



COMMISSION ON  
TEACHER CREDENTIALING  
*Ensuring Educator Excellence*

# DO YOU WANT TO TEACH IN CALIFORNIA?

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION



California's state Legislature has made it clear that we need more teachers for science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) and career technical education (CTE) courses. In fact, changes in California law encourage individuals to pursue a teaching career in these areas by opening up alternative, innovative routes to teacher credentialing. Now you can earn your teaching credential through a program offered by a school district, county office of education, a community-based organization or a nongovernmental organization - in addition to a university. This is a new process and we hope to see more and more programs joining in over time.

Interested in becoming a teacher of STEM or CTE? Here's some information to help you begin.



## What Type of Credential Will You Need?

California offers credentials for teaching academic subjects such as math and science. These are called Single Subject Teaching Credentials. There are also credentials for workforce preparation called Designated Subjects Career Technical Education Credentials.

Sometimes the credential you'll need is an obvious match.

- Math or science Single Subject Teaching Credentials are essential for teaching those academic subjects. For these credentials, in addition to your teacher preparation program, you'll need to demonstrate your knowledge of the subject. Sometimes your degree in the subject will suffice. If not, you can take a few more courses or pass California's subject exam.
- Designated Subjects Career Technical Education Credentials are often the best match for teaching courses such as Engineering and Design Drafting or Information Technology. For these credentials, you'll need to show that you have work experience in the specific trade, career technical or vocational field, and then complete your teacher preparation program while you teach.

**NOTE:** For the subject areas of engineering and technology, there is teacher assignment flexibility depending on the specific content of the course. For example, a high school engineering course may be more focused on drafting and design or it may be more physics based. A technology course may focus on computer technology or on mathematics-based computer programming. The education agency responsible for hiring will determine when a Single Subject Credential is appropriate or if a Designated Subjects Career Technical Education Credential is a better fit.

You might want to talk with local employers before deciding which type of credential you decide to earn.



## What Style of Credential Program Works Best For You?

California's credentialing system allows programs to provide teacher preparation instruction in a variety of ways. Here are a few examples.



### Single Subject Mathematics and Science Credentials

- **Intern Model:**\* Candidates receive some initial instruction before becoming teachers responsible for their own classrooms. Over the next one to two years, they continue to take courses and receive supervision and support from the program.
- **Early Completion Intern Model:**\* Candidates can bypass the program courses by taking and passing the Teaching Foundations Examination.

*\*Interns may only be placed when a suitable, credentialed teacher cannot be found.*

- **Student Teaching Model:** Candidates complete a series of courses and field experiences up front before student teaching at a school site. Student teachers are given increasing responsibility in the classroom under the direction of a supervising teacher.
- **Residency Model:** Candidates spend part of their time working at a school site under the direction of a supervising teacher and part of their time taking courses directly related to the school experiences.



## Designated Subjects Career Technical Education Credentials

Credential candidates receive an initial credential based on a high school diploma and three years of work experience in their subject field. After an orientation, candidates may teach while they take specialized courses in CTE teaching methods.

All credential programs can provide courses and support activities online.

### Want to Know More?

Below are links to credential information - including where you can find the right program for you.

#### Single Subject Credentials

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl560c.pdf>

#### Designated Subjects Career Technical Education

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl888.pdf>

### Are You Changing Careers?

Contact EnCorps. The EnCorps Teachers Program is a nonprofit that represents an innovative public-private partnership dedicated to increasing the number of math and science teachers in California's public middle and high schools. EnCorps helps math and science professionals transition into teaching in low income schools throughout California. For more information, please visit their website:

<http://www.encorpsteachers.com/>