

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER PATHWAY

Cuesta College

The Elementary School Teacher Pathway is for students interested in becoming an elementary school teacher. This Pathway will enhance your knowledge in the fields that you'll be teaching; educate and train you to become an effective teacher; provide real-world, hands on learning in the classroom with mentor teachers; equip you with the knowledge and skills to succeed in college and allow you to grow as a teacher and a professional.

Elementary School Teachers (normally grades K-6) teach many subjects in a self-contained classroom; therefore, a **Multiple Subject Credential** is required to teach at Elementary schools. Cuesta College students will follow this pathway to help them earn the Multiple Subject Credential and become an Elementary School Teacher:

Pathway Steps

1. Complete: [AA-T in Elementary Teacher Education, Sample 2 Year Plan](#)
2. Satisfy the [basic skills requirement](#). There are many ways to meet the basic skills requirement, which include earning qualifying scores on the CBEST, CSU EAP/ELM/EPT, SAT, ACT, or AP Exams. If you take the [CBEST](#), do it right after you've completed transferable math and English.
3. Complete: [BA in Liberal Studies](#)
4. Verify Subject Matter Competence
 - a. May be met by completing your Liberal Studies degree at a university that has a [Commission-Approved Elementary Subject Matter Prep Program](#)
 - b. Pass the California Subject Exam for Teachers (CSET): [Multiple Subject Exam](#)
5. Complete a [Multiple Subject Teacher Preparation Program](#)

Apply for Your Preliminary Teaching Credential and Become a California Teacher!

Typically, Cuesta College students will complete the AA-T in Elementary Teacher Education, then a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies or similar major, and finally, a Multiple Subject Credential program. **Another possible route to the Multiple Subject Credential is to earn an ADT, then a BA/BS degree in a single subject, pass all parts of the CSET Multiple Subject Exam, then complete a Credential program.** If you plan to teach Art, Physical Education, or Music at the elementary school level, usually you would major in that subject and pursue a single subject credential.

AA-T in Elementary Teacher Education



By completing the AA-T in Elementary Teacher Education you will finish all of your lower-division major and general education requirements, as well as, 2 of your credential requirements (an American Government and foundational computer course). In addition, you will be guaranteed admission to a "similar" major (typically Liberal Studies) at a CSU campus and that you will only complete 60 additional units after transfer to complete your BA degree. You'll also take the EDUC 200 Intro to the Teaching Profession class which will examine topics related to teaching diverse learners in today's schools and provide the opportunity to observe and participate in a local public school setting.

BA in Liberal Studies

- i** A BA in Liberal Studies is the most direct route to prepare for a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential program.
- Liberal Studies is available at 22 of the 23 CSU campuses (not Maritime Academy). Currently 9 (and counting) CSU campuses offer a Liberal Studies major that will serve as a subject matter preparation program and meet multiple subject area competency (so you don't have to take the CSET!). Cal Poly SLO's Liberal Studies major has applied to meet multiple subject area competency. We'll keep you posted.
 - 19 of the 22 CSU campuses accept Cuesta's AA-T in Elementary Teacher Education as sufficient transfer preparation. 3 impacted CSU campuses may require that a small amount of additional coursework be completed prior to transfer (see your counselor about that).
 - UC Riverside offers a Liberal Studies major and UC Irvine an Educational Sciences major; For major preparation, students should follow articulation agreements on www.assist.org. Students transferring to a UC (other than UCR and UCI) will choose a different major. History, Sociology, Psychology and Communications are all popular majors at the UC for future elementary teachers. Complete as much preparation for that major as possible, and usually follow IGETC.

If you complete a BA/BS degree that isn't an approved multiple subject matter competency program then you'll take and pass the CSET Multiple Subject Exam before you enter a Teacher Preparation Program.

Multiple Subject Teacher Preparation Program

- i** A **Multiple Subject Teacher Preparation Program** will include coursework in areas such as teaching methodologies, curriculum development, and classroom management. It will also include student teaching in a local school classroom under the supervision of an experienced teacher and will help to develop the skills needed for teaching in a classroom.
- Multiple Subject Teacher Preparation Programs may offer different options that include: 1) an Integrated BA in Liberal Studies-Multiple Subject Credential that shares aspects of the two programs and may be faster to complete; 2) a Joint Masters-Multiple Subject Credential option so you can earn both; or 3) a traditional stand-alone Multiple Subject Credential Program.
 - During the Teacher Preparation Program, usually after you've completed a Teaching Literacy course, you'll take the Reading Instruction Competency Assessment (RICA).
 - The other requirements for your Preliminary Teaching Credential are embedded in the AA-T, BA and Teacher Prep programs you'll complete.
 - Upon completion of your Teacher Prep Program the California college or university will submit a formal recommendation to the CTC and you will complete the application process for your Preliminary Multiple Subject Teaching Credential!

If you'd like more information or have questions about the Elementary School Teacher Pathway, the AA-T in Elementary Teacher Education, or the transfer process to your Liberal Studies major, contact the Counseling Department 805-546-3138(SLO) or 805-591-6241(NCC).