

Middle/High School Teacher Pathway



RÍO HONDO
COLLEGE

Río Hondo College students who are interested in becoming a **middle school or high school teacher** in California must obtain a **bachelor's degree** and a [Single Subject Teaching Credential](#).

How long will it take to become a middle school or high 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

Attend and complete a Single Subject Teaching Credential Program

- Programs typically take one to two years to complete

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 single subject credential

What major should I choose if I want to become a middle school or high school teacher?

You can major in anything you want—no specific bachelor's degree is required. However, it is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** that you choose a **major aligned with the subject you wish to teach**.

For example, if you want to teach English, we suggest majoring in English. This will ensure you're thoroughly knowledgeable in the subject you're teaching. Additionally, getting a bachelor's degree in the major that matches the single subject credential can help you fulfill a credential requirement. [Click here](#) to see all of degree programs offered at Río Hondo College.

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



Single Subject Teaching Credential Information (Specific to California)

The Single Subject Teaching Credential authorizes the holder to teach in departmentalized classes on the subject named on the credential. Subjects available for single subject credentials:

- Agriculture
- Art
- Business
- Dance
- English
- Foundational-Level General Science
- Foundational-Level Mathematics
- Health Science
- Home Economics
- Industrial and Technology Education
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education
- Science: Biological Sciences
- Science: Chemistry
- Science: Geosciences
- Science: Physics
- Social Science
- Theater
- World Language: English Language Development
- World Languages: Languages other than English

Can I teach English Learners (ESL)?

Yes! As long as you go through an approved single subject preliminary teacher preparation program in California.

CBEST

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

Single 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 a major](#) that matches the credential, including "Applied" majors or those with additional modifiers.
 - i. Applied Majors Examples: Applied Mathematics, Applied Physics
 - ii. Modifiers Examples: Biology: Environmental Biology; Art: Art History; and Physical Education: Kinesiology
 - 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 the appropriate California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET) to establish subject matter competency. The cost of the CSET varies by examination. For more information, visit www.ctcexams.nesinc.com.
 - d. Completion of coursework at one or more regionally accredited institutions of higher education that aligns with each domain of the specific 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 single subject teacher preparation program by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).
5. Obtain a formal recommendation for the credential by the program.

[Click here](#) for more information on the Single Subject Teaching Credential requirements. [Click here](#) for more information on 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 & Single Subject Credential Programs

To see local bachelor and Single Subject Credential Programs, please go to our [Teacher Preparation Pathways website](#) and click on the Middle/High School Teacher box. In addition, please connect with a counselor to help you on your future teacher journey!