

EDUCATION AND TEACHER CREDENTIAL PROGRAMS

Teaching is often described as the essential profession, the one that makes all other professions possible. If you want to help others learn and make a significant contribution to our society, teaching fills that bill. The business community and our elected officials recognize the importance of education to a vital California economy. As an undergraduate taking courses in education, you will gain fundamental knowledge that will prepare you to enter teaching programs as well as careers related to education in government, business and industry.

Start thinking now about a career in education. Consider UC Davis for earning your bachelor's degree and graduate level teaching credential. Our program size is small and our quality is high — something to keep in mind when choosing a credential program. In addition, UC Davis job placement for our new teachers remains consistently high.

In addition, undergraduate courses and the minor in education provide you with a foundation for understanding critical issues in schooling as a citizen and a professional. It can also lead to graduate studies in educational policy and research.

WHY STUDY EDUCATION AS AN UNDERGRADUATE?

Earning a minor in education gives you valuable insights in educational and learning issues and theory, the kind of knowledge that will benefit any student wishing to earn a teaching credential or obtain a master's or doctoral degree in education. If you wish to enter a profession that focuses on working with people, leads to employment in a governmental or an industrial training programs or achieves a better understanding of the issues of public and private education, then a minor in education is valuable.

WHAT KINDS OF CLASSES CAN I TAKE IN THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION?

School of Education courses cover a wide range of topics such as philosophical concepts of education, current issues in the public schools, history of education, language acquisition for English learners, cultural diversity in education, counseling, the learning process, psychological aspects of education, and the socio-cultural context of education. Many of the courses also provide opportunities for practical field experience and pre-program credential work.

WHAT IS A TEACHER CREDENTIAL PROGRAM?

A credential program is best described as a one-year program involving student teaching and university coursework. It provides needed experience, knowledge and understanding to teach well. If you want to teach in California or elsewhere, you will need to earn a credential from an approved program. Before starting the intensive credential program year, taking courses in your major will provide the discipline knowledge you need for teaching. Use elective opportunities in your majors to enroll in courses that will provide internship experiences in K-12 classrooms. These pre-program activities are aimed at making your credential year successful.

WHICH CREDENTIALS CAN I GET AT UC DAVIS?

On the Davis campus, you can earn an elementary credential either in the regular elementary program or with a bilingual emphasis (Spanish). Secondary credentials are available in agriculture, English, science, mathematics, social studies and Spanish. The teaching credential can now be combined with a master's degree as well. The combined master's/credential program can be completed during five academic quarters.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO THE UC DAVIS CREDENTIAL PROGRAMS?

While you are working toward your undergraduate degree, the best preparation will be experience working with children. A second criterion for admission to credential programs is at least a "B" average in college work. In addition to a solid GPA and experience with children, it is also helpful to have had as many of the UC Davis "pre-program requirements" as you can before admission to a program. A list of these requirements can be obtained from the School of Education Student Services Office. Inability to meet all of the requirements will not prevent your acceptance, but it could delay receipt of your credential.

HOW CAN I USE MY TRANSFER COURSES TO HELP ME PREPARE FOR TEACHING?

Community college is an ideal place to begin meeting the requirements for teaching. You should be able to take courses that fulfill your majors requirements and also meet the program's lower-division prerequisites. If you are interested in teaching in a bilingual classroom, you should also work on your language proficiency. Careful planning with a community college adviser and a UC Davis counselor will allow these two years to be very productive.

WHAT SORT OF SPECIAL PROGRAMS DOES UC DAVIS HAVE FOR TEACHER PREPARATION?

All elementary and secondary teacher preparation programs are now combined with a master's degree, allowing students to earn a graduate degree with only two additional quarters of coursework. We also offer a Bilingual Emphasis Credential Program: California teachers educate the most ethnically and linguistically diverse populations in the country, while providing all students with equitable and effective schooling. We designed our teacher preparation to provide future teachers with the experiences and theoretical perspectives necessary to function as effective practitioners in culturally and linguistically diverse settings. An optional bilingual (Spanish) emphasis credential program, obtained in combination with the basic credential, is offered.

HOW SOON SHOULD I COME IN FOR ADVISING?

Soon after you arrive on campus, talk with an academic peer adviser in the School of Education. It is best to do so no later than the fall quarter of your junior year if you are interested in a credential or graduate degree, earlier if you wish to complete the minor. You can visit the Student Services office Monday through Friday between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to pick up informational handouts, meet with a peer adviser, determine faculty office hours, make an advising appointment or just become acquainted with our staff.

WHEN SHOULD I APPLY?

The fall quarter of your senior year in college is a good time to begin applying to UC Davis credential programs. Contact the School of Education Student Services Office if you have any questions about the application process.

WHAT ABOUT POTENTIAL FUNDING TO ASSIST ME IN GETTING A CREDENTIAL?

While preparing to teach, students may receive financial assistance from several sources including standard grants and loans, or grant or loan fellowship monies that are paid off by the government in return for teaching commitments in under served areas. To find out more about these 'loan forgiveness' programs, please contact the School of Education Student Services Office.

RECOMMENDED COLLEGE PREPARATION FOR TEACHING CREDENTIAL

If you are interested in teaching at the elementary school level, any major is acceptable. The most popular majors are English, sociology, psychology and human development. Students majoring in genetics, art, biology, math and science have also received their credential. If you desire a single-subject (secondary) credential, choose a major in the field or fields in which you wish to teach. Other pre-program requirements, such as upper-division education courses, can count toward a minor in education and/or toward college breadth requirements.

WHAT IF I WANT TO DO GRADUATE WORK IN EDUCATION, BUT DON'T WANT A TEACHING CREDENTIAL?

The School of Education offers opportunities to earn three types of advanced degrees that do not include a teaching credential.

1. The master of arts program in education offers a general track and a practicing teachers track. Both of these degrees offer three areas of emphasis: psychological studies, socio-cultural studies and instructional studies (mathematics, language and literacy, and science).
2. The Ph.D. in education is a multidisciplinary program with the following emphases: science, agriculture and mathematics; learning and mind sciences; school organization and educational policy; and language, literacy and culture.
3. The Ed.D. program in educational leadership is offered jointly with Sonoma State and designed to transform working professionals into educational leaders.

QUESTIONS?

School of Education, Student Services and Advising Office, 2054 Academic Surge, University of California, Davis, California 95616 (530) 752-5887, education.ucdavis.edu, eduadvising@ucdavis.edu.

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