



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM

IS THE BLENDED PROGRAM AT CSUS RIGHT FOR ME?

CSU Sacramento offers the Blended Elementary Teacher Education Program (BETEP) in Liberal Studies/Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, which leads to a BA in Liberal Studies and a multiple subject teaching credential, allowing you to teach in a K-8 classroom. This two-phase program, approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), can be completed in four and a half years, if followed precisely. In brief, the blended program combines the courses that prepare you in the subjects you will teach in elementary school (the liberal studies major) with the courses that teach you how to teach (the credential courses). You will also have multiple experiences in area schools to help you link the course work with the practice of teaching. With effective planning, undergraduates begin the pre-professional phase of the program in the freshman year and can become eligible to apply for the professional phase by the end of the sophomore year. During the pre-professional phase, the program is designed to provide some knowledge about teaching and some experience in schools that will introduce you to the career of teaching. During the professional phase of the program, your schedule is closely prescribed. You will be part of a cohort of 25 – 30 students, all of whom will be taking a core of courses together at designated times. The blended curriculum is designed so that some of your Liberal Studies subject matter courses are combined with and connected to teacher credential course work.

Important information to help you decide if BETEP is right for you:

- In order to pursue BETEP you **must transfer to CSUS in the spring semester** having completed the entirety of the lower division blended courses. You will complete one pre-professional semester in the spring and apply for the professional phase of BETEP (by the first Monday in March). If admitted, the professional phase of BETEP (where Liberal Studies and credential courses are taken simultaneously) begins in the fall semester. If you are unable to transfer in the spring semester, you will complete the traditional Liberal Studies major and obtain your credential separately.
- Once you transfer you will attend CSUS full-time (15-17 units per semester). Your first semester at CSUS is a pre-professional semester (entitled the “4th” semester) where you may create your own schedule based on the required courses. During your first professional phase semester (entitled the “5th” semester), your schedule will be planned for you - you must be available to attend school Monday – Friday from 7:30am into the evening. If you are unable to do this, you will complete the traditional Liberal Studies major and obtain your credential separately.
- Once you get to CSUS, you should expect to complete multiple courses with field experiences required. This isn't a surprise because one expects to have field experiences when enrolled in a credential program!
- Because you are attending school full-time M-F and must participate in field experiences each semester, it is extremely difficult to hold down any kind of job. For this reason if you are working full-time or are a student athlete, you will complete the traditional Liberal Studies major and obtain your credential separately.
- Once you transfer, you will spend 6 semesters at CSUS. You'll receive your BA in Liberal Studies during your 5th semester at CSUS (entitled the “8th” semester) and your credential in your 6th semester (entitled the “9th” semester).
- BETEP provides its participants with a Level 1 multiple subject credential valid in grades K-8. If you wish to obtain a special education credential or a multiple subject credential with bilingual-multicultural emphasis, you will complete the traditional Liberal Studies major and obtain your credential separately.

Before you get to CSUS:

- As soon as you begin considering BETEP, work closely with both your community college counselor and the BETEP liaison. Schedule an appointment with a CSUS Liberal Studies advisor, as well! Don't wait, it's never too early.

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- CSUS has recently initiated enrollment caps therefore you'll need to apply EARLY! Find out the dates from the CSUS/community college outreach liaison on your campus in order to comply with all deadlines. You'll apply to CSUS as a Liberal Studies major and during your first semester at CSUS you will formally apply to BETEP.
- You are required to attend New Student Orientation during the fall semester before you transfer to CSUS (usually held in November). You will receive an invitation from the Orientation Program in October.
- You will take the IAD (intermediate algebra diagnostic) at New Student Orientation. For further information on the IAD please visit <http://www.csus.edu/math/testing/diagnostic.htm>. You may purchase the Math Diagnostic Tests-Descriptions, Sample Tests, Study Guides and Selected Solutions to IAD at the CSUS Bookstore or on-line at <http://www.foundation.csus.edu/bookstore/> (click on textbooks then test review and reference manuals).

CSUS Admission requirements:

- To transfer to CSUS as a Liberal Studies major (you will not be a BETEP major until the following semester), you need a 2.0 GPA*, 56 transferable units and GE areas A1, A2, A3 and B4. A1, A2, A3 and B4 must be taken at least 2 semesters before you transfer. If taking your B4 (Math 17 equivalent) is absolutely impossible (only due to preparatory/prerequisite coursework), then you need to speak with Kristen at CSUS for a possible enrollment exception. *While you are only required to have a 2.0 to transfer, you will need a 2.67 GPA to apply to BETEP.

BETEP application:

- Your BETEP application is due the 1st Monday in March during your first semester at CSUS.
- You need a 2.67 GPA.
- You will take both the WPE and the CBEST before you even start CSUS. You need to take the September WPE (sign up at the CSUS Student Financial Services Center in Lassen 1011 during the last 2 weeks of August) and the October CBEST (sign up during August at <http://www.cbest.nesinc.com/>).
- You need verification of your 2 early field experiences. The form is available from your community college BETEP liaison or within the BETEP application.
- You'll need 2 letters of recommendation for the BETEP application; ask for these your last semester at the community college. You'll need one academic letter (from a college instructor who can attest to your academic competence) and one child-related experience letter (from a supervisor who has observed your performance in a teaching/classroom setting).
- You will write a 2 page double-spaced essay in which you detail why you wish to become a teacher.
- You will need 2 official copies of your transcripts from any college other than CSUS for your BETEP application. Order these in January and have them sent directly to your home so you can keep them with all of your application documents.
- As you submit your BETEP application (on or before the 1st Monday in March), you will sign up to participate in a one-hour group interview (interview schedule is only available at the time you submit your application).

Elementary subject matter competency:

- The State Board of Education (SBE) actions to meet federal "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) requirements for teacher quality mandate elementary teacher credential candidates who are planning to meet subject matter competency through the completion of the liberal studies program (an accredited undergraduate elementary subject matter program) will also need to take and pass the state approved subject matter examination (CSET) in order to meet the federal requirements under NCLB.
- Starting January 2004, CSET will be the only way to establish subject matter competency at CSUS. Students will greatly improve their ability to pass CSET by completing the approved subject matter program of undergraduate preparation (the liberal studies program).
- As part of BETEP you will be advised to take portions of the CSET as you complete relevant coursework. You will complete all 3 parts of the CSET prior to your final phase of student teaching.