's Liberal Studies degree** just made it simpler for you to navigate the California teacher credentialing pipeline. In order to become a K-8 teacher in California, you have to earn a bachelor's degree, take a series of standardized tests (up to four different tests), and then apply for and complete a credentialing program.

At CSUSM, you can now fold the CSET I-III standardized testing requirement into your Liberal Studies bachelor's degree program's Elementary Subject Matter and Integrated Teacher Education options. That's three standardized tests you don't have to spend time and money on! Here's what you need to do: meet all the requirements to graduate with a B.A. in Liberal Studies while maintaining 2.67 or higher GPA. Upon completion of your next to last semester before your graduation, fill out the CSET Waiver request evaluation on the Liberal Studies website. For example, if you plan to graduate in Spring 2020, submit your evaluation request by the end of Fall 2019. After you graduate, the Department will re-review your GPA and make a final determination of your eligibility for the **CSET I-III Waiver**.

"The two teaching options of the Liberal Studies degree at CSUSM are specifically designed for future K-8 teachers. Our curriculum aligns with the state standards to ensure future teachers know the material they are supposed to teach," said Professor Nicoleta Bateman, the Liberal Studies department chair. "Liberal Studies went through a two-year-long application and review process and we are thrilled to have earned the Waiver for our students," she added proudly.

If you're a first-year student in the Liberal Studies degree program at CSUSM then you're on track for the Waiver from the start. "If you're a potential transfer student, then you'll need to follow the Liberal Studies pathway on **ASSIST** in order to be on track to transfer into the Liberal Studies B.A. and to be eligible for the Waiver," Professor Nicoleta Bateman said.

The department's CSET I-III Waiver Program is only applicable to students in CSUSM's Liberal Studies bachelor's degree programs (Elementary Subject Matter and Integrated Teacher Education). For example, CSUSM students pursuing a degree in Human Development are not eligible for the Waiver unless they switch to the Liberal Studies degree, she explained.

"We earned approval for the CSET I-III Waiver from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing just this past December and we've already graduated over 140 students with the Waiver," she said. "I also want to point out that Liberal Studies alumni are eligible for the Waiver if they graduated with 2004 or later catalog rights and meet the minimum 2.67 GPA requirement. Alumni interested in pursuing this Waiver should request a Waiver evaluation to determine if they indeed qualify," she added.

To request a Waiver evaluation, either as an alumnus/a or a current student, and for more information on the CSET I-III Waiver Program, visit the **Liberal Studies Department's website**.

