



Teaching Secondary School

Are you serious?



William James

“For thirty-five years I have been suffering the exigencies of being ...[a teacher], the pretension and the duty namely, of meeting the mental needs and difficulties of other persons, needs that I couldn’t possibly imagine and difficulties that I couldn’t possibly understand; and now that I have shuffled off the professional coil, the sense of freedom that comes to me is as surprising as it is exquisite...**What! not to have to accommodate myself to this mass of alien and recalcitrant humanity, not to think under resistance, not to have to square myself with others at every step I make**—hurrah! It is too good to be true.

Jacques Barzun

“Here am I,” the student thinks, “with my brains nicely organized,—with everything, if not in its place, at least where I can find it,—and you come along with a new and strange item that you want to force into my previous arrangement. Naturally I resist. You persist. I begin to dislike you. But at the same time, you show me aspects of this new fact or idea which in spite of myself mesh in with my existing desires. You seem to know the contents of my mind. You show me the proper place for your contribution to my stock of knowledge.

The Facts

1. Many high school districts in California offer salaries and benefits commensurate with (or better than) the compensation for beginning academics in the Humanities and Social Sciences. For instance, East Side Union High School District's (San José) starting teacher salary is about \$62,000 with the potential to earn up to \$116,000 near the completion of a career. Good to Excellent Benefits. Strong union representation.
2. California has recently adopted new standards and frameworks for English and History/Social Studies, and many educators are pleased with the new curricula.
3. California is currently experiencing a teacher shortage, and many regions of the state are hiring hundreds of teachers each year.

The Facts, cont.

4. An increasing number of school districts are **requiring** students to meet the a-g requirements for a *high school diploma*.

A. History/Social Science - 2+ years including 1 of World, 1 of US and/or Government

B. English - 4 years of college preparatory English

C. Mathematics - 3+ years of including topics covered in basic and advanced algebra and two-and three-dimensional geometry

D. Laboratory Science - 2+ years of laboratory science in at least 2 of the 3 disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics

E. Language Other than English - 2+ years of the same language (other than English)

F. Visual/Performing Arts - 1+ years of dance, music, or visual arts.

G. College Preparatory Elective - 1+ years (additional year of any requirement above or other elective)

Do I need a PhD to teach secondary school?

Short answer: It doesn't hurt.

Getting a Teaching Credential (License) in CA

Minimum Bachelor degree

Pass a basic skills test

Pass a test of content knowledge

Complete a program approved by the CA Commission on Teacher Credentialing

- Coursework can be minimal
- Practicum can be paid or unpaid

Helpful Websites

Early Completer Option

<https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/leaflets/cl840.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

Approved Program List

<https://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/reports/data/approved-institutions-and-programs>

Considerations

School districts are pleasantly surprised when their teachers write books or articles, but you won't get time off for writing. No sabbaticals.

Your colleagues may not share your enthusiasm for or knowledge of the content, but you might be surprised.

Professional organizations abound (e.g., National Council for the Social Studies, National Council of Teachers of English) just as in the academic world.

Adolescents...Not learning takes great effort. It's easier to learn.

Questions?

Use the zoom chat