

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 interested in **both** elementary and middle school should choose **Liberal Studies**, as it provides multiple options – specifically, with a multiple subjects credential and 32 units of coursework in the single subject area, candidates can be certified for both multiple subjects at the elementary level **and** the single subject at the middle school level (such candidates are advised to choose a **Liberal Studies** specialization in the single subject area they want to teach)

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

⁺ 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