# Pathways to a Career in Teaching

## Teaching Level | Undergraduate Preparation | Post-B.A. Preparation
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**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.