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:
  o Reading
    ▪ Answer 50 multiple-choice questions
  o Math
    ▪ Answer 50 multiple-choice questions
  o 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 x 3 = 123
• Marginal pass score: 37
• Regular paper–based CBEST tests: six tests conducted annually in California
  o Test dates: August, October, December, February, April, and June
• Computer-based CBEST tests
  o 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](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](http://www.ctc.ca.gov)