

CSUN's
MICHAEL D. EISNER
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
is one of the largest public
colleges of education
in California.

Becoming a Teacher Information Session

Preliminary Education Specialist Program

CSUN

MICHAEL D. EISNER
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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.



Education Specialist Credential

- The Education Specialist Credential is a license to teach in a California public school setting.
- It authorizes the holder to conduct educational assessments related to student's access to the academic core curriculum and progress towards meeting instructional academic goals, provide instruction and Special Education Support to individuals in an area of specialization. **English Learner Authorization (ELA) is included.*
- This ELA does not authorized Departmentalized EL Development. The ELA on your credential may not be enough for the teaching assignment you are hired for.*



Areas of Specialization, 1 of 2

Mild/Moderate - autism spectrum disorders, specific learning disabilities, mild to moderate intellectual disabilities, attention deficit and attention deficit hyperactivity disorders and serious emotional disturbance. (k-12 and adults to age 22)

Moderate/Severe - autism spectrum disorders, deaf-blindness, moderate to severe intellectual disabilities, multiple disabilities and serious emotional disturbance. (k-12 and adults to age 22)



Areas of Specialization, 2 of 2

Deaf and Hard of Hearing - autism spectrum disorders, deafness, hearing impairment and deaf-blindness. (birth – age 22)

Early Childhood includes the mild/moderate and moderate/severe disabilities outlined above. (birth - pre-k)

The Education Specialist Credential, 1 of 2

The Education Specialist Instruction Credential authorizes the holder to conduct Educational Assessments related to student's access to the academic core curriculum and progress towards meeting instructional academic goals, provide instruction, and Special Education Support to individuals in the area of specialization listed on the credential.

The Education Specialist Credential, 2 of 2

In California there is a two tier credentialing system:

The Preliminary Credential - When you have completed our program, you will have earned a Preliminary Education Specialist 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 can be earned through the completion of an Education Specialist Clear Induction Program such as the one offered here at California State University, Northridge.

Credential Program Pathway Options, 1 of 4

There are four Pathway Options through which you may earn your Education Specialist 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.

Credential Program Pathway Options, 2 of 4

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. This pathway is available for the Mild/Moderate specialization area only.

Credential Program Pathway Options, 3 of 4

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.

Credential Program Pathway Options, 4 of 4

The Integrated Teacher Education Preparation (ITEP) Pathway is a blended program where the student earns a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies and a Preliminary Education Specialist Teaching Credential concurrently. The ITEP Pathway is available to the Mild/Moderate and Moderate/Severe specialization areas only and has two options: ITEP Freshman and ITEP Junior. Detailed information regarding this option can be found on the Liberal Studies Program website at, [The College of Humanities - Teacher Preparation Program](#).

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 Education Specialist Credential Program

- 40 to 52 units of coursework.
- Courses offered in late afternoon and evening. Field experiences during regular K-12 school hours.
- Course listings by program can be found on the [Department of Special Education website](#).
- Course descriptions can be found in the University catalog. Certain courses contain prerequisites.

Additional Program Requirements, 1 of 3

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.

Additional Program Requirements, 2 of 3

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 3

Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) – It is important to note that RICA 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 RICA exam. *(Not required for the Early Childhood specialization area.)*

Education Specialist Transition Plan (Required prior to recommendation for the Education Specialist Credential.) – The Education Specialist Transition Plan is developed collaboratively with the candidate's Preliminary program supervisor and the site administrator, if employed. It outlines the candidate's areas of strength and areas for growth and is provided to the Induction Program and used as one basis for the Individual Induction Plan.

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

Program Application Deadline Date, 1 of 2

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.

Program Application Deadline Date, 2 of 2

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.

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.

1. Transcripts, 2 of 6

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 & Records

CSUN- Office of Admissions
& Records
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330-8207

Credential Office

CSUN- Credential Office
EA103
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330-8265

1. Transcripts, 4 of 6

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.

1. Transcripts, 5 of 6

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](#).

2. Subject Matter Competence, 1 of 7

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:

2. Subject Matter Competence, 2 of 7

1. California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET)

- 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. Subject Matter Competence, 3 of 7

2. Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) approved Elementary 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.

Important: For those applying under the ITEP pathway option, subject matter competence must be met prior to student teaching; it is not a program admission requirement.

Subject Matter Competence, 4 of 7

3. **Successful completion of coursework***

Coursework must be verified by a Commission-approved program of professional preparation. Coursework must address each of the Commission-adopted domains of the applicable subject matter requirements.

4. **Successful completion of an academic major**

For Education Specialist credentials, the major must align with one of the acceptable majors for the Multiple Subject credential or Single Subject credential.

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.

*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.

Subject Matter Competence, 5 of 7

Self-contained Setting

If you plan to teach in a self-contained classroom setting where one teacher teaches all subjects (typically found in elementary schools and some middle schools) you will meet the subject matter requirement through passage of the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET) Multiple Subjects Exam or a CTC Approved Elementary Subject Matter Program.

Subject Matter Competence, 6 of 7

Departmentalized Setting

If you plan to teach a single subject in a departmentalized classroom setting (typically found in high schools, junior high schools and in some middle schools) **acceptable single subject area options are limited to:** Art, English, Mathematics (including Foundational-Level Mathematics), Music, Social Science, Science (including Foundational-Level General Science), and World Languages (including American Sign Language, Spanish, French, Mandarin, German and Korean).

Subject Matter Competence, 7 of 7

Important:

Subject Matter Competence is not required for those pursuing the **Early Childhood Specialization**.

For those applying under the ITEP pathway option, subject matter competence must be met prior to student teaching; it is not a program admission requirement.

3. Basic Skills, 1 of 2

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 ITEP pathway option, basic skills testing must have been attempted prior to program admission; the requirement must be met prior to student teaching.

4. Fingerprint Clearance, 1 of 2

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

8. Early Field Experience, 1 of 2

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.

8. Early Field Experience, 2 of 2

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...

9. Disposition Self-Reflection

In addition to knowledge and skills, accomplished special educators reflect upon professional qualities that enhance their effectiveness as teachers. The Disposition Self-Reflection form identifies certain dispositions as important qualities of effective special education teachers. It asks you to begin the reflective process by thinking about these dispositions prior to entering the program. The information you provide here will not impact the evaluation of your application.

The required [Disposition Self Reflection](#) form can be found on our website .

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

[Credential Office Website](#)



Admission and Advisement, 1 of 2



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.

Admission and Advisement, 2 of 2



Program Orientation – You will be provided with information about the specific online or in person orientation you should attend by the Department of Special Education.

Advisement – Primary advisement is provided through the Department of Special Education.

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.

\$171 for the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA)
– Not needed for Early Childhood specialization area.

What will this cost me?, 2 of 2



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.