



Elementary School Teacher Pathway



Information

Rio Hondo College students who are interested in becoming an Elementary School Teacher in California must obtain a bachelor's degree and a [Multiple Subject Teaching Credential](#).

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How long will it take to become an Elementary School Teacher?

There are 2 different pathways at this time.

TRADITIONAL PATHWAY

Rio Hondo College

- 2 years as a full-time student - however this may vary from student to student
- Work on general education, major, and transfer requirements (please connect with a counselor to create a student ed plan)
- Apply for Transfer! (please connect with a counselor to confirm your transfer date)
 - Fall Transfer: Apply 1 year before in the Fall
 - Spring Transfer: Apply the Summer before in July/August



Transfer to 4-Year University to obtain your Bachelor's Degree

- 2 years as a full-time student - however this may vary from student to student
- Apply for a teacher preparation program 1 year before your last semester



Attend and complete a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential Program

- Programs can be 1-2 years

INTEGRATED PATHWAY

Rio Hondo College

- 2 years as a full-time student - however this may vary from student to student
- Work on general education, major, and transfer requirements (please connect with a counselor to create a student ed plan)
- Apply for Transfer! (please connect with a counselor to confirm your transfer date)
 - Fall Transfer: Apply 1 year before in the Fall
 - Spring Transfer: Apply the Summer before in July/August



Transfer to a 4-Year University to obtain your combined Bachelor's Degree + Credential through an Integrated Undergraduate Teacher Credentialing Program

- 2-3 years as a full-time student - however this may vary from student to student
- Once done with your program, you will graduate with BOTH your bachelor's degree & multiple subject credential

What major should I choose if I want to become an Elementary School Teacher?

You can major in anything you want - no specific bachelor's degree is required! 😊

However, some majors we highly recommend to complete at Rio Hondo College are: [Elementary Teacher Education AA-T](#), [Early Childhood Education AS-T](#), or [Child Development](#). For transfer, we recommend transferring into Liberal Studies or Child Development bachelors degree program.

Please connect with a counselor for help on major selection.

Meet with a Counselor !!

It is very important that you meet with a counselor so we can best assist you in major selection and transfer exploration for a Bachelor's Degree program and/or Integrated Undergraduate Teacher Credentialing Program.

Education Counselors: Angelica Martinez, Irene Vu, & Emily Ramazzini

Multiple Subject Teaching Credential Information (Specific to California)

The Multiple Subject Teaching Credential authorizes the holder to teach all subjects in a self-contained classroom - meaning that one teacher teaches all subjects to the same students all day.

Can I teach English Learners (ESL)?

- YES! As long as you go through an approved Multiple Subject Preliminary Teacher Preparation Program in California.

CBEST

- As of June 2024, the Basic Skills Requirement for the Multiple Subject Credential will be met by completion of a bachelor's degree.

Multiple Subject Teaching Credential Requirements (Specific to California)

1. **A bachelor's degree or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university.**
2. **Verify Subject Matter Competency (This can be satisfied by any of the following per the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC)):**
 - a. Completion of a [bachelor's degree in an approved major](#) that can satisfy the subject matter requirements.
 - b. Completion of an undergraduate Subject Matter Program (SMPP) approved by the commission. To search for Commission-Approved Subject Matter Preparation Program, go [here](#).
 - c. Pass all three subtests of the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET) - Multiple Subjects. The cost of the CSET varies and is \$99 per subtest if taken separately or \$247 for all subtests taken together. For more information, visit www.ctcexams.nesinc.com.
 - d. Completion of coursework at one or more regionally accredited institutions of higher education that addresses each of the domains of the subject matter requirements.
 - e. *Note: Students can do a combination of the methods described in sections (c) and (d) in whole or to meet the subject matter requirements.*
3. **Complete a U.S. Constitution course:** You can complete this at Rio Hondo College ahead of time and it also counts as a General Education (GE) course! *POLS 110 - Government of the United States*
4. **Complete a Teacher Preparation Program.** Complete an approved multiple subject teacher preparation program by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).
5. Obtain a **formal recommendation for the credential** by the program.

For more information on the Multiple Subject Teaching Credential requirements, visit

[https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/multiple-subject-teaching-credential-\(cl-561c\)](https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/multiple-subject-teaching-credential-(cl-561c))

For more information on Subject Matter Requirements, visit <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/subject-matter-requirements>

Bilingual Authorization

The [Bilingual Authorization](#) allows teachers to support and teach students who do not speak English as their first language. This means you would be able to teach in the following approved languages as long as you obtain the Bilingual Authorization for that specific language: Spanish, Filipino, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, Japanese, Arabic, Armenian, Farsi, French, German, Hebrew, Hmong, Khmer, Punjabi, or Russian.

There are many programs out there and usually you can just add the Bilingual Authorization program/courses to the credential program you are completing if your university offers it in the language you are seeking.

Local Bachelor Degree Programs & Multiple Subject Credential Programs

To see local Bachelor & Multiple Subject Credential Programs, please go to our [Teacher Preparation Pathways website](#) and click on the Elementary School Teacher box.

However, please connect with a counselor to help you on your future teacher journey!