



Project IMPACT Santa Cruz District Intern Program-Education Specialist MM/MS

What are the main benefits of your credential program?

Timing, cost, locality and support are some of the benefits. Classes are held at a time and frequency that allows a teacher to work full time (e.g. two days a week, 4:30- 7:30pm). The intern program is grant funded so the tuition is much less than most other teacher preparation programs. Support comes from a variety of sources, for example, instructors, practicum supervisors, peers, and peer coaches. The most important benefits are: you are able to work and learn on the job; you receive credit towards tenure; and you earn a teacher's salary all at the same time. Best of all, classes are held right here in Santa Cruz!

2. Are there any drawbacks to joining a district intern program versus a traditional path (e.g. college)?

Yes, related to a one-time credential and earning more than one credential through the same program. A teacher can process only one intern (university or district) credential in California. If for some reason you do not complete your intern program, you may not be able to re-join an intern program to complete it later. As well, in a district intern program you can earn only the credential that matches your teaching position. Consequently, you cannot complete more than one credential at a time (e.g. multiple subject and education specialist).

3. Is Santa Cruz Project IMPACT accredited?

Yes. Our program is in partnership with the San Joaquin County Office of Education and is an accredited alternative teacher certification program through CTC (California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, phone: 916-445-7254). We highly recommend candidates review the CTC website for further information regarding credential requirements (www.ctc.ca.gov). Our program must meet the exact requirements of all other California teacher preparation programs. We are listed on the website under approved teacher preparation programs.

4. Subject matter competency means what?

California requires verification of teachers' knowledge of the subject they will teach. Santa Cruz Project IMPACT currently is an Education Specialist (Mild/Moderate & Moderate/Severe) program. For these credentials, generally, the multiple subject CSET demonstrates subject matter competency. If you want to teach Special Education in a single subject setting, you would take the single subject CSET for the subject you want to teach, or you may have earned your degree from a California college that has an approved subject matter program. This requires a particular document. Speak to our credential analyst for details @ 831-466-5753. We recommend that you schedule this exam as soon as possible if contemplating becoming an IMPACT Intern.

5. What is CLAD?

Crosscultural, language and academic development. There is a CLAD certificate authorizing instruction to English Learners (EL). The certificate authorizes instruction for English language development (ELD) and specially designed academic instruction delivered in English (SDAIE). IMPACT credentials include this authorization; our interns do not have to do any extra work or take an exam (CTEL).

6. What is the deadline to apply to your program?

We have no deadline; participants can apply when they meet the entry requirements (i.e. bachelor's degree, CBEST). At that time they will be enrolled in the next pre-service course (i.e. IMPACT Frameworks for Teaching-six modules). Timing is important. Our intern cohorts begin each fall. Consequently, candidates would have to meet all pre-service and district intern credential requirements BEFORE they are placed in a classroom.

8. Why would a district hire me with no credential?

There are teacher shortages in California. Where there are not enough fully credentialed teachers, districts are bound to select candidates from the next category of "highly qualified" (No Child Left Behind Act term) teachers – Intern. Interns are teachers who are earning their credential while teaching. District Interns fit in that category and are holders of a valid “teaching credential” (District Intern Credential).

9. I have never taught. How can I go into a classroom and teach?

You must want to do it. If one has the desire to be a teacher; enjoys being with children; and is willing and open to learn, the district, school and our program assist you during the process of obtaining your credential. If you feel that you are not ready to take the responsibility of a classroom on your own, then perhaps you should apply to a traditional student teaching program at a university. However, on-the-job training for many professions has a high success rate. The ability to combine knowledge with practice creates a strong, real learning environment for a new teacher.

10. Can I get a designated subjects credential or adult education credential from your program?

No - check the CTC website (www.ctc.ca.gov) or your local credential office for details about these types of credentials.

11. I've completed my Level 1 Education Specialist credential. Can I complete my Level 2 requirements through Project IMPACT?

No, IMPACT is a 3 year, comprehensive District Intern program. Unfortunately we are not equipped to provide just the clearing of the Level 2 within our cohorts.

12. Can you help me get a teaching job since it is required to be an intern?

You must do the job hunting yourself. We recommend you contact each district with whom you have an interest, and use the recruitment website edjoin.org to inquire as to needs and application process. Meeting subject matter competency (e.g. passing the CSET exams) will be the most important support to your employment search. If you are in our program and intern eligible (completed pre-service and district intern credential requirements) we will provide a letter that documents your status, which you may copy and include with your employment applications.

17. Do my years as an intern count toward tenure?

Yes. After a District Intern applies for their Level 1 credential, they must work one more year with the District to acquire tenure (Ed. Code Section 44466).

18. Do districts increase salary based on units received through IMPACT?

Yes. Education Code Section 44327 is very clear that school districts must recognize credit earned by each district intern and that it is transferable to their academic record in the same manner as if the intern had participated in a college program.

19. How much of my previous college work will transfer into your program?

Usually no previous college work can be transferred into our program. **We are an alternative certification teacher preparation program, not a traditional university.** Additionally, our cohort structure and attendance is a key component of our program, it is important interns participate in all their cohorts' courses. The exception is those candidates who have a multiple or single subject credential and want to earn an education specialist credential in our program. (Pre- service requirements will be waived).

20. I have a post bachelor's degrees (e.g. masters in education; masters in science) how can this be used toward a credential?

The degree cannot be of use toward earning a California Clear Education Specialist credential. A college may, however, recognize some of the coursework as applicable to a teacher preparation program. Usually alternative certification programs such as ours do not apply past coursework.

