



How to Become a Teacher in California

1. What setting do you want to teach in?

- a. **Elementary School**- Individuals who want to teach in elementary school must earn a *Multiple Subject Teaching Credential*. Click [HERE](#) to see the various routes to earn the Multiple Subject Teaching Credential.
- b. **High School**- Individuals who want to teach in high school must earn a *Single Subject Teaching Credential*. Click [HERE](#) to see the various routes to earn the Single Subject Teaching Credential.
- c. **Special Education**- Individual who want to teach special education must earn an *Education Specialist Instruction Credential*. Click [HERE](#) to see the various routes to earn the Education Specialist Instruction Credential.

2. What is my transfer Major? No matter what setting you want to teach in (elementary, high school, special ed), you will need your bachelor's degree to apply to a credential program, there are some exceptions if you attend a university that offers a bachelor's degree with an *integrated credential track* (most commonly offered for those seeking a multiple subject credential).

- a. If you want to teach at an elementary school, including special education, you should look for degrees in Liberal Studies, Liberal Arts, Education, Elementary Education, Elementary Teaching, etc.
- b. If you want to teach at a high school, including special education, you should seek a degree in the *subject matter* that you wish to teach. For instance, if you want to teach Biology at the High School level, pursuing your bachelor's in biology would be ideal.

3. What universities offer my Major? The short answer is lots and lots. Here are some online tools to help you get started with your search. You can also schedule an appointment with the Transfer & Career Center or a Counselor for assistance finding the right university for YOU:

- a. **California State University (CSU)**. There are 23 CSU campuses in California that offer a vast array of online and on-campus programs. Start searching for your major by clicking the link below:
 - i. [CSU Degree Search](#)
- b. **University of California (UC)**. There are 9 UC campuses in California that offer a vast array of mainly on-campus programs. Start searching for your major by clicking the link below:
 - i. [UC Campus Majors](#)
- c. **Association of Independent California Colleges & Universities (AICCU)**. There are 85, independent, nonprofit colleges and universities in California that offer a vast array of online and on campus programs. Start searching for your major by clicking on the link below for university details.
 - i. [AICCU Institutions](#)

4. Obtaining your Teaching Credential. Remember in most cases you will need to obtain your bachelor's degree prior to applying to a credential program (reread Step 2 above for clarification). If you want to plan ahead, you can search for *CA Commission-approved institutions* offering California preparation programs by clicking [HERE](#)!

5. **Looking to teach in the elementary school setting and need a 100% online program?**

- a. Click [HERE](#) to see a list of universities that meet your criteria (this is not an inclusive list many more programs exist, but this short list can help you get started in your search).



It is highly recommended that you book an appointment with the Transfer & Career Center and attend as many workshops as possible. You can contact the Transfer & Career Center by emailing transfer@barstow.edu or click [HERE](#) to watch a short video on how to schedule an appointment with the Transfer & Career Center through College Central Network.

You should also meet with you Counselor consistently to establish career/educational goals and to stay on track with completing your certificate and/or degree. You can schedule an appointment with a counselor by logging into your Viking Portal and clicking “Schedule a Counseling Appointment”; select “Transfer” as the appointment reason or click [HERE](#) to watch a short video on How to Schedule a Counseling Appointment.

- **Attend Information Sessions** for the schools and/or programs you are interested in. You can visit the school website or email the school, department, or representative/advisor to see when there will be an information session.
- **Gather Important Information** such as cost per unit, length of program, and estimated total cost of completing the entire program. Use this information to compare universities and make your decision as to which universities you want to apply to. It is recommended that you apply to 3-4 universities.
- **Check for Application Fee Waivers** by inquiring with university advisors/representatives. Almost all universities have an application fee waiver process, especially for low-income students. In addition, the [CSU](#) and [UC](#) admissions applications has the fee waiver criteria built into the application in order to make it an automated process.
- **Stay Organized** by keeping all the information you collect in an easily accessible place such as a Word document or bookmark important websites on your computer.
- **Don't Miss a Deadline** or you might live to regret it! Keep track of the application deadlines for each school. The CSU's and UC's Fall applications are from October-November. Spring Applications are between May-August.