

Teacher Preparation in California – Elementary Education

Teacher preparation in the state of California is different from many states. The steps below outline what a prospective teacher must do to become certified to teach elementary school in California.

Start here: You're interested in a career in elementary education.

Step 1: Earn a bachelor's degree from an accredited school.



Step 2: Pass a basic skills test for education (CBEST).



Step 3: Pass a subject matter test to establish competence in the content areas (CSET).



Step 4: Complete a post-baccalaureate credential program (includes student teaching).

End here: Congratulations! You're now certified to teach in a public school in California.

***How San Diego State University can help you become a teacher**

- SDSU offers a wide range of bachelor's degree programs, including a major in ***Liberal Studies***, the major designed specifically for elementary education.
- SDSU's ***College of Education*** offers several credential programs, including multiple subjects (for elementary education), bilingual education and special education.

*See reverse for more specific information about SDSU's Liberal Studies program and College of Education.

How SDSU's Liberal Studies Major fits into Teacher Preparation in California

In addition to satisfying the basic requirement of a bachelor's degree, the Liberal Studies major at SDSU provides specific preparation for entry into a credential program in a variety of ways:

Course work that closely matches the California State Standards for elementary ed.

*Liberal Studies is the only major at SDSU approved by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing as a subject matter preparation major; the content covered in the courses closely matches the content that teachers will ultimately teach in the schools as well as the content assessed by the CSET exam.

Course work content areas

Language Arts: courses in literature, composition, structure of English and acquisition of language

Social Science: courses in American history, world history, political science and geography

Math: courses in elementary math, geometry and statistics and probability

Science: courses in life science, earth science, physical science and chemistry

PE/Human Development: courses in psychology, child development and physical education

Excellent preparation for the California subject matter examination (CSET)

*CSET pass rates are typically 85-89% on the first attempt for SDSU Liberal Studies majors; statewide pass rates are typically 65-70%.

Multiple opportunities for field experience built into the course work

*Six classes in six different subject areas in the Liberal Studies curriculum have field experience built into them; students will gain experience through elementary classroom visitations and in-class video presentations.

Multiple advising options

*Both the SDSU Liberal Studies program and the SDSU College of Education have advisors dedicated only to their programs; the two advising staffs work together to ensure a seamless transition between the undergraduate Liberal Studies program and the post-baccalaureate credential program.

Fast track option

* The SDSU Liberal Studies program and the SDSU College of Education now provide a 135 unit fast track Integrated Program that combines the undergraduate Liberal Studies program and the post-baccalaureate credential program, allowing students to earn their credential faster.

SDSU Liberal Studies Program http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/dept/libst/ 619-594-0597	SDSU College of Education http://edweb.sdsu.edu/ 619-594-6091
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See reverse for more information on teacher credentialing in California