

Reflections on the Credential Program

The following paragraphs were written by a graduate of the SDSU Liberal Studies program towards the end of her experience in the SDSU credential program. Read it to get a sense for what to expect during that program.

When students graduate and enter the credential program, they should know that what lies ahead of them will not be easy. The credential program is more work than I have ever done in my life/undergraduate [education]. It takes a really dedicated, organized, person to be in the credential program, and they must really want to be an educator (a girl in our block dropped out after the first month or so because she realized it wasn't for her).

The real changes are just ahead. There are so many new things to learn. The professors we have are AMAZING! They are our professors for a reason because they are experienced, knowledgeable teachers. I wrote down every single thing they said, and I used every single piece of it inside my classrooms. The work never stops. Nobody should think they could work while they are in the credential program. I know a couple girls did part time, but they were hurting.

From entering the credential program, all your work reflects you as a teacher. You get to be in your own class and get to know your students one-on-one finally! It is so much fun and so exciting to finally be in a classroom. You have to be open to grade-levels; nobody will get their first-choice. If you want Kindergarten or first-grade, you will have a high probability of getting 5th or 6th grade, so you must be open-minded. I went in [thinking] I wanted to teach primary, [but] I actually got Kindergarten because nobody else wanted it, and I LOVED it. I never thought I would like any other grade (upper), but this semester I was in fourth grade, and they grew on me. I would teach fourth-grade in a heartbeat! The kids were great! Whoever is in the position just has to adapt.

Yes, the work is just as hard, if not harder. It is different because there is no studying for finals. (They only thing you have to study for is the RICA). I didn't quite pass the PACT yet (I just turned it in) I put my heart and soul into that PACT (it is nearly 100 pages). I thought it would never end. This is by far the most difficult part of the credential program. [Also] we have many articles to read and several papers to write. The writing is more important/in depth here than the capstone. Everything you are writing is about the classroom you are assigned to. You will know these students and the classroom inside out once you are done.