

Single Subject Teaching Credential

One of the options for graduates with a B.S. or B.A. in chemistry is to teach in the public schools. To teach in a public middle school or high school in California, you will need to complete a single-subject teaching credential program at a university. The Department of Education at SSU has an excellent single-subject credential program. If you become a full-time student in the program, you can complete the requirements toward your credential in one year after you complete your chemistry degree. The requirements include coursework at SSU, classroom observation at an area public school, and student teaching at an area public school. For more information, go to the following link on the Department of Education website.

http://www.sonoma.edu/education/ss_basic_program_and_structure.pdf

There, you will find a description of the steps needed to begin the credential program and a description of the program itself.

If you would like to enter the single-subject credential program, begin preparation during the fall semester of your last year as an undergraduate. That will give you time to complete the program prerequisites so that you are ready to enter the program in the fall semester after you receive your chemistry degree. See the link above for more details on the program prerequisites.

There are opportunities to gain some teaching experience while still getting your degree in chemistry. Students are hired as Supplemental Instructors for large freshman courses, as tutors in the Tutoring Center, as tutors in the chemistry department and as teaching assistants in the chemistry department as part of the Senior Experience program. If you are interested in a specific type of teaching opportunity discuss it with your advisor.

Public schools are very much in need of qualified science teachers, so if you decide that this is the right path for you, you will have lots of opportunities. You will also have a chance to make a difference in the lives of your students. After taking your class, some will be inspired to study chemistry in college, just like you were.