

So, you've decided  
to pursue Liberal  
Studies and become  
a K-8 teacher.

## What's next?

Apply to the University by the  
posted deadline

Declare Liberal Studies (LBST)  
as your major

File your Intent to Enroll (after  
acceptance)

Attend a Liberal Studies  
Orientation Session

Follow the Approved Course  
List for the LBST major

Maintain 2.67 GPA to earn the  
Multiple Subject CSET I-III  
Waiver (visit the Liberal  
Studies website for more info  
about the Waiver)



California State University  
SAN MARCOS

## Basic requirements

To become a K-8 teacher in  
California, you must have a  
B.A., demonstrate content  
knowledge via state testing  
or earning a test waiver, and  
earn a Teaching Credential.

The Liberal Studies B.A. at  
CSUSM is a test waiver  
program, meaning that  
students who graduate with  
a LBST degree and maintain  
a min. GPA of 2.67 do not  
have to take the Multiple  
Subject CSET (CA Subject  
Examination for Teachers) I-III.



**Liberal Studies Department**  
CSUSM

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Office: SBSB 4222

[www.csusm.edu/liberalstudies](http://www.csusm.edu/liberalstudies)



California State University  
SAN MARCOS

**Interested in  
becoming a  
K-8 teacher?**

**Liberal  
Studies  
@  
Cal State San  
Marcos**



**Your best route**

## Coursework

Students pursuing either the ESM or ITEP Options can fulfill lower division prerequisites for the LBST B.A. degree at CSUSM or at a community college (CC). Please note:

- Students must follow the Liberal Studies preparation pathway (not GE or IGETC).
- Transfer students should check [www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org) for the course equivalents offered by each community college. See your CC Counselor for advising on the LBST K-8 pathway.
- Transfer students can complete any remaining lower division coursework at CSUSM after transferring.
- Transfer students should inquire about cross-enrolling at CSUSM while attending a community college. This will allow completion of courses not available on their campus.

**PRE-REQUISITE COURSES for admission to CSUSM School of Education**  
(Must be passed with C+ or better)

ESM Option	ITEP Option
<b>EDUC 350, EDUC 364</b> (included in LBST major)	<b>EDUC 350, EDUC 364</b> (included in LBST major)
<b>EDUC 422</b> (may be taken as elective)	<b>EDUC 422</b> (must be taken before applying to School of Education)

*The Liberal Studies Major and the School of Education at CSUSM offer two pathways to becoming a K-8 teacher:*

Elementary Subject Matter Option (ESM)	Integrated Teacher Education Program Option (ITEP)
<b>What the Options Have in Common</b>	
Must follow Liberal Studies lower division preparation pathway (not GE or IGETC)	Must follow Liberal Studies lower division preparation pathway (not GE or IGETC)
Must pass required lower division coursework with a grade of C or better.	Must pass required lower division coursework with a grade of C or better.
Overall GPA 2.67 required to earn CSET I-III Waiver and to enter a Credential Program	Overall GPA 2.67 required to earn CSET I-III Waiver and to enter a Credential Program
<b>Main Differences in Educational Experience/Credential Admission</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First obtain B.A. Degree (4 years)</li> <li>• Then complete Teaching Credential requirements (1 year)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B.A. Degree and Teaching Credential requirements completed simultaneously in 4-year pathway</li> </ul>
To complete B.A. in 4 years, students must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take 15 units each semester</li> <li>• Ensure completion of all requirements</li> </ul>	To complete B.A. and Credential in 4 years, students must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take 18 units each semester in Junior/Senior year (fewer units if they take summer courses)</li> <li>• Take 19 units each semester in Senior/Credential year</li> </ul>
<b>120 units minimum for B.A. only</b>	<b>134 units minimum for B.A. + Credential</b>
Apply to a Credential Program (CSUSM or elsewhere) as post-B.A. student. Students can apply in Spring of Senior year.	Apply to CSUSM Credential Program in Spring of Junior year.
All credential coursework completed post-B.A. is recognized as post-B.A. credit on transcripts. Number of post-B.A. units impacts starting salaries.	ITEP students will likely receive partial post-B.A. credit for credential coursework on transcripts, due to utilizing units for B.A. graduation minimum. Subject to school district evaluation. Number of post-B.A. units impacts starting salaries.