

Steps to Becoming a Math Teacher

Step #1

Decide if teaching is for you; volunteer, substitute teach, or visit a math class at your local middle or high school.

Step #2

Verify that you meet basic skills and subject-matter requirements through the mathematics department of your local university. Take any necessary courses or exams.

Step #3

Create a career plan based on the type of credential that is best for you, according to your education level and teaching interests.

Step #4

Enroll in a Commission-approved teacher preparation program that meets your specific degree, credential, and lifestyle requirements.

Step #5

Locate sources of financial aid such as federal grants, scholarships, loans, and campus-based programs.

Step #6

Find a teaching job and launch your career!

Teach California Can Help!

The TEACH California Web site provides a wealth of information and resources to help you with each step of the process. You can also register in the Career Plan section of the site to build an individualized plan and track your progress.

Begin your journey toward a rewarding career today!

Visit TEACH California at www.teachcalifornia.org.



Make the **difference**
of a lifetime.
Teach.

www.teachcalifornia.org

The screenshot shows the TEACH California website interface. At the top, there are navigation links: 'The 6 Steps', 'Who Are You?', 'Teacher Selection', 'Career Plan', 'Learn More', and 'About Us'. Below this is a banner for 'Teach Math!' with the text 'There's a huge need for Math teachers. Learn More!'. The main heading reads 'Make the difference of a lifetime. Teach.' Below this are four icons representing different resources: 'Six Steps to Become a Teacher!', 'Make and Follow Your Career Plan', 'Find the Right Teacher Preparation Program', and 'Find Financial Aid'. A central image shows a teacher and students in a classroom. Below this is a section titled 'Understand the Requirements for Becoming a Teacher in California'. At the bottom, there are three smaller boxes: 'News' with a link to 'Long Beach City College', 'Find a Teaching Job!', and 'Have Questions? Check out our Virtual Advisor and FAQ's'. The footer contains copyright information: '© 2019 TEACH California - Administered by the California Department of Education, Special Education Division' and links for 'Web Policy', 'Site Index', and 'Contact Us'.

This brochure and other teacher recruitment materials may be downloaded for free. Log on to www.teachcalifornia.org, select **Learn More**, then **Recruitment Materials**.

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Teach Math

A guide to becoming a
Mathematics Teacher
in California



California Needs Math Teachers

Over the next decade California will need an estimated 33,000 math and science teachers to take on the challenging yet rewarding job of teaching our state's youth. Despite significant demand, fewer people are entering these fields, leading to an acute shortage. This suggests strong career prospects for math teachers.

The Common Core math standards require that students build deep conceptual understanding, develop flexible, accurate computation skills, and apply logic and reasoning to challenging problems. Math teachers must have in-depth knowledge of both content and instruction in order to help students to develop as confident problem solvers and critical thinkers. By engaging in real-world, complex applications of math, teachers can help students build the communication, collaboration, and creativity skills required for a 21st century, global economy.

California needs qualified mathematics teachers who can provide students with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to be competitive in our highly technical society. If you are ready for a challenging and rewarding career, take the next step — TEACH!

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a credential?

A teaching credential is a license to teach in public schools from kindergarten through grade twelve. The credential is granted after an individual completes all the requirements and a teacher preparation program recommends him or her to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), the state teacher licensing agency. Individuals with out-of-state teaching credentials, teaching experience at regionally accredited private schools, or National Board Certification may apply directly for a credential from the CTC.

Why do I need to get a credential if I already have years of math experience?

Teaching is a profession that requires knowledge beyond subject matter. Although many prospective teachers are confident in their math abilities, successful teaching also requires an understanding of instructional methods. These skills and others are taught in teacher preparation programs.



What is the purpose of a teacher preparation program?

Teacher preparation programs focus on learning how to teach. They are designed to develop the skills necessary for successful classroom teaching and include coursework in instructional methods, curriculum development, and classroom management. These programs also help teacher candidates meet licensure requirements. The Commission provides information on what entities are approved to offer which types of teacher preparation programs. Please visit the Approved Programs Dashboard at www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/reports/data/app-approved-program. You can filter your selections to show only programs that prepare science teachers and which institutions offer the program through an intern model (the candidate is employed as a teacher of record while completing teacher preparation).

What is subject-matter competency?

Subject-matter competence is knowledge of what is taught. This requirement is met either by completing specific examinations or by completing specific preparation programs in the academic subject area at a California college or university.

Do I need a degree in mathematics to teach this subject?

While a mathematics degree is not required, you must be able to demonstrate subject-matter competency, or in-depth knowledge of what you will be teaching. This generally requires advanced coursework in a subject area. However, you may also show competency by passing the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET) in Foundational-Level Mathematics or Mathematics.

Is there just one type of mathematics credential?

There are two types of mathematics credentials. Holders of a Single Subject Credential in Foundational-Level Mathematics may teach general math, algebra, geometry, consumer math, and probability and statistics. Holders of a Single Subject Credential in Mathematics can teach any mathematics course. Additionally, there are a number of authorizations for the teaching of mathematics one can add to an existing California teaching credential.

Are there exam requirements for becoming a mathematics teacher?

There are no specific exam requirements for teaching mathematics; however, the basic skills and subject matter competency requirements can be fulfilled by successfully passing the CSET exams.

What is a blended teacher preparation program?

The blended or integrated program is designed for individuals without a bachelor's degree. The programs often begin in the junior year and may be completed in five semesters. The curriculum sequence "blends" mathematics and education courses, as well as student teaching experiences and seminars.

I need to work while fulfilling the requirements for a credential. Is there a program that will work for me?

Alternative certification or intern programs target individuals who have related work experiences and subject matter preparation or are seeking a career change and have to work. These programs are structured so that the student teaches during the day (and gets paid for teaching) while taking classes at night, on weekends, or during school breaks.

