

ORANGE COAST COLLEGE

TRANSFER CURRICULUM GUIDE TEACHING

LOWER DIVISION MAJOR REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSFER

The information contained in this guide is based on the most recent information available from four-year schools and does not constitute an official agreement.

Students wishing to teach in the public schools in California need to obtain the appropriate credential. The current law provides for a two-step program for the basic teaching credential.

The **Preliminary Credential (Level 1)** allows you to teach in the public schools and is issued when you have met minimum requirements including:

- A. A bachelor's or higher degree in any subject except professional education.
- B. A passing score on the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST)
- C. A program of professional preparation (education classes and student teaching).
- D. Completion of subject matter preparation (a major) and passing of a subject matter examination in the area in which you want to teach*
- E. A course (POL SC 180) or a test on the U.S. constitution.
- F. A certificate of clearance issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. This is a fingerprint check to determine that you are clear of a criminal conviction.
- G. A Reading Instructional Competency Assessment (RICA) exam for elementary and special education.

*The California State Board of Education mandated that elementary teachers will need to verify subject matter competence through passage of a "rigorous test", in order to meet the requirements of the federal "No Child Left Behind" legislation. In California, new teachers are required to take and pass the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET) upon completion of their program. The test has three parts: Part I - Reading, Language and Literature, History and Social Sciences; Part II - Science and Mathematics; Part III Physical Education, Human Development, Visual and Performing Arts. Completion of a subject matter preparation in Liberal Studies is one of the best ways for prospective elementary school teachers to prepare for and to pass the CSET.

The **Professional Credential (Level 2)** is granted when you have completed additional requirements beyond the bachelor's degree.

TYPES OF TEACHING CREDENTIALS

1. Basic Teaching Credentials:
 - A. Multiple Subjects Credential: designed primarily for elementary school teaching. It authorizes the holder to teach all subjects in a self-contained classroom.
 - B. Single Subject Credential: designed primarily for junior and senior high school teaching. It authorizes the holder to teach within a specific subject category. Single subject credentials are offered in: agriculture, art, business, English, government, health science, history, home economics, industrial arts, languages, life science, mathematics, music, physical education, physical science and social science.
2. Bilingual Credential: students seeking basic teaching credentials can include a bilingual emphasis in their programs candidates in bilingual programs are provided with teaching methods and techniques enabling them to deliver instruction in two languages.
3. Specialist Credential: The specialist credential authorizes teaching in a specialization area at any grade level. In order to qualify for a specialist credential, the applicant must have a valid basic teaching credential and complete an approved specialized program of professional preparation. The specialized program is a graduate program that can be used to meet the fifth year of study required for the clear credential. There are seven specialist credential categories: early childhood, bilingual/cross-cultural, mathematics, reading, agriculture, health science, special education.

ADMISSION INTO CREDENTIAL PROGRAMS

When you transfer from OCC to a four-year college, you must apply for admission into a major (usually Liberal Studies for the Multiple Subjects Credential or the subject that you want to teach for the Single Subject Credential). Each college has its own criteria for admission into its credential program. Traditionally, application to the credential program is done during your junior or senior year at the four-year college. Most will request the completion of the requirements listed below prior to admission into the credential program.

1. Passing score on the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST). This test should be taken prior to transfer.
2. Certificate of Clearance issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentials. This is a fingerprint and background check to determine that you are clear of a criminal conviction.
3. Relevant paid or unpaid work experience such as athletic coach, recreation supervisor, playground supervisor, tutor, teacher's assistant or summer camp staff. You can gain relevant experience while at OCC by taking Education 102, Education 200 or Human Development 180 and 190.
4. An acceptable GPA (usually in the vicinity of 2.75 or above).
5. Letters of reference.
6. Statement of goals.
7. Personal interview.

WHAT SHOULD I MAJOR IN?

If you want to teach in **elementary school** and are planning to transfer to a CSU campus, you should major in Elementary [Teacher Education Associate in Arts for Transfer](#). Completion of the Elementary Teacher Education degree will provide a streamlined pathway for transfer to a CSU campus with a Liberal Studies or similar major. Completion of a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies prepares students to apply to approved teacher education programs leading to a credential to teach in elementary, self-contained classrooms.

If you want to teach in **elementary school** and you are planning to transfer to a UC campus (other than Riverside) you will need to select an academic major other than Liberal Studies. UCR is the only UC campus that offers a Liberal Studies major. In addition to your major you should complete course work in liberal arts (including English, science, social science and humanities) in order to prepare for the CSET.

The Liberal Studies major is also available at several independent colleges and universities throughout the state. If you want to teach in **junior or senior high school**, you will need to major in the subject that you want to teach.

ITEP

The Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP) is a program offered at Cal State Long beach. Students in this program will earn their Bachelor of Arts degree and California Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential at the same time by taking courses designed for future elementary school teachers. It requires completion of fewer units than traditional teacher education programs and can be completed in less time. Students will have the opportunity to participate in learning communities with their peers and college faculty and gain real classroom experience. For more information about this program contact the CSULB Department of Liberal Studies at (562) 985-4228.

STEP

The Streamlined Teacher Education Program (STEP) is a program offered at Cal State Fullerton designed for students to earn their Bachelor's degree and Multiple Subject Credential in a reduced number of units. The STEP program is integrated with the Liberal Studies major at Cal State Fullerton. Students who transfer from Orange Coast College are required to complete a very specific course pattern with a grade of "C" or better in courses that meet prerequisites for the core courses for the major. An overall GPA of 2.50 prior to transfer from Orange Coast College is also required. For information on these courses please log on to www.assist.org or call the Center for Careers in Teaching at Cal State Fullerton at (657) 278- 7130 or (657) 278 1780 CSUF-Irvine Campus.