Becoming a Teacher
Information Session

Preliminary Single Subject Program
It’s a great time to become a teacher!

• The demand for new teachers in California far exceeds the number of candidates in teaching-credential programs.

• Demand is highest for science, math, and special-education teachers, but CSUN program-completers are being hired in all subjects.

• New LAUSD teachers with regular credentials start at over $53K, with steady increases and excellent benefits.
The Single Subject Credential is a license to teach in a California public school setting.

It authorizes the holder to teach a specific subject or subjects in departmentalized classes in grades preschool, K-12, or in classes organized primarily for adults. *English Learner Authorization (ELA) is included.

This ELA does not authorize Departmentalized EL Development. The ELA on your credential may not be enough for the teaching assignment you are hired for.
The Single Subject Credential is a license to teach in a California public school setting. It authorizes the holder to teach the specific subject(s) named on the credential in departmentalized classes in grades preschool, K-12, or in classes organized primarily for adults. In California, the departmentalized setting is most typically found in high schools, junior high schools and in some middle schools.
In California there is a two tier credentialing system:

**The Preliminary Credential** - When you have completed our program, you will have earned a Preliminary Single Subject Credential. The preliminary credential is valid for five years.

**The Clear Credential** - Within the five years your preliminary credential is valid, you will need to complete the requirements necessary to earn the clear credential. The clear credential is typically earned through the completion of a General Education Induction Program; an advanced on-the-job training program provided by the public school districts.
# Single Subjects Available at CSUN

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<th>Art</th>
<th>Science: Biology</th>
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<td>English</td>
<td>Science: Chemistry</td>
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<td>Health Science</td>
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<td>Home Economics</td>
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<td>Foundational-Level Math</td>
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<td>Math</td>
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<td>Foundational-Level Science</td>
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There are four Pathway Options through which you may earn your Single Subject Credential at CSUN, they are as follows:

The Traditional Pathway is the most flexible. You may begin in either the fall or spring semester and complete the program on either a full or part-time basis. Students usually complete the program through this pathway in three or four semesters.
The Accelerated Collaborative Teacher (ACT) Pathway is offered in collaboration with the Los Angeles Unified School District. This is a cohort model with personalized advising and guaranteed course enrollment. This full-time program is completed in two semesters. Admission is offered in fall semesters only.
The Internship Pathway is open to those with an offer of employment in a public or charter school teaching position. Students in this pathway are working as a full time teacher during the day while completing coursework in the evening. The program is completed through this pathway in two years.
The Integrated Pathway is a blended program where the student completes a subject matter program, bachelor’s degree and Preliminary Single Subject Teaching Credential in either English or Mathematics concurrently. The Integrated Pathway has two options; Four Year Integrated (FYI) and Junior Year Integrated (JYI). Detailed information regarding these options can be found on the Department of English website and Department of Mathematics Teacher Preparation website, respectively.
Important Notes for ACT and Internship Pathways

Supplemental ACT Pathway Application
To apply to the ACT pathway an applicant must submit three applications: the university application, the credential program application, and an ACT program application. For further information regarding the ACT program and its supplemental application please visit the ACT Office webpage.

Additional Requirements for the Internship Pathway
Students admitted to the Traditional Pathway may transfer to the Internship Pathway once they meet the following additional requirements: U.S. Constitution, Pre-service and Offer of Employment. Detailed information regarding becoming a University Intern can be found on our website at the Credential Office website.
The CSUN Single Subject Credential Program

• 36 to 41 units of coursework.

• Courses offered in late afternoon and evening. Field experiences during regular K-12 school hours.

• Course descriptions can be found in the University catalog. Certain courses contain prerequisites.

• Recommended course sequences can be found on the Department of Secondary Education website.
Additional Program Requirements, 1 of 4

These requirements are common to all pathway options and can be completed after admission to the program.

U.S. Constitution (Required prior to recommendation for the Multiple Subject Credential.) – The U.S. Constitution requirement can be met through coursework or exam. Online exams are not acceptable. If you are a California State University alumni, you have probably met this requirement through coursework, as long as you passed the class with a grade of C or higher. Additional information regarding this requirement can be found on our website under Quick Links.
Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) (Required prior to final semester student teaching.) – An in person class which covers infant, child and adult CPR, to the standards of the American Red Cross and the American Heart Association is required. Further information regarding this requirement can be found on our website under Quick Links.
Additional Program Requirements, 3 of 4

Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA) - Completed in the final semester of student teaching. All Teacher Candidates enrolled in the final student teaching or Intern field assignment complete a standardized Teaching Performance Assessment (edTPA) to demonstrate teaching competence.

For the edTPA, the Candidate prepares and teaches a 3-5-day unit, assesses students during the unit, videos portions of the unit, and writes extensive analyses and reflection about the experience. Credential coursework and field experiences are designed to build the necessary skills and knowledge for the edTPA.
GPA – An overall GPA of 2.75 since admission to the credential program and a GPA of 3.0 in professional education coursework is required for student teaching clearance and credential recommendation.
PROGRAM APPLICATION
The Program Application Deadline Dates are listed within the program application instructions on our website.

