Have you thought about a career as a math or science teacher?

UC Irvine offers a comprehensive set of programs and services for undergraduates who want to explore and prepare for a middle school/high school math or science teaching career:

- Seminars and fieldwork opportunities for UCI students at all levels to explore teaching;
- Math and science degree programs with concentrations for teaching;
- A Minor in Educational Studies with selected courses that provide a foundation and head start toward earning a teaching credential;
- A teacher credential program (completed after earning a math or science bachelor's degree) with options for paid teaching internships and for combining a credential with a master's degree;
- UCI California Teach Resource and Advising Center;
- Financial assistance programs for future math and science teachers; and
- On-campus housing for future teachers: The Careers in Teaching Theme House.

See the back page for more details.

California Teach Science & Math Initiative

The University of California launched the California Teach Science and Math Initiative in 2005 in response to the critical shortage of highly qualified math and science teachers in the state. Through this initiative, the UC system has committed to significantly increase the number of new math and science teachers it prepares. Each campus has developed strategies to encourage its math, science, engineering, and computer science majors to learn about and prepare for teaching as a career option, including undergraduate courses, programs, advising, and financial support.
Getting Started

Explore Teaching as a Career Option


- The seminar is open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors, and community college students.
- Gain hands-on field experience with K-12 students and work with exemplary teachers.
- Students who complete the California Teach 1 seminar are eligible to enroll in two other seminars: “Middle School Science and Mathematics Teaching” and “High School Mathematics Teaching.”
- Upon completion of each seminar, UCI students are eligible to earn a stipend for additional field experience hours.

Selecting a Major

Aspiring math or science teachers typically earn a bachelor's degree in the discipline they want to teach or in a closely related field. Common UCI majors for aspiring teachers of math include mathematics, engineering, computer science, or other degree programs that develop a solid foundation in mathematics. UCI degree programs in biological sciences, chemistry, earth and environmental sciences, physics, and some engineering majors are common choices of future science teachers.

Some UCI majors offer specializations or concentrations that are well suited for future teachers, because upper division courses and electives cover topics that are aligned with the subjects that are commonly taught in California's middle and high school math and science classes. Consult with an academic counselor in the School of Physical Sciences (www.ps.uci.edu/~stuaff/) or School of Biological Sciences (www.bio.uci.edu/students/StudentAffairs/) for more information on these majors:

- Biological Sciences Major with a Concentration in Biological Sciences Education
- Chemistry Major with a Concentration in Chemistry Education
- Math Major with a Specialization in Mathematics for Education
- Physics Major with a Concentration in Physics Education

Selecting a Minor

In addition to their major, many aspiring teachers also complete a minor in Educational Studies, choosing from an array of education courses that provide a solid foundation for learning about educational issues, teaching, and learning. Undergraduates can get an early start on their teaching credential by selecting designated courses that satisfy some requirements for the UCI Teacher Credential Program. Department of Education counselors can provide more information about the selection of education courses that are most relevant for future math or science teachers (www.gse.uci.edu/CS_CI.php).

Earning a Teaching Credential

A California teaching credential is required to teach in the state's public K-12 schools. For teaching middle or high school math or science, credentials are offered in the subject areas of mathematics, biology/life science, chemistry, earth and planetary science, and physics. UCI offers an accredited Teacher Credential Program with options for paid teaching internships and combining a credential and a master's degree. Credential candidates typically complete the program in a minimum of three quarters after earning their bachelor's degree. Consult a Department of Education counselor about requirements and options for the UCI Teacher Credential Program (www.gse.uci.edu/CS_CI.php).

For more information about UCI California Teach program benefits and becoming a math or science teacher, send an email to calteach@uci.edu and visit our website:

http://ps.uci.edu/calteach

“California Teach is a great way to find out if a teaching career is right for you.”

~Current CA Teach Students

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