

Elementary School Teacher Pathway



RÍO HONDO COLLEGE

Río 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**.

How long will it take to become an elementary school teacher?

There are two different pathways at this time:

TRADITIONAL PATHWAY

INTEGRATED PATHWAY

Río Hondo College

- Two years as a full-time Río Hondo 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 education plan)
- Apply for Transfer! (please connect with a counselor to confirm your transfer date):
 - Fall Transfer – Apply one year before, in the fall
 - Spring Transfer – Apply the summer before, in July/August

Transfer to four-year university to obtain your bachelor's degree

- Two years as a full-time student—however, this may vary by student
- Apply for a teacher preparation program one year before your last semester

Transfer to a university to obtain your combined bachelor's degree + credential through an Integrated Undergraduate Teacher Credentialing program

- Two to three years as a full-time student; timing may vary by student
- Once you complete your program, you will graduate with **BOTH** your bachelor's degree and multiple subject credential

Attend and complete a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential Program

- Programs typically take one to two years to complete

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 Río 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 bachelor's 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 and Emily Ramazzini

Click or scan the QR code to view the clickable handout online on our Teacher Preparation Pathways website:

gorio.page/teacher-pathways



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 California 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 to [gorio.page/cta-smpp](#).
 - 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 Río Hondo College ahead of time and it also counts as a General Education (GE) course! POLS C1000/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 [gorio.page/cta-credential-reqs](#).

For more information on Subject Matter Requirements, visit [gorio.page/cta-subject-reqs](#).

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 and Multiple Subject Credential Programs, please go to our Teacher Preparation Pathways website at [gorio.page/teacher-pathways](#) and click on the Elementary School Teacher box. In addition, please connect with a counselor to help you on your future teacher journey!