



TEP Glossary

Term	What it means in plain language
TEP — Teacher Education Program	The program that prepares you to become a credentialed teacher.
SOE — School of Education	The school within UCR that houses TEP and other education programs.
CTC — California Commission on Teacher Credentialing	The state agency that sets California credential requirements and issues teaching credentials.
Teaching credential	State authorization to teach in the subjects, grade levels, or settings listed on your credential.
M.Ed. — Master of Education	A graduate degree in education. A master's degree and a teaching credential are separate qualifications.
Credential-only	A program option focused on earning a teaching credential without also earning the M.Ed.
M.Ed. + credential	A program option that combines preparation for a teaching credential with a master's degree.
Teacher candidate	A student preparing to become a credentialed teacher. You may hear staff refer to you as a "candidate."
Cohort	The group of students moving through a program or pathway together.



Pathway

The route you follow to earn your credential, such as a student teaching or intern pathway.

UCR offers credential-only and combined M.Ed. and credential options. [School of Education](#)



Understanding credential options

Term	What it means in plain language
Multiple Subject Credential	Generally prepares you to teach several subjects to the same group of students, most commonly in elementary school.
Single Subject Credential	Generally prepares you to teach a particular subject, such as English, mathematics, or science, most commonly in middle or high school.
Education Specialist Credential	Prepares you to teach students with disabilities within the authorization listed on your credential.
Authorization	The specific teaching responsibilities a credential or added authorization allows you to carry out.
Preliminary credential	The initial credential earned after meeting the applicable preparation requirements. Additional requirements remain to earn a clear credential.
Clear credential	The credential earned after meeting the requirements to clear a preliminary credential.
Induction	A structured program of mentoring and professional learning for teachers that provides a route to a clear credential.
Intern credential	A credential that allows eligible candidates to serve as employed teachers while completing an approved preparation program.
Teacher of record	The teacher officially responsible for a class and its students.



**Credential
recommendation**

The program's formal verification to the CTC that you have met the requirements for a credential. Completing courses and receiving your credential are separate steps.

These distinctions follow the CTC's credential terminology and intern pathway guidance. [Commission](#)



Applying and completing requirements

Term	What it means in plain language
Graduate application	UCR's application for graduate admission, which TEP applicants complete even when applying for the credential-only option.
Supplemental / TEP application	The additional program application requested after you submit the graduate application.
Prerequisite	Something you must complete before a particular course, program stage, or activity.
Official transcript	An academic record sent through an institution's approved official process. An uploaded copy may not satisfy an official transcript requirement.
Subject matter competence / SMC	Verification that you know the academic content required for the credential you are pursuing.
CSET — California Subject Examinations for Teachers	Subject-specific examinations used for certain credential requirements. Ask which examinations, if any, apply to your pathway.
Basic Skills Requirement / BSR	A state requirement related to reading, writing, and mathematics. It is separate from subject matter competence.
CBEST — California Basic Educational Skills Test	A basic skills examination. Seeing this acronym does not automatically mean you need to take the test.



**Certificate of Clearance /
COC**

A CTC document related to professional fitness and background clearance. It does not authorize you to teach.

Live Scan

Electronic fingerprinting used for a background check.

TB clearance

Documentation showing you have completed the applicable tuberculosis screening requirements.

**CPR — Cardiopulmonary
Resuscitation**

Emergency response training. Follow the program's directions about the certification you need.

Verification

Documentation confirming that you have met a requirement.

Waiver

An approved exception to a specific requirement. The term should identify exactly what is being waived.

UCR's admissions process includes both the graduate application and a separate TEP application. The glossary should link directly to the current checklist for documentation and deadlines. [School of Education](#)



Student teaching and the people supporting you

Term	What it means in plain language
Clinical practice/fieldwork	Supervised experience working in schools and applying what you learn in your courses.
Student teaching	Supervised classroom teaching completed as part of your preparation program.
Placement	The school and classroom assigned for your fieldwork or student teaching.
District Cooperating Teacher / DCT	The classroom teacher who hosts and supports you during student teaching. You may also hear “mentor teacher” or “cooperating teacher.”
Supervisor of Teacher Education	The university representative who observes your teaching, provides feedback, and evaluates your progress.
Placement coordinator	The person who coordinates school and classroom placements with district partners.
Academic advisor	The person who helps you understand your program plan, academic requirements, and progress.
Credential analyst	The person who reviews credential documentation and helps process credential recommendations.
Observation	A visit or review of your teaching used to provide feedback and assess your development.
Residency	A teacher preparation model built around an extended school placement and partnership. Funding and employment commitments depend on the specific residency.



UCR describes placement coordination among the program, district, cooperating teacher, and university supervisor.
education.ucr.edu

Teaching expectations and assessments



Term	What it means in plain language
TPEs — Teaching Performance Expectations	California’s expectations for the knowledge and skills beginning teachers must demonstrate.
TPA — Teaching Performance Assessment	An assessment in which you demonstrate teaching skills through evidence from your practice.
edTPA	One model of teaching performance assessment. It is a specific assessment, rather than another name for every TPA.
CalTPA — California Teaching Performance Assessment	Another model of teaching performance assessment.
LPA — Literacy Performance Assessment	An assessment of your ability to plan, teach, and assess literacy instruction.
Rubric	The scoring guide explaining what an assignment or assessment must demonstrate.
Artifact/evidence	Materials that show your work or student learning, such as lesson plans, student work, or teaching recordings.
Remediation/improvement plan	A plan identifying an area you need to strengthen, the support available, and how you will demonstrate progress.

The CTC provides current assessment guidance and Teaching Performance Expectations. The website should identify which assessment model applies to each UCR pathway and cohort. [Commission](#)

Bilingual authorization



Term	What it means in plain language
BILA — Bilingual Authorization	An authorization to teach academic content in an additional language. UCR's TEP BILA program is in Spanish.
DLI — Dual Language Immersion	An educational approach in which students learn academic content through two languages.
SPA — Spanish Proficiency Assessment	UCR's assessment used as one option for verifying Spanish proficiency for BILA.
Biliteracy	The ability to read and write in two languages.
Bilingual methodology	Teaching approaches used to support students' learning academic content through two languages.
BTPEs — Bilingual Teaching Performance Expectations	Expectations for the knowledge and skills of beginning bilingual teachers.

These terms appear throughout UCR's Bilingual Authorization page. education.ucr.edu

Paying for the program



Term	What it means in plain language
FAFSA — Free Application for Federal Student Aid	The application used to determine eligibility for federal aid and certain other financial aid.
CADAA — California Dream Act Application	An application used by eligible students to apply for California financial aid.
CSAC — California Student Aid Commission	The state agency that administers California student aid programs, including Cal Grants.
Cal Grant Teaching Credential Extension	An additional period of Cal Grant eligibility that qualifying former undergraduate recipients may use for teacher preparation.
G-44	The form used to request consideration for the Cal Grant Teaching Credential Extension.
TEACH Grant	A federal grant with a teaching service obligation. Failing to meet its terms can cause it to convert to a loan.
Service obligation/commitment	A requirement to work in a qualifying teaching position for a specified period in exchange for funding.
Stipend	A payment intended to support participation or expenses. The funding program determines its terms.
Financial aid offer	The financial assistance offered to you, including any grants, scholarships, or loans.
Disbursement	When financial aid is released and applied to your student account. Accepting aid does not mean it has already disbursed.

**Refund**

Money released to you when payments and disbursed aid exceed eligible charges on your account.