

Are You Interested in Becoming a High School Math Teacher? Do You Have Questions?

Frequently Asked Questions:

- Which CSUSB Math degree program is the best preparation for becoming a high school math teacher?

The [B.S. Teaching Mathematics Concentration \(BSTC\)](#) is the best program preparation for entering a credential program and becoming a successful high school mathematics teacher. Courses, such as [Math 2900](#), [Math 4900](#), and [Math 5900](#), are designed to give students a deep understanding of school mathematics from a teacher's perspective. These courses also offer students opportunities to engage in and reflect on the *Standards for Mathematical Practice*, which are habits of mind for doing mathematics that are a part of the California Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. Please refer to the [Mathematics Framework for Public Schools](#) for content and practice standards.

- I've heard that [California state law \(AB 130\)](#) gives expanded options for becoming a high school math teacher. Will any degree in mathematics suffice for becoming a high school math teacher?

Completing the B.A. or B.S. (General or Applied Concentrations) in Math is now sufficient for meeting subject matter competency for preparation to enter a credential program. Note that all the math degree programs (including the BSTC) contain 120 units.

- What is the best way to go about planning for completing the requirements of my degree?

Use the information provided at the [Math Department Advising website](#), consult a math faculty advisor, and use [these roadmaps](#) to help plan your path to graduation.

- What elective coursework should I consider taking?

We highly recommend that you complete the BSTC, but if you choose to complete the B.A. in Math, then it is strongly recommended that you take [Math 2900](#) and [Math 4900](#) as electives. Other elective coursework should be carefully selected in consultation with a math faculty advisor.

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- I plan to take Math 5900 as a senior. Is there anything I should do to prepare for this course?

Math 5900 is a culminating/capstone course for the BSTC and includes activities for reflection of your growth as a student and future teacher. Please plan to save samples of your work (such as assignments, quizzes, exams, projects, etc.) from the following courses: Math 2265, Math 2900, Math 3100, Math 3329, Math 3480, Math 4300, Math 4600, and Math 4900. Note that at least one of Math 4300 or Math 4600 is a prerequisite for Math 5900.

- May I take Math 3329 and Math 4900 concurrently?

No; Math 3329 is a prerequisite for Math 4900. Activities in Math 4900 will assume you have a solid foundation in geometry. Please also make sure you have met the other prerequisites for Math 4900 shown in the [course flowchart](#) provided on the Math Department website.

- May I take Math 2900 and Math 4900 or Math 4900 and Math 5900 concurrently?

No; Math 2900 is a prerequisite for Math 4900, and Math 4900 is a prerequisite for Math 5900. Math 2900/4900/5900 is a three-semester sequence. MyCAP plans for graduation should be arranged accordingly. Please also make sure you have met the other prerequisites for each course as shown in the [course flowchart](#) provided on the Math Department website.

- Are there courses I should try to avoid taking in the same term?

It is recommended that you try to spread out the proof-based and writing intensive courses such as Math 2900, 3100, 3329, 3345, 4300, 4600, Math 4900, and Math 5900. For instance, it is not recommended to take Math 4300 and Math 4600 in the same term. Please see [these roadmaps](#) for sample plans.

- How much time per week should I dedicate to studying outside of class time for each course I take?

According to [College of Natural Sciences guidelines](#), it is recommended that students study approximately 2-3 hours outside of class time for each hour in a math class. So, you should expect 6-9 hours of study/work time per week for a 3-unit class and 8-12 hours per week for a 4-unit class. Please also see [Student Resources for Study Skills](#) for some useful information on study tips and time management.

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- I am getting near the end of my degree. What are my next steps in preparation for entering the Single Subject Credential Program at CSUSB?

In addition to verifying that you have met subject matter competency in Mathematics as outlined above, you must earn a minimum grade point average (GPA). The current minimum GPA for eligibility to enter the Single Subject Credential Program at CSUSB is 2.67 cumulative or 2.75 in the last 60 semester units. There are several other admission requirements to enter the [Single Subject Credential Program](#) including the following:

- [Single Subject Program Admission Requirements](#)
 - Attend an [Information Session](#) provided by the College of Education.
- Do I need to take the CBEST (California Basic Educational Skills Test) to enter a credential program or teach?

No; California state law (AB 130) now allows for other ways to meet the Basic Skills Requirement (BSR). For example, the BSR can be met by completing appropriate GE coursework with B- or better. Options and further information is available at [CTC Options for BSR](#) and the CSUSB College of Education's [Basic Skills Requirement Information](#).

- I am not a math major and have (or plan to earn) a degree in another field. Can I still become a math teacher?

Yes, although you will need to verify that you have subject matter competency in Mathematics. Please see the [Preparing to Teaching Secondary Mathematics handout](#) for more information.

- Are there scholarships or other opportunities for students who want to become teachers?

Check out the information provided at the [Center for the Enhancement of Mathematics Education \(CEME\) website](#). ETEMS and Noyce are two [scholarship opportunities](#) for future teachers. Please contact the CEME office (cemeicmp@csusb.edu) located in Jack Brown Hall 263 for additional information.

- I have other questions. Who should I contact for more information?

You may consult with any Math Department faculty advisor or contact the BSTC Coordinator, Dr. Laura Wallace (wallace@csub.edu).