

Credential Pathways and Requirements

The following table briefly outlines the various pathways for getting a teaching credential in the state of California. Note: this is NOT an exhaustive list; it is a brief summary of the most typical pathways to the common credentials (Multiple Subject, Single Subject, Special Education, and Designated Subjects – CTE). If you are interested in a different type of credential, or a different pathway, please visit the California State Commission on Teacher Credentialing at <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/teach.html>.

Credential	Level of teaching covered by credential	B.A. Degree	Tests/Courses Required beyond B.A. and credential	Postgraduate Requirement	Length of time for completion requirements (approximation)¹
Multiple Subject (these are the requirements for a 5-year Preliminary Credential; for a Clear Credential – see attached information)	teach all subjects in a self-contained classroom, such as the classrooms in most elementary schools, in grades preschool, K–12, or in classes organized primarily for adults (website).	Yes (from an accredited college or university)	-CBEST Test ² - CSET-Multiple Subject + Writing OR -Demonstrate SUBJECT COMPETENCY (through a SUBJECT specific program) AND -RICA (Reading Assessment Test) -Developing Eng. Lang. Skills Class -U.S. Constitution Test OR Class -Complete foundational computer coursework	Complete a Commission-approved Multiple Subject Education Program (see handout).	Approximately 1-2 years; 2 years generally includes a M.A. along with the credential – check with the college/university program.
Single Subject (this is for a 5-year Preliminary Credential; for a Clear Credential – see attached information)	Authorizes the holder to teach the specific subject(s) named on the credential in departmentalized classes, such as those in most middle schools and high schools, in grades preschool, K-12, or in classes organized for adults (website).	Yes (from an accredited college or university)	-CBEST Test - Demonstrate SUBJECT COMPETENCY (through a CSET test or SUBJECT specific program) ³ -Course in Lang. Dev.+ Reading -U.S. Constitution Test OR Class -Complete foundational computer coursework	Complete a Commission-approved Teacher Preparation Education Program (see handout).	Approximately 1-2 years; 2 years generally includes a M.A. along with the credential – check with the college/university program.

¹ This is based on the recommendations of the credential program; this length of time is typically based on full-time status in the credential program. When you apply to credential programs, after your Bachelor's Degree, they will let you know how long the program takes. Programs do vary.

² The CBEST Test may be replaced by the CSU Early Assessment Tests and/or CSU Placement Tests. See CTC-CA website for further information.

³ Check the website <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl560c.pdf> for more information on Subject Competency for a Single Subject Credential

Special Education	Authorizations: Resource rooms, Resource services, Special education, General ed., special schools, etc. Specialty Areas: - Autism Spectrum Disorders -Teaching English Learners -Specialty Areas (see handout).	Yes (from an accredited college or university)	-CBEST Test -CSET- Multiple Subject + Writing OR -Demonstrate SUBJECT COMPETENCY (through the single-subject test or a SUBJECT specific program) AND -RICA (Reading Assessment Test)	Complete a Commission-approved Special Education Program (see handout).	Approximately 1-2 years beyond first credential (or subject matter verification); 2 years generally includes a M.A. along with the credential – check with the college/university program.
Designated Subject Credentials (CTE) – the following Designated Subject Credentials are unique in requirements and do not require post-graduate work (necessarily) ⁴					
Designated Subjects – CTE (Career Technical Education) These requirements are for a 3-year PRELIMINARY credential	Authorizes the holder to teach in the subject or subjects named on the credential in the following: - Grades twelve and below - Classes organized primarily for adults, in career technical, trade or vocation (see courses at www.ctc.ca.gov for specific industry sectors)	No – a high school diploma is required	- Three years of work experience directly related to each industry sector to be named on the credential. (One year equals a minimum of 1000 clock hours and the experience may be full-time or part-time, paid or unpaid) ⁵		Three years are required to move on to a 5-year CLEAR Designated Subjects (CTE Credential)
Designated Subjects – CTE (Career Technical Education) These requirements are for a 5-year CLEAR credential	Authorizes the holder to teach in the subject or subjects named on the credential in the following: - Grades twelve and below - Classes organized primarily for adults, in career technical, trade or vocation (see courses at www.ctc.ca.gov for specific industry sectors)	No – a high school diploma is required	- Possess a valid California Preliminary CTE Teaching Credential (three-year or five-year) - Commission-approved program of personalized preparation including training in SDAIE - Verify completion of <u>one</u> of the following: a. Two years of successful teaching on the basis of the Preliminary CTE Teaching Credential , or b. A Commission-approved program of advanced personalized preparation -U.S. Constitution Test OR Class -Complete foundational computer Coursework		An additional two years beyond the 3-year preliminary Designated Subjects (CTE Credential)

⁴ For a list of available subjects, or *industry sectors*, for a Designated Subjects Credential – CTE, visit https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/leaflets/cl888.pdf?sfvrsn=88065bf8_18

⁵ For more detailed information on a Designated Subjects Credential – CTE, visit https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/leaflets/cl888.pdf?sfvrsn=88065bf8_18 for more detailed information