

College of Education

Teaching Credentials
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SACRAMENTO STATE

Application Instructions: Early Childhood Special Education Credential

INSTRUCTIONS: Applying for the Early Childhood Special Education Credential Program

Please Read all instructions carefully and thoroughly BEFORE completing the application via [Cal State Apply](#). Applicants must submit ALL of the documents described below by the deadline to be considered for admission to the Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Credential program. NOTE: Applicants will be contacted for a MANDATORY interview after the application has closed; please check your email (and junk mail) regularly.

Application Process:

Questions:

See below for additional information.

Documents:

- A. Field Experience
- B. Academic Record
- C. Essay
- D. Certificate of Clearance
- E. Unofficial Transcripts
- F. *Optional: Bilingual Authorization*

Recommendations:

Submit two references: one from a person who has observed the applicant's academic competence (current or former instructor) and the other from a person who has observed the applicant working with children or youth.

NOTE: References from family members will not be accepted.

Priority Deadline:

March 1, 2025

Final Deadline:

April 15, 2025

Questions

Confirm Program

You will be asked to confirm you are applying to the ECSE Credential Program.

Pathway Options

You will be asked which pathway you are applying to. Please review the pathway options below.

1-year Resident Pathway (SMTR Scholarship)

The 1-year Resident pathway, summer + 2 semesters, with the SMTR program offers a scholarship up to \$20,500 in funds over the course of the program, \$100 for testing fees, and tuition covered for the program, and upon graduation, a guaranteed job in one of the 10 partner school districts. Over the course of the 1-year program, Residents complete the credential program coursework in the evenings and Fridays each semester while also working closely with their two assigned SMTR Mentors during sustained and rigorous fieldwork in an SMTR partner school district site, attending SMTR-specific trainings that cultivate their relationship, and engaging in experiences that make teaching and inclusive practices explicit. Note that membership in the SMTR program requires that you NOT serve as paraprofessional, teacher of record on a STSP, PIP, or Intern credential at any point during the program (however, you may work on non-fieldwork days). Additionally, upon acceptance of the scholarship and completion of the program, Residents commit to work for at least 4 years in the partner districts and have the option to continue with their MASET. See the [SMTR website](#) for more information.

1-year Pathway - Hybrid Modality

The 1-year pathway, summer + two semesters (without the SMSTR scholarship), is for candidates interested in earning their preliminary teaching credential program in a more intense year with high number of courses and fieldwork days each semester. Candidates' complete fieldwork during the day at a school site under the support of an assigned mentor and university supervisor while taking lecture-based courses in the evenings and Fridays during the day each semester. Candidates cannot work on fieldwork days or Fridays with class meetings. The benefits of the 1-year pathway are candidates are ready to teach after one year, the ability to focus just on developing their skills as a teacher without the stress of working, and an additional smaller community in some courses each semester with 1-year candidates.

2-year Pathway

The 2-year pathway, fall start, is for those candidates who are interested in taking less courses at a time with all courses offered in the evening. Candidates complete fieldwork during the day at a school site under the support of a mentor and university supervisor while taking lecture-based courses in the evening each semester. Candidates may choose to not work and be placed by the Field Coordinator or may have their place of employment approved by the Field Coordinator as they are working or plan to work as a paraprofessional or emergency permit teacher in the credential aligned with the education specialist program. The benefits of the 2-year pathway are taking less coursework at a time, potentially earning a salary with benefits as a paraprofessional or emergency permit teacher, and the option to apply to be an intern in the second year of the program. (if you need to be hired as an intern in your first semester, you can request approval and begin in the summer with 2 courses). See our website for more information: www.csus.edu/education/sped.

Native Language

What is your native language?

Other Language Fluency

If you are fluent in any other language, please indicate.

Bilingual Authorization

Are you interested in pursuing a bilingual authorization in Spanish or Hmong? If you answer yes on Cal State Apply, you will need to complete section F of the Documents tab.

Documents

A. **FIELD EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT: EXPERIENCES RELATED TO WORKING WITH CHILDREN OR YOUTH:**

A minimum of 45 hours' experience with the age group you plan to teach. ****Highly recommend 45 hours (volunteer or paid) experience in diverse K-12 public school classrooms with the age group you plan to teach.**** Other experiences could include: tutoring, fieldwork with children/youth for college classes (e.g., EDUC 100A/B, EDUC 170, CHAD 35F, etc.), Peace Corps, camp counseling, recreation programs, coaching, church school teaching, etc. DO include any virtual experiences obtained during covid.

Responses will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Recency: How recently has your experience been gained?
- Settings: Has the experience been gained in diverse public school classrooms and/or a variety of other settings with culturally, linguistically, and socio-economically diverse populations?
- Target age group: What proportion of the experience targets the relevant age group?
- Supervision: Has the verifiable experience been gained under supervision?

SUBMISSION: Complete the [Field Experience Template linked here](#), save and upload it in the *Program Materials* Quadrant in Cal State Apply. Use the column format (in the template) to list experiences. Include school site/setting, age group/student population/diversity, activities/responsibilities, and supervisor's/teacher's name. Indicate if the hours were done virtually.

