

How to Become a Teacher in California

Step 1: First, decide what subject(s) and what level(s) you want to teach

Step 2: Next, choose the appropriate major for your chosen subject(s) and level and earn a BA or BS

Step 3: Then, pass a subject matter competence test (CSET), if required⁺

Step 4: Finally, complete a credential program at an accredited school

Step 1	Elementary school (K-6) - regular education	Elementary school (K-6) - bilingual education	Special education (K-12)	[^] Middle school (7-8) - single subject	[#] High school (9-12) - single subject
	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Step 2	*Major in Liberal Studies	*Major in Liberal Studies	*Major in Liberal Studies	Major in the subject you want to teach with an emphasis in preparing for a credential program	Major in the subject you want to teach with an emphasis in preparing for a credential program
	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Step 3	Pass the multiple subjects CSET	Pass the multiple subjects CSET	Pass the multiple subjects CSET	Pass a single subject CSET (if required) ⁺	Pass a single subject CSET (if required) ⁺
	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Step 4	Complete a multiple subjects teaching credential program	Complete a bilingual (BCLAD) multiple subjects teaching credential program	Complete a special education teaching credential program	Complete a single subject teaching credential program	Complete a single subject teaching credential program

*candidates can proceed to step 3 with any major, but Liberal Studies is the major that is specifically designed to meet the multiple subjects standards

[^]candidates interested in both elementary and middle school should choose Liberal Studies, as it provides multiple options

⁺some single subject major programs are approved subject matter certification programs and waive the CSET requirement – check with your school and major of choice

[#]there is a bilingual (BCLAD) single subject credential option for most single subjects