UCIRVINE

Preparing for a Career in Education

UCI offers a variety of excellent programs for students interested in preparing for a career in education, including an undergraduate minor in educational studies, selected undergraduate majors with concentrations in secondary education, a subject-matter preparation program in mathematics, a certificate in after-school education, teacher credential programs, and graduate degree programs leading either to a master's degree (M.A.T.) or a doctoral degree (Ph.D.) in education.

Post-Baccalaureate Credential Program

Two types of credentials are granted to license kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers in California:

- A multiple subjects credential for elementary school settings, where teachers are assigned to teach most or all subjects to one group of students.
- A single subject credential for middle and high school settings, where teachers are assigned to teach one discipline to multiple groups of students during a typical day.

Both credential programs have a coursework and practicum component. Similar to the residency in a medical education, the practicum involves 20 weeks to a year in a supervised real-world environment in the public schools.

Two Practicum Possibilities

The public school practicum, governed by state policy, includes multiple requirements, such as participation in the opening and closing of the school year, exposure to English language learners, and university oversight and support throughout the practicum.

Internship: For selected programs, based on regional demand, internships are available. Recently, there has been sufficient demand for math, science, and English teachers to support internships in these subjects. In the event that an internship is not available for the successful candidate, the host school district allows that person to complete student teaching in one of the schools in the district. When this occurs, the credential program can be completed in three quarters. Typically, internships are paid for one-year, and are full-time teaching assignments with all the attendant responsibilities of a full-time teacher. The advantages of an internship are the income and employee benefits. The challenge is to manage the demands of a job with the demands of the credential program. Coursework is bundled primarily into the two quarters (spring, summer) preceding the internship, but there are other courses and program requirements during the intern year. For the right person, it is a great way to earn a credential. UCI is currently engaged in an active recruitment program for math and science interns who have the skill, stamina, and maturity to pursue an internship. Interns interested in the Master's Degree in Teaching are encouraged to complete the M.A.T. after their internship.

Undergraduate Areas of Study

minors
- Educational Studies

Concentrations, Emphases, and Specializations

Aspiring Teachers
- Major in Biological Sciences with a Concentration in Biomedical Sciences Education
- Major in Chemistry with a Concentration in Chemistry Education
- Major in Mathematics with a Specialization in Mathematics for Education
- Major in Physics with a Concentration in Physics Education
- Major in Spanish with an Emphasis in Spanish for Future Teachers

Cal Teach Science and Mathematics Undergraduate Teacher Credential Program

Single Subject Credential in math or science earned concurrently with a bachelor's degree in one of these programs:
- B.S. in Biology /Education
- B.S. in Chemistry and Concentration in Chemistry Education with Secondary Teaching Certification
- B.S. in Mathematics and Concentration in Mathematics for Education with Secondary Teaching Certification
- B.S. in Earth and Environmental Sciences and Concentration in Geosciences Education with Secondary Teaching Certification
- B.A. in Earth and Environmental Studies and Concentration in Geosciences Education with Secondary Teaching Certification

Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Credential Programs

- Multiple Subject Credential
- Single Subject Credential

Graduate Programs

- M.A.T.
- Ph.D.

Student Teaching: Most of our program graduates choose the three-quarter student teaching program. In the multiple subjects program, this involves 23 weeks in one school and 10 weeks in the second of two required environments. In the single subject program, candidates complete 36 weeks at either the middle or high school level with the same groups of students to gain the consistency and experience they need to understand the demands on the secondary teacher.

Credential Program Admission Requirements

Students who wish to enter the credential programs apply through the UCI Office of Graduate Studies. Among the admission criteria are a baccalaureate degree, an undergraduate or graduate grade point average predictive of success in rigorous coursework, and three letters of recommendation. Related field experience is desirable. Highly recommended to be complete before the start of the program are passage of the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) and the California Subject Exams for Teachers in the appropriate disciplines.

Master of Arts in Teaching

The Department of Education offers a 15-month Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) degree program of full-time study comprised of a teaching credential in conjunction with an advanced degree. The M.A.T. program consists of a one-year credential program and six additional courses taken during the summers before and after the credential program. Students who have completed the credential program are also eligible to apply to complete the two summers of the master's program immediately following the credential program.
Financial Support
Qualified students pursuing teaching credentials at UCI have opportunities to receive scholarships and other financial awards and loans ranging from $300 to $19,000. Information is available from UCI’s Financial Aid and Scholarship Office; telephone: (949) 824-8262; e-mail: finaid@uci.edu; www.ofas.uci.edu. Additional scholarship and loan program information for prospective teachers is available from the UCI Department of Education.

