

## Things you need to know if you want to teach high school

To become a secondary education teacher in California you will need to earn a **Single Subject Credential**. Prior to enrolling in a credential program, you will need to complete a bachelor's degree, fulfill your basic skills requirement and demonstrate **subject matter competency**. In other words, you have to demonstrate that you know the subject that you will be teaching. Currently, you have TWO ways of demonstrating this:

- a. By completing the state approved subject matter preparation program (SMPP) in the subject that you want to teach. Typically you would also get a bachelor's degree in that subject. For example, if you wanted to teach English, you could get a Bachelor's degree in English *and* complete an English subject matter preparation program.

OR

- b. By passing the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET) in your specific subject area. For example, if you wanted to teach History, you would need to pass the CSET: Social Science Examination.

You will also need to fulfill your "basic skills requirement". You can do so in one of the following ways:

- Pass the CBEST test **OR**
- Pass the California State University (CSU) Early Assessment Program (EAP) (English **and** Mathematics sections)

Below are some websites for you to get more information about teaching requirements.

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/> This is the website for the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (the organization you will apply to in order to receive your multiple subjects credential).

<http://ed.fullerton.edu/cct> This is CSU Fullerton's website for their Center for Careers in Education. Even if you do not want to transfer to CSUF, it provides a lot of useful information regarding a teaching career.

[http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/about\\_cset.asp](http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/about_cset.asp) This is the site for the CSET test. It includes practice questions and registration information.

[http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/about\\_CBEST.asp](http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/about_CBEST.asp) This is the site for the CBEST test. It includes practice questions and registration information.

Keep in mind that while you are preparing to become a teacher, you also need to meet the transfer requirements for the four-year university you to which you plan on transferring, as well as complete the general education requirements and lower-division courses for your major.