

How to Become a K-12 Teacher in California

Who can teach a K-12 class in California?

- College graduates with bachelor degree (US or foreign degrees)
- Pass the CBEST
- Pass the CSET
- Complete a teaching credential course
- In possession of a teaching credential granted by Commission on Teacher Credentialing

Institutes that evaluate foreign degrees and certificates:

- [Academic and Professional International Evaluation, Inc.](#)
- [Academic Credentials Evaluation Institute](#)
- [American Education Research Corporation](#)
- [International Education Research Foundation, Inc.](#)
- [Educational Records Evaluation Services](#)
- [World Education Services, Inc.](#)

Who must take the CBEST?

- Applicants applying for a teaching credential or administrative credential
- Credentialed holders who have not taught in the previous 39 months
- Applicants applying for enrollment in a teaching credential course

What is the CBEST?

- The CBEST (California Basic Educational Skills Test) is the first step in the credentialing process. Website: <http://www.cbest.nesinc.com>
- Three sections:
 - Reading
 - Answer 50 multiple-choice questions
 - Math
 - Answer 50 multiple-choice questions
 - Writing - Two essays
 - (1) Personal Experience Essay
 - (2) Argumentative or Compare and Contrast Essay
- Full score for each section: 80
- Total score to pass: $41 \times 3 = 123$
- Marginal pass score: 37
- Regular paper-based CBEST tests: six tests conducted annually in California
 - Test dates: August, October, December, February, April, and June
- Computer-based CBEST tests
 - Test dates: Different times and locations throughout the United States

What is the CSET?

- The CSET (California Subject Examination for Teachers) is the second step in the credentialing process. Website: <http://www.cset.nesinc.com>
- A subject matter competence test for all K-12 teachers in all subjects.
- Three subtests in each subject.
- Test dates: January, March, May, July, September, and November
- For CSET-Mandarin: May and November of each year

What is a credential program?

- Completing a Credential Program is the third and last step in the credentialing process
- Offered through School of Education at any California State University or private universities. Check individual website for details.
- Make an appointment with a Credential Advisor at each campus.
- Bring your diploma(s) and school transcripts to be evaluated.

How to apply for a preliminary teaching credential?

- Completing the following:
 - CBEST
 - CSET
 - Credential Program
- Apply online at www.ctc.ca.gov