Undergraduate Cal Teach Science and Mathematics Single Subject Credential Program
The Cal Teach Science and Mathematics program seeks to recruit and prepare highly qualified math and science teachers by offering undergraduate degree programs that integrate requirements for a bachelor’s degree in a math or science discipline and requirements for a single subject mathematics or science teaching credential. With careful and early planning, undergraduates can earn both in four years. The following departments offer these integrated degree plus teaching credential programs: Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Earth System Science, Mathematics, and Physics and Astronomy. Interested students, including freshmen, are encouraged to start by enrolling in Phys Sci 5/Bio Sci 14 “Cal Teach 1: Introduction to Science and Mathematics Teaching,” and to consult a counselor in the undergraduate counseling office of the School of Physical Sciences or School of Biological Sciences regarding specific degree program requirements and program enrollment procedures. Prospective math and science teachers at local community colleges who are considering transfer to UCI are invited to cross-enroll in the Cal Teach 1 introductory course. Information about the Cal Teach program and resources for preparing for a math or science teaching career are also available at the Cal Teach Resource and Advising Center. The UCI Cal Teach Science and Mathematics program is a partnership between the School of Physical Sciences, School of Biological Sciences, and Department of Education.

Ph.D. in Education
The UCI Ph.D. in education is a four-to-five-year, full-time program for people seeking careers in educational research. Three specializations are offered: learning, cognition, and development (LCD); educational policy and social context (EPSC); and language, literacy, and technology (LLT). The Ph.D. in education program of study provides a core knowledge of requisite educational theory and research for all students while allowing focus in one of the three areas of specialization.

Minor in Educational Studies
The Minor in Educational Studies program consists of introductory and advanced courses related to education and requires field experience, which includes direct observation and/or service in educational settings. The minor can be combined with any UCI undergraduate major. A Department of Education counselor can advise students about the courses that concurrently satisfy some requirements for the minor and for the UCI Teacher Credential Program.

Certificate in After-School Education
A Department of Education-sponsored certificate in After-School Education is earned by completing a set of five courses and 70 hours of fieldwork experience, designed to develop UCI students’ abilities to design, implement, and evaluate high-quality program activities for children and adolescents in regional after-school programs. Students who complete the certificate requirements can also complete a minor in educational studies with two additional courses.

Concentrations, Emphases, and Specializations for Aspiring Teachers
Aspiring secondary teachers can combine one of several different undergraduate majors with a concentration, emphasis, or specialization for secondary education, designed to align with California standards for the subject matter topics taught in middle school and high school. Through coursework and field experiences, these programs provide excellent preparation for anyone who plans to apply to a post-baccalaureate teacher credential program, and for the California Subject Exam for Teachers (CSET exam). UCI math majors who complete the curriculum for the specialization in Mathematics for Education and a few other requirements are eligible to waive the CSET exam for mathematics teachers. Consult a Math or Education Department counselor for more information.

Education Tutoring, Field Experience, and Outreach
In addition to fieldwork-based courses offered by the Department of Education, various UCI departments offer a range of outreach programs and courses that include classroom field experience or service opportunities in partnership with local school districts, after-school programs, early childhood education programs, or other non-profit organizations. Participating undergraduates gain valuable skills and knowledge for education and other professions. Undergraduates should talk with a counselor in their respective School about education outreach opportunities. Additionally, the UCI Center for Service in Action advertises tutoring and many other opportunities to work with regional service organizations. The UCI Center for Educational Partnerships offers some paid positions with K-12 school outreach programs.

Clubs
Student-run clubs offer a variety of academic and social activities for students who are planning careers in education: Teachers of Tomorrow Club (http://clubs.uci.edu/teachersoftomorrow), and UCI Cal Teach Club (www.gse.uci.edu/calteach/contactus).

Education and Teaching Theme Houses
UCI hosts two undergraduate theme houses for students interested in education and teaching: a freshman house in Middle Earth, with a theme of “changing the future through education” and the Careers in Teaching theme house in Arroyo Vista. In collaboration with UCI faculty and staff, the residents participate in workshops and projects to explore the teaching profession and other education-related careers.