

Options for Teaching - Helpful hints for Counselors

Elementary Education

- Please remember that students can get a bachelor's degree in ANY major. In California, there are no bachelor's degrees in "teaching" or "education". When a student says they are majoring in teaching, please explain that teaching is their career goal, not their major, then help them choose an appropriate major.

Secondary Education

- Not all universities have a state-approved SMPP (**subject matter preparation programs**). Typically, more CSU campuses have them than UC and private universities. Encourage students to check the websites and/or contact universities they wish to transfer to, and ask them. Students may need to consult with both the department for their major and also the credential program at the university to find out if they offer a state-approved SMPP.

Special Education

- Please ask students which age group they want to teach. If they want to work in elementary education, they should be given the "Things you need to know if you want to teach Elementary School" handout. If they want to work with highschool students, they should be advised to choose a specific area of study (Math, science and English are recommended) and be given the "Things you need to know if you want to teach high school". The difference will be that they will not go into a Multiple-Subjects or Single-Subject Credential program; instead they will go into an Education Specialist Credential program. Before applying to the credential program, they will need to decide if they want to choose a focus on mild/moderate or moderate/severe students.

Jr. High/Middle School

- When students say they want to teach at this level, they really have options as to which credential they pursue. I ask the student if they want to teach at that level and lower, or that level and higher. If the student says that level or higher, then they should follow the plan towards a Single-Subject credential. If they say lower, then they should follow the plan to get a Multiple-Subjects credential and can add on a "subject matter authorization" in the subject they choose to teach. This will require them to have 32 units of coursework in the subject they want to teach and many of those courses can be done at the community college level.
- *Foundation Level Credentials:* California currently offers two foundational level credentials; one in math and one in general science. The FLM allows students to teach general mathematics, all levels of algebra, geometry, probability and statistics, and consumer mathematics in grades K-12. Calculus and math analysis classes are outside the scope of the authorization. The FLGS teaching areas include physical science, life science, earth science, and general science in grades K-12.

A word about our transfer degrees . . .

For future elementary teachers – currently we have an Early Childhood Education AS-T (which feeds into Child Development programs) and an Elementary Teachers Education AA-T (which currently feeds into Liberal Studies programs). The catalog indicates that the ECE AS-T requires 24 units for the major; however, because one of the required courses for that major has both prerequisite and corequisite requirements, it will actually require a total of 31 units in the major to complete that degree. The Elementary Teachers Education AA-T requires students to complete four science courses with labs, 18 total units in science.