It is strongly recommended that you submit the program application as early as possible. Registration begins prior to the application deadline date. Classes will begin shortly after the deadline date.
Important: If you wish to student teach the first semester you enroll, please review the student teaching requirements outlined on our website.
Step One: University Application

The California State University Application is completed online at Cal State Apply website.

There is a $70 required application fee.

Important: This application is not required if currently enrolled as a CSUN graduate student or if applying under the undergraduate ITEP option.
Step Two: Credential Program Application, 1 of 2

The Credential Program Application is completed online at the Credential Office website.

There is a $50 required fee plus a $1.38 processing fee.

All eight items listed on the next slide are required as part of your complete credential program application. With the exception of transcripts, these items are to be submitted as attachments within the online application.
Step Two: Credential Program Application, 2 of 2

Required items:
- Transcripts
- Subject Matter Competence
- Basic Skills
- Fingerprint Clearance
- Tuberculosis Clearance
- Statement of Objectives
- Letters of Recommendation
- Early Field Experience

Important Note: If you were previously enrolled in a teacher training program at another institution, you will need to include with your program application a Letter of Good Standing from that institution.
1. Transcripts, 1 of 6

Official transcripts from each institution you have attended, including community colleges, must be submitted to Admissions and Records and the Credential Office.

Good academic standing and a cumulative GPA of 2.67 or a 2.75 GPA in your last 60 units is required for admission. For those applying under the ITEP option, a 2.67 cumulative GPA is required.
Electronic transcripts:
In your previous school’s transcript ordering system, choose "CSU Northridge" as the recipient. If this option is not available, use admissions.records@csun.edu as the recipient email address.

If submitting California community college transcripts, please review eTranscript California and use this convenient system.

Please do not send identical, duplicate electronic and paper transcripts!
1. Transcripts, 3 of 6

Paper transcripts:
If your previous school(s) do not supply electronic transcripts, order two identical, official paper copies of those transcripts and have them sent to your mailing address.
Once you receive the two transcript sets, do not open them. Forward each set to us in sealed envelopes—one set to the Credential Office and the other to Admissions and Records at the following addresses:

Admissions and Records
CSUN
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330-8265

Credential Office
CSUN – Credential Office EA 103
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330-8265
If you are a current CSUN student or a graduate of CSUN and have not taken coursework since graduation, you do not need to resubmit transcripts to either office.
If you are applying as a graduate student and in the process of completing a bachelor’s degree at a school other than CSUN you will be conditionally admitted and required to provide one additional official transcript after your degree has been awarded. The condition will be satisfied once an official transcript with your bachelor's degree posted has been received. Your bachelor's degree must have been awarded by a regionally accredited institution of higher education.
1. Transcripts, 6 of 6

**Students with an international transcript** must submit a comprehensive international evaluation by a CTC approved agency. A list of approved agencies is available on the [CTC Website](http://www.ctcwebsite.com).
In a credential program, you learn how to teach effectively. You must come to the program with verified knowledge of the subject matter you will be teaching. Subject matter competence can be verified in one of two ways:
1. California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET): Subject Specific Exam
   - Detailed information regarding the CSET can be found at the California Educator Credentialing Assessments website. Here you will find information regarding how to register for the test. Information regarding the tests format, content, practice questions and a full practice test are also provided.
   - It is important to note that CSET scores have a validity period of ten years. If you do not qualify and apply for your credential within that time frame, you will need to retake the exam.

Please have the test scores sent directly to CSUN from the testing agency. If scores were not sent to CSUN, you will be required to submit a copy with your application.
2. Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) approved Subject Matter Program

A Subject Matter Program is an organized course of undergraduate study which meets the Commission on Teacher Credentialing standards for subject matter preparation.

The document you provide to verify completion must be signed by an authorized person in the education department of a California college or university with an approved program.
3. Successful completion of coursework*
Coursework must be verified by a Commission-approved program of professional preparation. Coursework must addresses each of the Commission-adopted domains of the applicable subject matter requirements.

4. Successful completion of an academic major
For Single Subject credentials, the major must be in one of the subjects named in Education Code section 44257(a).

5. A combination of coursework and examination*
Coursework must meet or exceed the domains of the subject matter requirements. Such mixing of options may only be done by candidates enrolled in a Commission-approved preparation program that allows for this option.
2. Subject Matter Competence, 5 of 5

*Options 3 and 5 are currently not available. We will not be able to conduct coursework evaluations until the CTC provides guidance and technical assistance; however, we can begin accepting conferred degrees to meet subject matter competency.

