

Pathways to a Career in Teaching

Teaching Level	Undergraduate Preparation	Post-B.A. Preparation
Preschool (Pre-K)		
Assoc Teacher	VVC Level I Cert (22 units)	n/a
Teacher	VVC Level II Cert (45 units)	n/a
Supervisor	VVC Level III Cert (60 units)	n/a
Public School		
Elementary (K-6)	BA, typically in Liberal Studies	Multiple Subject Credential
Middle or High School	BA in the subject to be taught	Single Subject Credential
Special Education (incl. Speech Pathology)	BA as for K-6 or HS	Educational Specialist Credential
Adult Ed (GED, ESL, etc)	BA or BVE	Designated Subjects Credential
Counseling	BA	MA, PPS
School Psychology	BA	MA, PPS
School Social Work	BA	MA, PPS
Community College		
	Major in the teaching subject	MA (minimum)
University		
	Major in the teaching subject	PhD or other Doctoral degree

Note: This applies to careers in California. Requirements may vary in other states.

Degree Progression: AA → BA → MA → PhD. Continue as high as needed for your career objective.

Explanation of Terms:

BA – Bachelor of Arts degree. Could also be Bachelor of Science (BS) or other.

BVE – Bachelor of Vocational Education. The BVE gives credit for prior occupational experience.

Cert - Certificate – VVC (and other community colleges) offers a certificate program in these areas.

CBEST – California Basic Educational Skills Test – all credential candidates must pass this test.

CSET – California Subject Exam for Teachers – tests specific subject matter competency.

Designated Subjects Credential – allows teaching specific subjects to adults, or vocational education to youths or adults.

Doctoral degree – PhD, EdD, PsyD, or whatever the terminal degree is in a given field.

Educational Specialist Credential – allows teaching of students with disabilities in specific areas of specialization.

MA – Master of Arts degree. Could also be Master of Science (MS) or other.

Multiple Subject Credential – allows teaching in a self-contained classroom (usually K-6).

PPS - Pupil Personnel Services credential – allows the practice of counseling or school psychology

Single Subject Credential – allows teaching a specific subject, usually to grades 6-12.