

So, you've decided
to pursue Liberal
Studies and become
a K-8 teacher.

What's next?

Apply to the University by the
posted deadline

Declare Liberal Studies (LBST)
as your major

File your Intent to Enroll (after
acceptance)

Attend a Liberal Studies
Orientation Session

Follow the Approved Course
List for the LBST major

Maintain 2.67 GPA to earn the
Multiple Subject CSET I-III
Waiver (visit the Liberal
Studies website for more info
about the Waiver)



California State University
SAN MARCOS

Basic requirements

To become a K-8 teacher in
California, you must have a
B.A., demonstrate content
knowledge via state testing
or earning a test waiver, and
earn a Teaching Credential.

The Liberal Studies B.A. at
CSUSM is a test waiver
program, meaning that
students who graduate with
a LBST degree and maintain
a min. GPA of 2.67 do not
have to take the Multiple
Subject CSET (CA Subject
Examination for Teachers) I-III.



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CSUSM

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California State University
SAN MARCOS

**Interested in
becoming a
K-8 teacher?**

**Liberal
Studies
@
Cal State San
Marcos**



Your best route

Coursework

Students pursuing either the ESM or ITEP Options can fulfill lower division prerequisites for the LBST B.A. degree at CSUSM or at a community college (CC). Please note:

- Students must follow the Liberal Studies preparation pathway (not GE or IGETC).
- Transfer students should check www.assist.org for the course equivalents offered by each community college. See your CC Counselor for advising on the LBST K-8 pathway.
- Transfer students can complete any remaining lower division coursework at CSUSM after transferring.
- Transfer students should inquire about cross-enrolling at CSUSM while attending a community college. This will allow completion of courses not available on their campus.
- For additional support, scan this QR code and connect with Project SUPPORT.



PRE-REQUISITE COURSES for admission to CSUSM School of Education

(Must be passed with C+ or better)

ESM Option	ITEP Option
EDUC 350, EDUC 364 (included in LBST major)	EDUC 350, EDUC 364 (included in LBST major)
EDUC 422 (may be taken as elective)	EDUC 422 (must be taken before applying to School of Education)

The Liberal Studies Major and the School of Education at CSUSM offer two pathways to becoming a K-8 teacher:

Elementary Subject Matter Option (ESM)	Integrated Teacher Education Program Option (ITEP)
What the Options Have in Common	
Must follow Liberal Studies lower division preparation pathway (not GE or IGETC)	Must follow Liberal Studies lower division preparation pathway (not GE or IGETC)
Must pass required lower division coursework with a grade of C or better.	Must pass required lower division coursework with a grade of C or better.
Overall GPA 2.67 required to earn CSET I-III Waiver and to enter a Credential Program	Overall GPA 2.67 required to earn CSET I-III Waiver and to enter a Credential Program
Main Differences in Educational Experience/Credential Admission	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First obtain B.A. Degree (4 years) • Then complete Teaching Credential requirements (1 year) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.A. Degree and Teaching Credential requirements completed simultaneously in 4-year pathway
To complete B.A. in 4 years, students must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take 15 units each semester • Ensure completion of all requirements 	To complete B.A. and Credential in 4 years, students must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take 18 units each semester in Junior/Senior year (fewer units if they take summer courses) • Take 19 units each semester in Senior/Credential year
120 units minimum for B.A. only	134 units minimum for B.A. + Credential
Apply to a Credential Program (CSUSM or elsewhere) as post-B.A. student. Students can apply in Spring of Senior year.	Apply to CSUSM Credential Program in Spring of Junior year.
All credential coursework completed post-B.A. is recognized as post-B.A. credit on transcripts. Number of post-B.A. units impacts starting salaries.	ITEP students will likely receive partial post-B.A. credit for credential coursework on transcripts, due to utilizing units for B.A. graduation minimum. Subject to school district evaluation. Number of post-B.A. units impacts starting salaries.