Important: For those applying under the FYI/JYI pathway options, 80% subject matter competence must be met prior to student teaching and 100% prior to recommendation for the credential document; it is not a program admission requirement.
Different credentials authorize teaching in a variety of different subjects. No matter what specific subject an individual may be teaching, California requires a verified basic level of skill in reading, writing and mathematics. These basic skills can be verified through one of the following options:

- California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST)
- CSET: Multiple Subjects and CSET Writing Skills
- EAP/ELM/EPT
- SAT
- ACT
- Math and English AP Exams
- CTC approved Out-of-State Basic Skills Exams
- Meet the Basic Skills requirement by coursework
- Combination of coursework and exam
3. Basic Skills, 2 of 2

Detailed information regarding options for meeting the Basic Skills requirement can be found on the CTC website in the Basic Skills Requirement Document.

When verifying basic skills through CSET or CBEST, please have the scores sent directly to CSUN from the testing agency. If the scores are not sent to CSUN, you will need to submit a copy with your application. Information regarding these tests can be found at the California Educator Assessments website.

Important: For those applying under the FYI/JYI pathway options, basic skills testing must have been attempted prior to program admission; the requirement must be met prior to student teaching.
Classroom observation and student teaching are a large part of the credential program. In order to be placed in a classroom setting, you must first obtain fingerprint clearance. Applicants must possess a valid Certificate of Clearance or other CTC issued document. Details as to how to apply for the Certificate of Clearance are provided on our website in the Certificate of Clearance document.
4. Fingerprint Clearance, 2 of 2

It is important to note that the Certificate of Clearance has a validity period of five years. You must maintain valid fingerprint clearance throughout your time in the credential program.

Some candidates may already hold a valid document through the CTC, for example; a substitute teaching permit, activities supervisor’s certificate, etc. In this case, that document would meet the fingerprint clearance requirement.
5. Tuberculosis Clearance

Applicants must provide verification of freedom from active tuberculosis. The TB test report or a letter from a physician regarding a chest x-ray, must have been administered within the last two years and clearly indicate a negative result. This test may be completed at any health facility. If the applicant is a current CSUN student, they may contact the CSUN Student Health Center for a tuberculosis test. The telephone number is (818) 677-3666.
6. Statement of Objectives

Applicants must write a one to two page typed essay addressing the following questions:

- Why do you wish to become a teacher?
- What will you contribute to the profession?
- What do you plan to achieve as a teacher?
7. Letters of Recommendation, 1 of 2

Applicants must provide two professional recommendations using the **Recommendation for Credential Program** form. The letters must support the applicant’s acceptance into the credential program. Recommendations from family members and friends are **not** acceptable.
7. Letters of Recommendation, 2 of 2

Recommendation forms must be uploaded with your application. Once the recommender has completed the recommendation form they will need to email it back to you. If the recommender prefers they can send it directly to the Credential Office at credprep@csun.edu
Applicants must have participated in an early field experience working with a group of school age children in the general population they will be teaching once they receive their credential. This experience must have taken place within the last five years and must consist of at least forty-five hours of paid or volunteer experience.
Please complete the Early Field Experience Verification form. Be sure to obtain an appropriate signature from a supervisor.

Examples of acceptable early field experience include: teacher aid, teacher assistant, substitute teacher, camp counselor, coach, Boy Scout volunteer, Girl Scout volunteer, YMCA volunteer...
Faculty Interview

All credential program applicants are required to participate in an interview with a CSUN College of Education faculty member. Applicants will receive an email directing them to schedule this interview once the complete program application has been evaluated.

This is the final step in your complete program application.
Credential Office Website
& the Program Application

• Quick Links
• Deadline Dates
• Pathway Options
• Admission Requirements
• Admission Options
Notification of Admission – Approximately two weeks following the interview the applicant will receive an email regarding their admission status. If they are admitted, they will also receive a credential progress report. This report is an official record of the admitted student’s program requirements. Students must read this document carefully as they will be held responsible for its content.
**Program Orientation** – You will be provided with information about the specific online or in person orientation you should attend by the Secondary Education Department.
What will this cost me?, 1 of 2

Halftime tuition (1-6 units) = $2,567 per semester

Fulltime tuition (>7 units) = $3,965 per semester

For the most current information regarding tuition and fees go to the Student Finance webpage.

$300 for the state-required Teacher Performance Assessment (edTPA), with additional fees for remediation.
Financial assistance is available in the form of scholarships, grants and loans, if you qualify. For information contact the Financial Aid and Scholarship Department at, (818) 677-4085 or visit their Financial Aid and Scholarship Department webpage.

Additional scholarship information can be found on the Scholarship web page of the CSUN College of Education website.
I’m interested!
What do I do?

Become familiar with the Credential Office Webpage
- Review all requirements for application
- Be mindful of Deadline Dates
- Study for and take all required admission exams
- Gather all required application items

Contact the Credential Office with any questions at credprep@csun.edu or (818) 677-2733

Submit your application to the University

Submit your application to the Credential Office

Still have questions about the application process? Attend one of our application workshops.