



Routes to Becoming a Teacher

This guide helps future educators choose the right undergraduate degree and credential pathway based on the grade level or subject they wish to teach. It also explains options like residency programs, ITEPs, and internships that offer financial support or faster routes to earning a teaching credential.

Ideal Undergraduate Degrees for Teaching

To teach Pre-k and lower:

- AA Child Development or Early Childhood Education
- BS Child Development or Early Childhood Education

To teach K-6:

- BA Liberal Studies

To teach 7-12:

- Since pursuing single subject credential student can focus in a specific area ie. BS Mathematics, BA History, BS Chemistry or Biology, BA English
- BS in Agricultural Education—Teacher Preparation

Types of Credentials:

- PK-3 early childhood teaching
- Multiple subject credential – ideal for someone who wants to teach K-8th grade
- Single subject credential – ideal for someone who wants to teach 7-12th grade
- Education Specialist Teaching Credential – Ideal for someone who wants to teach SPED
- Ag Specialist Credential – Ideal for someone who wants to teach HS Ag courses

What is a Residency Program?

- A pathway option for future educators that partners with local school districts and provides participants with financial support for student teaching. In exchange the student will work a minimum number of years in the school district they did their residency in. Stipends range from \$20,000 to \$35,000 depending on which district you choose for your residency.

What is an Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP)?

- This pathway offers students the opportunity to earn their Bachelor of Arts degree and multiple subjects teaching credential in four years! Transfer students can complete their Bachelor of Arts degree and multiple subjects teaching credential in two years!

Students interested in teaching will start taking a limited number of teaching credential classes during their bachelor's degree program in Liberal Studies or Liberal Arts and during the summer terms. This takes at least one year off of the current traditional path allowing graduates to jump into their profession one year early!

What is a Teacher Internship Program?

- An alternative pathway to earning a California Teaching Credential. It is through a partnership between the school district, the University, and potential admitted credential candidates who are on their way to completing one of Fresno state's-approved professional education programs. An "intern" credential allows a teacher credential candidate to become a teacher of record while enrolled in an approved, professional teacher preparation program. Teacher Candidates are responsible for securing their own employment in a public school setting, as the University is not involved in finding internship positions for its students.