

General Instructions to Apply for the Single Subject Art Credential Program

Portfolio evaluations are in the Spring of 2025 for students applying to the program in the Fall of 2025. **Deadline:** February 15, 2025 (Proof of attendance is required on Cal State Apply).

[To sign up to observe or present please add your name to the spreadsheet to get a ZOOM invitation.](#)

Before applying to the program, you must attend a mandatory 90-minute credential program overview. Fall 2025 – Application opens on October 1, 2024.

Please see the list of important links at the end of this document.

Directions for currently or previously enrolled CSUF BA or BFA students:

To apply to the education program on CAL STATE APPLY, enroll in Art 441 during the Fall of 2024 or Spring of 2025 and have completed the course before your credential program begins in the fall. In the spring you will receive an email inviting you to submit a portfolio of 15-20 artworks in March during a live Zoom presentation in front of a panel of art educators and faculty. The portfolio must demonstrate your foundation art skills (2-D and 3-D). Students accepted to the teaching program through Cal State Apply (see link above) and pass the portfolio review begin taking classes in the fall of the following year. All work must have been completed in the last 10 years, no work from Middle School or High School should be included.

Additionally, there are Education program electives that must be taken before you enter the Single Subject Credential program. Note – The prerequisites must be taken before starting student teaching – information learned in the classes is integral to completing the TPA exam.

CSUF BA or BFA students do not have to take the CSET Single Subject Art exam. They only take the CBEST (substitute teacher) exam to be cleared to work as a student teacher in the fall after they are accepted in the Single Subject Art Credential Program at CSUF (see “to apply” link above). ART 441 guides the student through the application process and will offer the support you need to put together all your documents for portfolio and application. Students take Art 441 in the Fall of their Junior or Senior year.

After acceptance, students begin their externship on-site at a public middle school or high school. Teaching Candidates student teach 3 classes during the day and take credential classes during the evening. This route takes a year of student teaching. During this year students take the TPA exam to prove competency and be granted a single subject credential to teach art in California.

Fully credentialed single subject teachers in California make about \$50K a year (this varies based on school district) to start, \$85,000 on average and top out at about \$98-\$100K at the 10-year mark. Single-subject teaching positions include health care and union

membership/protections. Single-subject credentialing takes time, but it is an investment in your earning potential and quality of life.

Directions for Non-CSUF Art Graduates:

To apply to the education program on CAL STATE APPLY, enroll in Art 441 during the Fall of 2024 or Spring of 2025 via Open University (link below) and complete the course before your Credential program begins in the Fall. In the spring you will receive an email inviting you to submit a portfolio of 15-20 artworks in March during a live Zoom presentation in front of a panel of art educators and faculty. The portfolio must demonstrate your foundation art skills (2-D and 3-D). Students accepted to the teaching program through Cal State Apply (see link above) and pass the portfolio review begin taking classes in the fall of the following year. All work must have been completed in the last 10 years, no work from Middle School or High School should be included.

Additionally, there are Education program electives that must be taken before you enter the Single Subject Credential program. Note – The prerequisites must be taken before starting student teaching – information learned in the classes is integral to completing the TPA exam.

Students who are not CSUF undergraduate art students or students with undergraduate degrees in from an accredited institution who apply to the program must take the CSET Single Subject Art Exam and have a degree in a visual art discipline to demonstrate subject matter competency. They must also take the CBEST exam before beginning student teaching. We do not accept students with degrees other than art degrees unless they have extensive art classroom teaching experience and an exceptional art portfolio of artwork completed in the last 4 years.

Applicants must take Art 441 through Open University and complete the required Ed Foundations Classes in an online program.

Alternative to the Credential Program:

A faster route to employment is a Career and Technical Education (CTE), credential which would consider industry experience in an arts discipline covered by the credential. This is not a route that we offer here at CSUF, but we do encourage students to get the credential on their own if they have Animation or Graphic Design industry experience as it can provide supplemental hourly wages to your full-time teaching position and makes you a desirable employee as you can work in the classroom during the day and teach afterschool CTE classes for hourly wages (25\$ an hour on average). CTE teachers do not usually work full time though they can if they move around to different schools. A full-time CTE teacher can make about \$40K a year and that amount usually does not change over time. Schools hire a few part-time CTE teachers to teach after school classes in areas like graphic design, and animation. CTE classes lead to an art industry but do not necessarily have the enrollment to run industry classes with a full section of

students during the day. These are supplemental classes for high school students and do not count toward a student's graduation credits.

Information on how to complete the CTE credential on your own, if you are interested:

<https://ocde.us/EducationalServices/CareerEducation/CTE/Documents/First%20Time%20Credential%20Application%2022-23.pdf>

IMPORTANT LINKS

[Admission Requirements](#)

[B.A. Teaching Study Plan](#)

[California Basic Educational Skills Test \(CBEST\)](#)

[Credential Program Overview](#)

[CSET Single Subject Art Exam](#)

[Single Subject Credential Requirements](#)

[Worksheet and Requirements for Art Education](#)