21. I have a multiple subject credential and want a special education credential. How much of my multiple subject credential work will you count?

Holders of a valid multiple or single subject credential that would like to earn their Education Specialist Credential through our program, will have the pre-service requirement waived. There are some courses for which equivalencies may be granted.

22. Will I receive units for my course work?

They are not university units; they are units assigned by our program on our official transcript form. The course work you will do is the same as you would complete in other teacher preparation programs, consequently our participating school districts have agreed to accept the units for the purpose of salary

increases. District procedures must be followed to obtain the credit; check with your particular district for details concerning salary schedules and increases. If accumulating college units is important to you, be aware that only colleges/universities can give college units.

23. Do I have to pass the CSET exams before I apply?

No, having a bachelors degree or higher is the only the entry requirement. The pre-service and district intern requirements can be completed after that time. We recommend that you schedule this exam as soon as possible if contemplating becoming an IMPACT Intern.

24. Can I attend classes whenever I want; I might want summers off?

Once enrolled in our program you are expected to attend all classes on your schedule with your cohort. Our program has a cohort structure, that is to say, groups of students go through the program together. The relationships and support established in cohorts is strongly linked to intern success. Our interns are given their schedule at the beginning of their cohort so they will know when there are program breaks and be able to plan vacations, etc. Usually we do operate on a traditional school calendar, which means intern courses are not scheduled during some of the summer months.

25. Can you tell me the differences between your program and other teacher preparation programs?

You would need to gather information about other programs by contacting them. However, in some states (e.g. Nevada) they may not recognize a California Clear Credential through an alternative certification program. We can only tell you about our program and perhaps give you enough information to make an informed choice about which program you will join. Some of the questions you'll want to ask other programs are:

- a. Will my teaching be covered by an Intern Credential if I join your program?
- b. How often and what time are the classes?
- c. Can I be sure there will be room for me when I meet the intern qualifications?
- d. How much does the program cost (start to finish)? How long will it take?
- e. Would I have a California Clear Professional Credential when I am done?
- f. Are all the classes I would need offered every semester?
- g. Does the program include ELL and SADIE authorization?
- h. Does the program include induction?

26. Do you have financial aid or subsidized tuition?

We do not have tuition assistance programs for our intern credential program (e.g. financial aid). We do provide a way to pay intern tuition in monthly increments through automatic payroll deductions (available for most districts).

27. Are the participating school districts required to keep me employed while I am an intern?

No, however, you have probationary status with a District Intern Credential. As such, districts must notify you if you are non re-elected. The San Joaquin IMPACT program and its satellite campuses have a 98% retention rate for interns remain working in the same district throughout the duration of their program.

28. Do I have to stay with the district that employs me?

You are under contract with your district for the contract period. Interns are expected to stay with their district until the completion of their District Intern program. On occasion there are reasons an intern changes districts; but it is not recommended.

29. Do I have to student teach?

No. Your internship is your student teaching.

30. Is a credential through your program different than if I got it through a university?

No. Internship programs result in the same credential as is earned through a traditional teacher preparation program. All credentials are issued by the State of California. However, the difference may be the way another state recognizes the credential. We have had graduates who have moved out of state and had no problems. On the other hand, we did learn about one state (Nevada) that currently does not recognize district intern program credentials, because they are not earned through a university. You can check with the credentialing agency of a state if that is of specific concern.

31. I have some educational loans. Can I have them deferred through your program?

If you provide the forms from your lender, our office will complete them. We verify what type of program we are and that you are considered a full time student (if you have a teaching position). We cannot guarantee a deferment, this is decided by your lender. We are not on the Title IV institutional list, which assigns code numbers. The code is required by many lenders, so it is possible a deferment may not be granted (in its place they may grant a forbearance).

32. Tell me about the APLE Loan Program.

The applications and details are provided to our interns when the Student Aid Commission provides that year's information - when/if funds are available. APLE is a loan assumption program. It requires participants sign an agreement promising to provide four consecutive years of full-time teaching service in a California public school. The California Student Aid Commission will authorize loan assumption payments up to \$11,000 in outstanding educational loan balances (\$15,000 if you teach math, science or special education) in return for four consecutive years of fulltime eligible teaching in a California K-12 public school.

33. I've heard a lot about NCLB (No Child Left Behind Act). What should I know about this?

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 expanded the federal government's role in elementary and secondary education. The NCLB emphasizes accountability by making federal aid for schools

conditional on those schools meeting academic standards and abiding by policies set by the federal government. NCLB sets strict requirements and deadlines for states to expand the scope and frequency of student testing, revamp their accountability system and guarantee that every classroom is staffed by a teacher qualified to their subject area. The California Department of Education has defined and implemented changes to be in compliance with NCLB directly related to the definition of "highly qualified teacher," which in addition to other criteria, is defined as a teacher who demonstrates subject matter competency (e.g. pass CSET examination).

34. Is there any reason I should not join your program?

Yes, if you plan to move, or there is a chance you will be moving before the duration of your program is complete. You can hold an Intern Credential only once in your lifetime (e.g. 1 multiple subject, 1 education specialist, 1 single subject); so you should be sure your intentions are to stay in the area and in the program for the duration. Your work will probably not be transferable into any other teacher preparation program if you leave.

35. What happens if I enroll, complete pre-service requirements, then can't get a teaching position or I'm unable to pass CSET?

You may return to our program within 2-5 years and pre-service requirements would probably remain valid. Only when changed by law and/or CCTC would there be additional requirements.

We encourage you to access additional information and leaflets from [CCTC](#).

Project IMPACT Santa Cruz (831) 466-5751