

EDUCATION SPECIALIST(SPECIAL ED) TEACHER PATHWAY

Cuesta College

The [Education Specialist Instruction Credential](#) authorizes the holder to provide instructional services in their chosen Specialty Area(s): Mild/Moderate Disabilities, Moderate/Severe Disabilities, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Visual Impairments, Physical and Health Impairments, Early Childhood Special Education, and Language and Academic Development, Autism Spectrum Disorders is included in all specialty areas. You'll be able to conduct educational assessments, provide instruction and special education support to individuals in the following settings: Resource rooms/services; special schools; general education, special education and home/hospital settings.

Education Specialist in Elementary Schools

i Cuesta College students that would like to teach Special Ed at Pre-K or Elementary schools will follow the academic preparation for Elementary School Teachers then earn the Education Specialist Instruction Credential (not the Multiple Subject):

1. Complete: [AA-T in Elementary Teacher Education, Sample 2 Year Plan](#)
2. Satisfy the [basic skills requirement](#). There are many ways to meet the basic skills requirement, which include earning qualifying scores on the CBEST, CSU EAP/ELM/EPT, SAT, ACT, or AP Exams. If you take the [CBEST](#), do it right after you've completed transferable math and English.
3. Complete: [BA in Liberal Studies](#)
4. Verify Subject Matter Competence
 - a. May be met by completing your Liberal Studies degree at a university that has a [Commission-Approved Elementary Subject Matter Prep Program](#)
 - b. Pass the California Subject Exam for Teachers (CSET): [Multiple Subject Exam](#)
5. Complete an [Education Specialist Instruction Credential Program](#)

Apply for Your Preliminary Teaching Credential and Become a California Teacher!

Education Specialist in Middle/High Schools

i For teaching Special Ed at middle or high schools complete the academic preparation in either a multiple (above) or single subject, then the Education Specialist Instruction Credential (instead of the multiple or single subject):

1. Complete: [AA-T/AS-T in your major](#)
2. Satisfy the [basic skills requirement](#). There are many ways to meet the basic skills requirement, which include earning qualifying scores on the CBEST, CSU EAP/ELM/EPT, SAT, ACT, or AP Exams. If you take the [CBEST](#), do it right after you've completed transferable math and English.
3. Complete: [BA/BS in your major](#)

4. *Verify Subject Matter Competence*
 - a. *May be met by completing a BA/BS degree in your major at a university that has a [Commission-Approved Subject Matter Prep Program](#)*
 - b. *Pass the California Subject Exam for Teachers (CSET): [Single Subject Exam](#)*
5. *Complete an [Education Specialist Instruction Credential Program](#)*

Apply for Your Preliminary Teaching Credential and Become a Prime Time Teacher!

Specialty Areas

i 22 CSU, 3 UC, and 30 Independent college/universities in California offer at least one of the Specialty Areas for the [Education Specialist Instruction Credential](#). Most programs offer between 1 and 3 specialty areas, so a student will look for a program that has the specialty area(s) they want.

- *Mild/Moderate Disabilities (M/M)*
Includes specific learning disabilities; mild to moderate intellectual disabilities; other health impairments; serious emotional disturbance; and authorizes service in grades K–12 and in classes organized primarily for adults through age 22.
- *Moderate/Severe Disabilities (M/S)*
Includes autism; deaf-blindness; moderate to severe intellectual disabilities; multiple disabilities; serious emotional disturbance; and authorizes service in grades K–12 and in classes organized primarily for adults through age 22.
- *Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH)*
Includes deafness; hearing impairment; deaf-blindness; and authorizes service to individuals ages birth through 22.
- *Visual Impairments (VI)*
Includes blindness; visual impairment; deaf-blindness; and authorizes service to individuals ages birth through 22.
- *Physical and Health Impairments (PHI)*
Includes orthopedic impairment; other health impairment; multiple disabilities; traumatic brain injury; and authorizes service to individuals ages birth through 22.
- *Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)*
Includes the mild/moderate and moderate/severe disabilities listed above and traumatic brain injury; authorizes service to children ages birth to pre-kindergarten only.
- *Language and Academic Development (LAD)*
Authorizes the holder to provide instructional services to students with academic communication and language needs to children in preschool, kindergarten, in grades 1 - 12 through age 22, and classes organized primarily for adults, but does not take the place of speech and language services as defined in Education Code section 56333

If you'd like more information or have questions about the Special Education Teacher Pathway, the AA-T in Elementary Teacher Education or AA-T/AS-T in your major, or the university transfer process, please contact the Counseling Department 805-546-3138(SLO) or 805-591-6241(NCC).