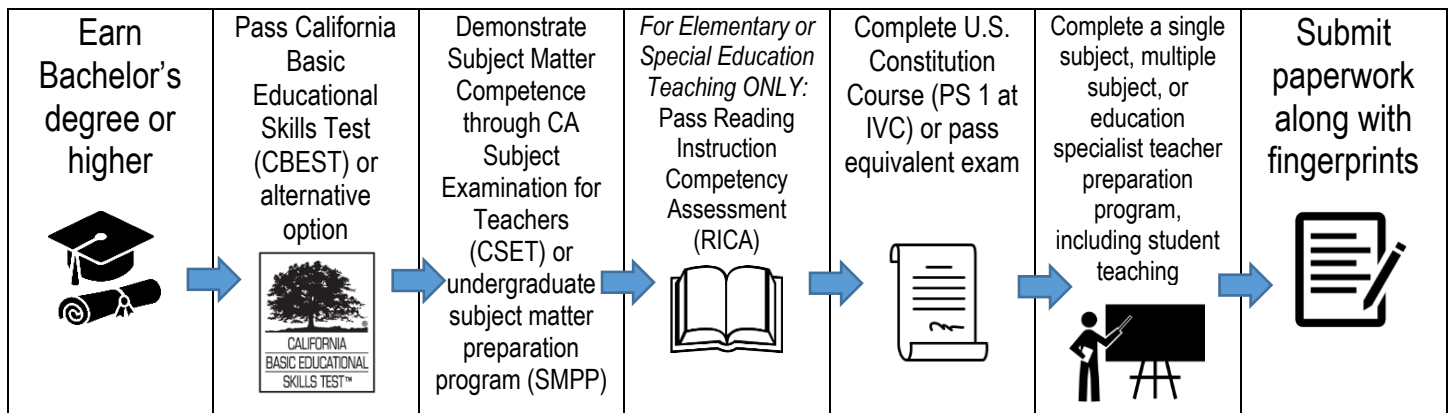


Pathways to Becoming a K-12 Teacher

The State of California offers several types of teaching credentials and permits. Students interested in teaching at the K-12 level or in special education should obtain a Bachelor's degree and a teaching credential through a teacher preparation program, while students interested in becoming preschool teachers/administrators, childcare providers, or after-school program staff should earn a Child Development Permit by fulfilling state licensing requirements. See below for the specific pathways to become an elementary, middle/high school, special education, or preschool/early childhood teacher.

OVERVIEW: TEACHING CREDENTIAL FOR ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL, SPECIAL EDUCATION



Teaching Elementary School – Multiple Subject Credential

1. Earn a **Bachelor's degree or higher** from an accredited college or university.
2. Pass the **California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST)** or consider an alternative option approved by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC). The paper-based exam is \$41. Computer-based testing is available for an additional fee of \$61. Visit www.ctcexams.nesinc.com.
3. Demonstrate **Subject Matter Competence** in one of two ways:
 - a. Option 1: Pass all 3 subtests of the **California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET): Multiple Subjects**. \$99 per subtest if taken separately or \$247 for all subtests taken together. The CSET: Multiple Subjects may be taken with the CSET: Writing Skills to obtain subject matter competency and fulfill basic skills requirement. Cost for CSET: Writing Skills is \$63. Visit www.ctcexams.nesinc.com.
 - b. Option 2: Complete **undergraduate subject matter preparation program (SMPP)** for Elementary Subject Matter and obtain a verification form. For more info, visit www.ctc.ca.gov.
4. Pass the **Reading Instruction Competency Assessment (RICA)**. Cost is \$171. Visit www.ctcexams.nesinc.com.
5. Complete a **U.S. Constitution course (PS 1 at IVC)** with a "C" or better or pass an equivalent exam.
6. Complete a **multiple subject teacher preparation program, including student teaching**. Upon completion, obtain a formal recommendation for the credential by program sponsor. For more info, visit www.ctc.ca.gov.
7. Submit **paperwork along with fingerprints** to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC).

Teaching Middle and High School – Single Subject Credential

1. Earn a **Bachelor's degree or higher** from an accredited college or university.
2. Pass the **California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST)** or consider an alternative option approved by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC). The paper-based exam is \$41. Computer-based testing is available for an additional fee of \$61. Visit www.ctcexams.nesinc.com.
3. Demonstrate **Subject Matter Competence** in one of two ways:
 - a. Option 1: Pass the appropriate **California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET)**. Cost varies by exam. Visit www.ctcexams.nesinc.com.
 - b. Option 2: Complete **undergraduate subject matter preparation program (SMPP)** for approved subject area and obtain verification form. For more info, visit www.ctc.ca.gov.
4. Complete a **U.S. Constitution course** (PS 1 at IVC) with a "C" or better or pass an equivalent exam.
5. Complete a **single subject teacher preparation program, including student teaching**. Upon completion, obtain a formal recommendation for the credential by program sponsor. For more info, visit www.ctc.ca.gov.
6. Submit **paperwork along with fingerprints** to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC).

Teaching Special Education – Education Specialist Instruction Credential

1. Earn a **Bachelor's degree or higher** from an accredited college or university.
2. Pass the **California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST)** or consider an alternative option approved by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC). The paper-based exam is \$41. Computer-based testing is available for an additional fee of \$61. Visit www.ctcexams.nesinc.com.
3. Demonstrate **Subject Matter Competence** in one of two ways depending on the teaching setting – multiple subject setting (elementary school) or single subject setting (middle or high school):
 - a. Option 1: Pass the appropriate **California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET)**. Those interested in elementary school teaching must pass the CSET: Multiple Subjects, while those interested in middle or high school teaching must pass the appropriate single subject CSET. Costs vary. Visit www.ctcexams.nesinc.com.
 - b. Option 2: Complete **undergraduate subject matter preparation program (SMPP)** for and obtain verification form. Those interested in teaching in a **multiple subject setting** should complete an SMPP focusing on Elementary Subject Matter, while those interested in teaching in a **single subject setting** should complete an SMPP focusing on the appropriate single subject area. Visit www.ctc.ca.gov.
4. Pass the **Reading Instruction Competency Assessment (RICA)**. Cost is \$171. Visit www.ctcexams.nesinc.com.
5. Complete a **U.S. Constitution course** (PS 1 at IVC) with a "C" or better or pass an equivalent exam.
6. Complete an **Education Specialist Instruction Credential program in an education specialist area, including student teaching**. Upon completion, obtain a formal recommendation for the credential by program sponsor. Visit www.ctc.ca.gov. Specialty areas include:
 - a. Mild to Moderate Disabilities
 - b. Moderate to Severe Disabilities
 - c. Deaf and Hard of Hearing
 - d. Visual Impairments
 - e. Physical and Health Impairments
 - f. Early Childhood Special Education
 - g. Language and Academic Development
7. Submit **paperwork along with fingerprints** to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC).