

Special Education (Education Specialist) Teacher Preparation Programs at Sonoma State University

This information sheet is for Sonoma State University undergraduate students who wish to become special education teachers. In California, individuals who wish to become special education teachers earn an Education Specialist Credential. The credential certifies that the teacher is specially prepared to teach students with special education needs. This credential authorizes holders to teach at the elementary, middle school or high school level.

What major should you choose if you want to be a special education teacher?

At Sonoma State University, there are three options for choosing a major that will prepare a student for the Special Education teacher education program. They are as follows:

Multiple Subjects Content Area Majors

This is the recommended option for students who want to become special education teachers at the elementary school level.

Students who complete a Multiple Subjects content area major will receive:

- a. Subject Matter Preparation for the CSET: Multiple Subjects

OR

Single Subject Content Area Majors

This is the recommended option for students who want to become special education teachers at the secondary school level.

Students who complete a Single Subject content area major will receive:

- a. Subject Matter Preparation in the major subject

OR

Related Majors

This is an option for students who want to become special education teachers at the elementary or secondary school level.

Students who complete a related major will need to demonstrate subject matter competence by preparing and passing a CSET Multiple or Single Subject Exam.

Why should you choose one of the first two options?

The State of California requires that anyone pursuing a teaching credential meet “subject matter competence”. This means that you must demonstrate that you know the subject area(s) that you will be teaching. When pursuing an Education Specialist Teaching Credential, you must meet subject matter competence by EITHER completing a subject matter preparation program in a single subject content area major OR taking and passing the appropriate subject matter examination in either Multiple Subjects or a Single Subject content area. Completing a major in either option mentioned above will provide you with subject matter preparation. All students completing a Multiple Subjects content area major must take and pass the CSET: Multiple Subjects exams prior to entering a teacher credentialing program. Students completing a Single Subject content area major have the option of completing a subject matter preparation program and being waived out of the CSET in a Single Subject area OR taking the CSET exam in a Single Subject area.

Why choose the third option?

The field of special education involves working with a diverse group of students and many related majors will prepare you for working with the social, emotional, physical and/or academic needs of special education students. While not explicitly addressing the “subject matter competency” requirement, the related foundational knowledge you acquire in these related majors will support your work as a special education teacher. Related majors include, but are not limited to: human development, psychology, kinesiology, sociology, criminal justice, nursing, and linguistics.

Which is the better option for you?

The option that works best for you depends on the age group and the students with whom you want to work. If you want to work with elementary school aged children, it might be best to choose a major from the Multiple Subjects content area list of majors. If you want to work with middle school or high school aged students, it might be best to choose a major from the Single Subject content area list of majors. If you are uncertain, or want to work with a specific disability group, choose a major that will best support this work (e.g., students with emotional disturbance: psychology; students with orthopedic impairments: kinesiology). Below you will find a list of majors and appropriate advisors for the first two options. Contact these advisors for specific requirements. **If you choose the third option, (a related major) you must meet with an advisor from the specific major department and also prepare to take the appropriate subject matter examination(s). These advisors are not listed below. We suggest that you also meet with an advisor from the Special Education (Educational Specialist) program.**

Multiple Subjects (Elementary) Content Area Majors:

Major	Advisor(s)
<u>American Multicultural Studies (AMCS)</u>	Christina Baker, Nichols 210, 707-664-2928, <u>christina.baker@sonoma.edu</u> ,
<u>Chicano and Latino Studies (CALS)</u>	Patricia Kim-Rajal, <u>kimrajal@sonoma.edu</u> , 707-664-3294 Ronald Lopez, <u>ronald.lopez@sonoma.edu</u> , 707-664-3039
<u>Hutchins School of Liberal Studies</u>	Donna Garbesi Carson 44, 707-664-2492 <u>donna.garbesi@sonoma.edu</u>

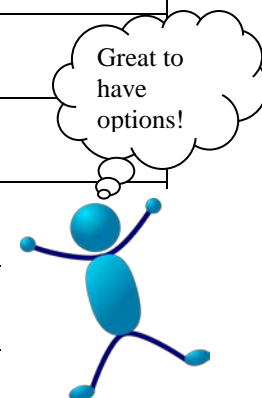
Single Subject (Secondary) Content Area Majors:

Major	Advisor(s)
English	Catherine Kroll Nichols 346, 707-664-2966 <u>kroll@sonoma.edu</u> Josefa Pace Nichols 334, 707-664-2504 <u>josefa.pace@sonoma.edu</u>
Mathematics	Ben Ford Darwin 114G, 707-664-2472 <u>ben.ford@sonoma.edu</u>
Kinesiology**	Kelly Estrada Stevenson 1078, 707-664-3176 <u>estradak@sonoma.edu</u>
Music	Andy Collinsworth GMC 2063, 707-664-4154 <u>andy.collinsworth@sonoma.edu</u>
Social Sciences*	Steve Estes Stevenson 2070D, 707-664-2424 <u>steve.estes@sonoma.edu</u>
Art*	Stephen Galloway Art 128, 707-664-3046 <u>stephen.galloway@sonoma.edu</u>
Foreign Language (Spanish, French, or German)*	Robert Train Stevenson 1032, 707-664-2014 <u>robert.train@sonoma.edu</u>
Science* (Biology, Chemistry, Geology or Physics)	Ed Lyon Stevenson 3023, 707-664-3002 <u>lyone@sonoma.edu</u>

*not approved subject matter preparation programs

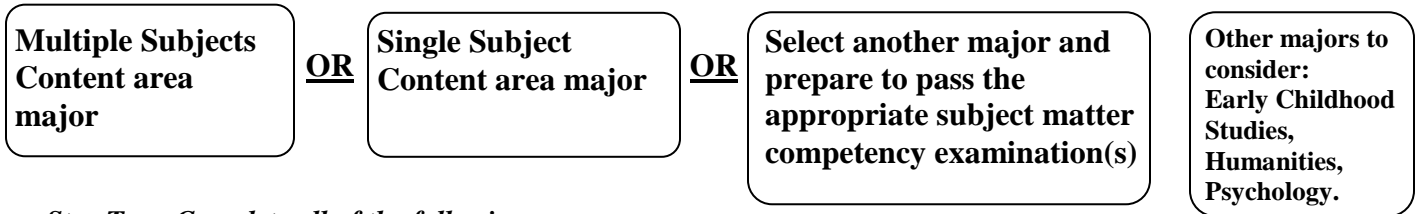
**waiver program discontinued

Note: While these options are recommended, in order to get your credential any major will do!

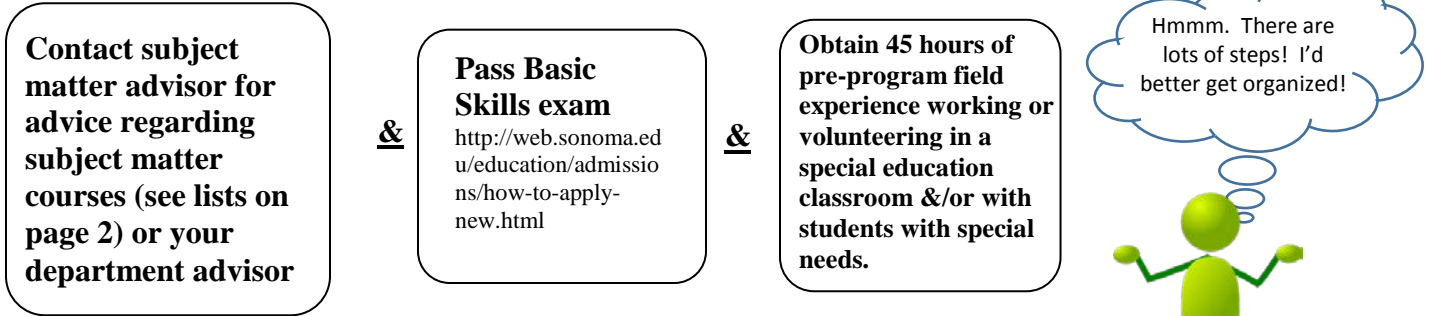


Follow the steps listed here if you are interested in obtaining a Preliminary Education Specialist Credential:

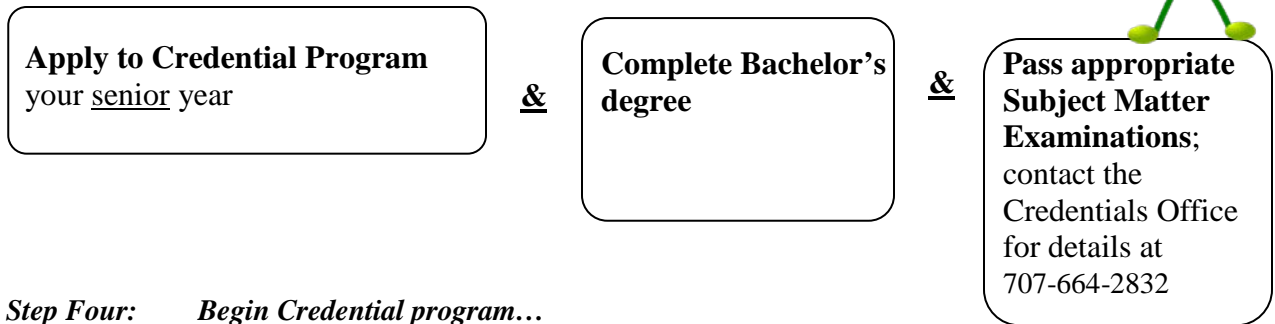
Step One: Make a choice between:



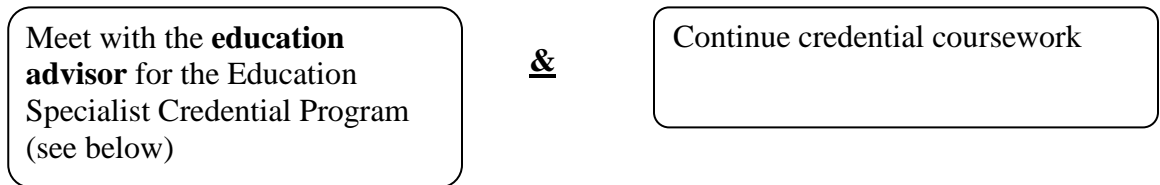
Step Two: Complete all of the following:



Step Three:



Step Four: Begin Credential program...



School of Education, Education Specialist Program Advisor

At the beginning of the credential program, or for help choosing a major, contact the program advisor:

Credential Program	Advisor	Office	Phone	Email
Preliminary Education Specialist	Elizabeth Ducy	STEV 3004D	707-664-4051	ducy@sonoma.edu

School of Education Credentials Office

For information on applying to the credential program, please contact the Credentials Office, Stevenson 1078, 707-664-2832 or visit www.sonoma.edu/education.