

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. Job possibilities are on the upswing. 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 have fundamental knowledge that will prepare you to enter teacher preparation programs as well as careers related to education in government, business and industry.

Start thinking now about a career in teaching. Consider UC Davis for earning your bachelor's degree and 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.

WHY STUDY EDUCATION AS AN UNDERGRADUATE?

Earning a minor in education gives you valuable insights in educational and learning 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 work with people, seek employment in a governmental or an industrial training program or achieve 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 areas such as philosophical concepts of education, current issues in the public schools, history of education, counseling, the learning process, psychological aspects of education, opportunities for practical field experience, pre-program credential coursework, the psychology of reading and the socio-cultural context of education.

WHAT IS A TEACHER CREDENTIAL PROGRAM?

A credential program is best described as a one-year program involving student teaching and university coursework aimed at providing you with the experience, knowledge and understanding needed 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 year of credential preparation, you will be taking content courses in your major including human growth and development coursework, and having school-based experiences. All of these pre-program activities are aimed at making your credential year as productive as possible.

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 the areas of agriculture, English, science, mathematics, social studies and Spanish.

The teaching credential is now combined with a master's degree as well. The combined master's/credential program can be completed in 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 complete 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. Non-completion 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 major requirements and also meet the program prerequisites necessary for teaching. If you are interested in teaching in a bilingual classroom, you should also work on your language proficiency. Careful planning with a community college 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 the 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. They face the challenge of teaching 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 10 a.m.-5 p.m. to pick up informational handouts, check peer adviser and faculty office hours, make an advising appointment or just get acquainted.

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. And when you receive your grades for that quarter, you can turn in your completed application and make arrangements for your personal interview.

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. We expect that more funds will be available as the need for new teachers increases, especially the need for math, science, and bilingual education teachers and teachers from under-represented backgrounds.

RECOMMENDED COLLEGE PREPARATION FOR TEACHING CREDENTIAL

If you have not already chosen a major we have some suggestions. If you are interested in teaching at the elementary school level then any major is acceptable. The most popular majors are English, sociology, psychology and human development but we've also had genetics, art, biology, math and science majors.

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 focus on a teaching credential.

1. The master of arts in education degree program has three specializations: psychological studies, socio-cultural studies and instructional studies (mathematics, language and literacy, and science).
2. The Ph.D. in education is a multidisciplinary program. Emphasis areas are: science and mathematics education; psychological studies; school organization and educational policy; language, literacy & culture.
3. The school has an Ed.D. program in educational leadership offered jointly with Sonoma State.

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.