B. **ACADEMIC RECORD - PRE-REQUISITE CREDENTIAL COURSES:**

Complete the [Pre-Requisite Verification Form linked here](#). Pre-requisite credential courses must be completed prior to starting the program. If the pre-requisite courses are not completed by the end of the spring semester prior to beginning in the fall, summer school will be required.

- CHAD 30
- EDUC 170
- EDUC 100A/B

[List of Approved Pre-Requisite Course Equivalencies](#)

If you believe you have completed equivalent pre-requisite coursework that is NOT listed at the link above, you must submit the [Course Equivalency Request for Teaching Credential Pre-requisite Courses](#) form and full course syllabi for review – include description of readings, assignments, student outcomes, etc.

SUBMISSION: Complete the attached [Pre-Requisite Verification Form linked here](#) and upload it in Cal State Apply.

C. **ESSAY:**

The Teaching Credentials Branch mission statement is: *The Teaching Credentials Branch prepares socially just teachers and teacher leaders to be agents of change, committed to equity and inclusion in culturally and linguistically diverse schools and communities.*

Essay Prompt: Upload a two-page, double-spaced word-processed essay in which you discuss a current, critical issue in teaching/education in Title I schools and communities with children and adolescents with disabilities, English Learners, and ethnic diversity and the relationship of this issue to your motivation to become a socially just educator and/or provider.

SUBMISSION: Upload essay as described above.

D. CERTIFICATE OF CLEARANCE (COC):

ALL applicants must submit verification of having been **issued** a valid clearance by the CA Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) **before they will be allowed to officially start** the credential program (this is a state law).

- *Applicants who have already been issued* a clearance/permit/credential must submit a copy of the document from the [CTC website](#) showing the issuance and expiration date of a valid CA 30-day emergency permit, a valid CA Child Development Associate/Center permit, a valid CA credential, or a valid Certificate of Clearance.
- *Applicants who have NOT previously been issued* a CTC Certificate of Clearance must complete the TWO STEP PROCESS of [having fingerprints taken](#) AND [applying for the Certificate of Clearance](#). Submit proof of BOTH STEPS as part of the application process. Combine both into one file.
 - Fill out the CTC-specific [Form 41-LS](#) and get fingerprinted (click this link to learn where and how to get fingerprinted). Submit a copy of the completed Live Scan fingerprinting form, **AND**
 - [Apply online](#) for the Certificate of Clearance; select Educator Login to begin. Submit a copy of the 'Payment Receipt' page from the on-line COC application.
- Please click here for [DETAILED Certificate of Clearance Instructions](#), including samples of the documentation that is required in this application.

SUBMISSION: Upload verification as described above.

If applying for the COC, please note: If you have **any felony or misdemeanor convictions**, refer to the CTC website at www.ctc.ca.gov and click on the blue "Educator Misconduct" tab at the very top of the page, and then scroll down to the link for Self-Reported Misconduct – Applications. Review the information for "Applicant Disclosure – Online Applications." Complete and submit the "DPP Document Submission Form," along with ALL other required documents (i.e., police reports, certified court records, and miscellaneous documents), to the Division of Professional Practices at CTC for review. **The processing of your clearance application WILL BE DELAYED (possibly six months or longer) while it is being reviewed by the CTC and you cannot begin a credential program until the COC is issued.**

E. Unofficial Transcripts:

Please download and combine unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended. Include transcripts from ALL community colleges attended and colleges where credit was earned as a high school student.

SUBMISSION: Submit **one set** of ALL unofficial transcripts.

F. OPTIONAL OTHER: Bilingual Authorization in Spanish or Hmong

Do you speak, read and write Spanish or Hmong? If so, you can earn a bilingual authorization and teach in bilingual programs!

The Bilingual Authorization can be added to the Single Subject, Multiple Subject or Education Specialist Credentials and requires”

3 Unit Course on the Culture of Emphasis

There are a variety of courses at Sac State and other institutions that could count for this. Make an appointment with Dr. Figueroa-Ramirez (figueroaramirez@csus.edu) to review your transcripts.

Bilingual Methods Course:

EDUC 175 (Spanish) OR EDUC 172 (Hmong) – Can be completed before or during the credential program.

A Language Assessment:

This will be conducted in EDUC 175 or EDUC 172.

20 Hours of Observation in bilingual programs and field experience or teaching in the target language.

SUBMISSION: Complete the [Bilingual Authorization Template](#) and upload it in *Program Materials-Documents* section of Cal State Apply.

Recommendations

REFERENCE FORMS (CONFIDENTIAL):

You will be asked to submit email contact information for two references. If possible, one reference should be from a person who has observed you working with the age group you intend to teach. If possible, the other reference should be from an instructor (current or former) or someone who can attest to your academic competence. We realize it is not always possible to obtain references from these exact categories of individuals. These should be professional references rather than personal ones. **No references from relatives will be accepted.**
