

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Urban Learning

California State University, Los Angeles
Charter College of Education

The Urban Learning Program is a blended (elementary subject matter) undergraduate major for students wishing to earn a bachelor's degree and teaching credential concurrently, and to be prepared to teach in the diverse schools of urban Los Angeles. Teaching in an urban environment presents both distinct challenges such as transience, overcrowding, shortages of materials, as well as opportunities that include the blending of cultures, artistic resources, and current technology.

The Major and Credential Options

The major program consists of 180 units of general education preparation, coursework in the major and electives appropriate to the student's credential option. Students may earn one of two credentials in the program:

- A **Multiple Subject** credential, preparing the student to teach children grades K-8 in self-contained classrooms. Students may also add a subject matter authorization to their credential, allowing them to teach subject matter curriculum for grades 7-9.
- An **Education Specialist** credential, preparing the student to teach children with disabilities ranging from birth to grade 12, depending upon the disability option they select. The student may select from among five options: Early Childhood Special Education, Mild-to-Moderate Disabilities, Moderate-to-Severe Disabilities, Physical and Health Impairments and Visual Impairment and Blindness.

Program Admission

The major offers two paths of entry:

- For **freshmen** in the Fall quarter. During their first two years at the university, freshmen must meet university admission requirements and complete a general education program of study under the supervision of a ULRN faculty advisor before being formally admitted to the ULRN program. A minimum overall grade point average of 2.75 is recommended at the completion of the general education program. Advisement is available from the Charter College of Education Advisement Center (King Hall D2078; 323-343-4342).
- For **junior transfers** in fall quarter. Juniors must complete 90 transferable quarter units (60 semester units) at a community college to be eligible for admission to Cal State LA, and are encouraged to seek GE or IGETC certification. *See your community college counselor for assistance with determining transferable units, transfer requirements and a GE/IGETC certification course of study.* An overall grade point average of 2.75 in the last 90 quarter units (60 semester units) is recommended for program admission.

Freshmen and transfer students are encouraged to declare a major in Urban Learning (ULRN) upon application to the university. Students must complete a short application and have their transcripts reviewed by the Program Director prior to beginning their course of study.

Placement in a Cohort

All students in the Urban Learning major are assigned to a cohort at the beginning of the junior year. The cohort is a critical academic, social and professional support system throughout the degree program. A principal goal of the Urban Learning Program is the development of students' collaboration and teamwork skills. A ULRN cohort is a collegial group of students who take their coursework together while they work and study collaboratively. Cohorts are made up of 20-25 Education Specialist and Multiple Subject candidates, both junior transfers and freshman entry students who have completed their general education requirements, including two peer leaders, one from each credential option.

Program Expectations

Students in the Urban Learning Program are expected to work and study within the cohort structure, to adhere to the program roadmap provided at program entry, and to meet academic, interpersonal and professional expectations throughout their time in the program. Student conduct within the cohort structure is regarded as an indicator of future professional conduct. In addition to assessment of academic performance, students are assessed continuously on their suitability as teachers across a range of interpersonal and professional criteria.

- Academic standards include maintaining a 3.0 grade point average in all program courses, with a C or better in each course, making appropriate progress through the program, passage of a series of required tests (CBEST, CSET, RICA, etc.) and adherence to university policies governing academic conduct.

- Interpersonal standards include maintaining a collaborative working relationship with cohort members, utilization of appropriate problem solving strategies, and adherence to university policies governing student conduct.
- Professional standards include respect for faculty, colleagues and students, demonstration of appropriate behavior suitable to a teacher-in-training in both on-campus and field settings, and adherence to university policies governing conduct in the university classroom and when using campus facilities.

Admission to the CCOE Credential Program

Admission to the Urban Learning Program does not guarantee students admission to the credential program. Students must complete the CCOE application materials and meet the following requirements for admission, to be satisfied during their first two quarters in the program:

- A minimum 2.75 GPA in the last 90 quarter units (60 semester units)
- A well written and meaningful Philosophy of Education statement
- Background clearance from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing
- Completion of the Basic Skills Requirement
- Passage of the Writing Proficiency Exam (UNIV 400)
- Two or more strong and supportive letters of recommendation

For more information, see: http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/ccoe/admissions_teacher_cred.htm

Program of Study

Students in the program should expect to take 12-16 units per quarter for two calendar years, including one quarter of directed teaching appropriate to the credential sought. Most courses are offered at 4:20 pm or later. Students will receive permits guaranteeing their seats in all Charter College of Education courses for classes scheduled for the student's cohort.

A guiding principle of the Urban Learning Program is that teachers-in-training who study together build a broader range of academic, instructional and professional skills while developing a range of collaborative skills. Each cohort follows a roadmap, or quarter-by-quarter plan of study, and their quarterly schedules are designed so as to guide students through a developmental sequence of content and pedagogy coursework.

For a sample roadmap, see: <http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/ccoe/roadmaps2.htm>

Program Outcomes

The graduate of the Urban Learning program will earn a baccalaureate degree and either a preliminary Multiple Subject credential or eligibility for an Education Specialist internship credential. The graduate will also meet NCLB criteria as a highly qualified teacher, and be prepared to teach diverse learners in an urban environment.

Contact Information

For General Information or an Information Bulletin

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For Program Advisement

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For Program Admission and Advisement

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