

## Pathway to Teaching

*A Child Development major is the best pathway to K-12 instruction. Child Development Majors receive instruction and practice working with and supporting the development of children, and understanding how learning experiences can be planned and implemented to enhance outcomes and encourage potential in educational settings.*

Historically, the attrition rate for first year teachers in California has been huge. One of the reasons for this attrition is that the pathway to Multiple Subject Teaching has been Liberal Studies, which prepares teachers with content knowledge, but not knowledge about children and how they learn. Child Development Majors learn about children AND content knowledge. Degrees in child development, with a Multiple Subject option or credential track specialization provide the best of both worlds.

At the community college level, students major in Child Development and complete necessary transferable general education, including many of the Liberal Studies courses. At the four-year college, students can switch to a Liberal Studies major or continue their study in Child Development in the Multiple Subject track or Credential Track. Prerequisites for the credential usually require a course in technology and a course in teaching health. All students, Liberal Studies and Child Development majors, are required to take a standardized examination for entrance to a credential program.

The real benefit of a Child Development degree is evident when classroom teachers understand developmental patterns, recognize atypical development, understand cultural diversity, know how to provide and access community support and services, and realize that behavior is a child's language for getting needs met.

We highly recommend that students receive this information and then make educated choices about which major is right for them.