

Special Characteristics of the Institution

California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB) serves the dynamic and growing communities of California's Southern San Joaquin Valley and the Antelope Valley. The Bakersfield region is a hub for agriculture, energy production, and transportation, while the Antelope Valley features the aerospace industry. The relatively inexpensive cost of living and availability of land in both regions make these communities attractive to families and others seeking affordability and space.

While the regions' current growth bucks the state's general demographic trends, the trend continues a long history of movement. The early twentieth century saw residents joined by ranchers, Dust Bowl migrants, and immigrants from Mexico. Movement into the region from other parts of California, the United States, and the world, including significant Central and South American, Asian, and Indian populations, continues to create complex and dynamic communities. While Bakersfield itself is the state's ninth-largest city, the university also serves the dozens of rural communities across Kern, Inyo, Kings, Tulare, and North Los Angeles counties, where our students, staff, and faculty call home.

CSUB serves these communities with approximately 10,000 students enrolled in over 55 degree programs categorized into majors that work, majors that matter, majors that mean business, and majors that make a difference. Among the majors that make a difference are the university's Educator Preparation Programs, including teacher education, special education, educational counseling, and educational administration. University-wide, the students, or Rising Runners to acknowledge the university's roadrunner mascot, are about 86% undergraduates and 14% graduate students. Most educator preparation students are graduate students. The university has a Hispanic Serving Institution designation and a large proportion of first-generation students.

Improving students' capabilities, opportunities, and potential for positive impact on their communities forms a central university mission reflected in the motto 'Runners on the rise! To this end, CSUB continues to distinguish itself in national rankings for economic value, social mobility, and commitment to student success. Notable rankings include:

- No. 4 in California Futures Foundation's California Mobility Index, 2025
- No. 10 in CollegeNET's Social Mobility Index, 2024
- No. 14 in Best Bang for the Buck College: West, Washington Monthly, 2024
- No. 28 in Master's Universities, Washington Monthly, 2024

This focus on value, mobility, and success can be found throughout the university, college, and educator preparation mission, vision, and values statements.

CSUB Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals

CSUB Mission

California State University, Bakersfield is a comprehensive public university offering excellent undergraduate and graduate programs that advance the intellectual and personal development of its students. We emphasize student learning through our commitment to scholarship, ethical behavior, diversity, service, global awareness, and life-long learning. The university collaborates with partners in the community to increase the region's overall educational attainment, enhance its quality of life, and support its economic development.

CSUB Vision

CSUB will be a model for supporting and educating students to become knowledgeable, engaged, innovative, and ethical leaders in the regional and global community.

CSUB Goals

- Strengthen and inspire student success and lifelong learning
- Advance faculty and staff success
- Develop and sustain high-quality and innovative academic programs and support services
- Recognize and address regional needs in collaboration with our community
- Diversify, enhance, and responsibly steward our campus resources

College of Social Sciences and Education (SSE) Mission and Goals

SSE Mission

The mission of the College of Social Sciences and Education is to enrich the lives of our students and improve the communities in which they live by providing high-quality undergraduate, credential, and graduate programs in the social sciences and education. Our programs provide opportunities for students to grow as wise leaders, engaged and compassionate citizens, reflective users of disciplinary knowledge, well-prepared working professionals, and lifelong learners. We embrace diversity in thought and experience. The College is a resource and partner for increasing the quality of life in our community. In all we do, the College strives for educational access, efficiency, and quality.

SSE Goals

- Recruit, retain, and support high-quality faculty and staff who are dedicated to the mission of the University and College.
- Provide opportunities for strong disciplinary preparation and rich overall academic experiences leading to timely graduation.
- Develop stronger relationships with external partners in order to create opportunities

for students and to improve the quality of life within our community.

- Expand academic programs with the College that increase educational access without sacrificing quality or efficiency.

Educator Preparation Programs (EPP) Mission, Vision, and Theme

EPP Mission

CSUB Educator Preparation Programs cultivate school, university, and community partnerships that prepare highly qualified education professionals who work collaboratively to nurture an equitable and informed education community.

EPP Vision

The CSUB Educator Preparation Programs will be the nexus of a network of ethical educational leaders who promote student growth and improve the quality of life in their communities.

EPP Theme

Expanding minds. Engaging hearts. Enhancing communities.

The mission and framework for the College of Social Sciences and Education provides the foundation from which the EPP draws its capability to connect the College's diverse history with unit philosophies, goals, and standards, and candidate proficiencies to enable the faculty to develop 21st-century educators. By expanding minds and engaging hearts, we strive to enhance the community that we serve.

The EPP is defined as programs in SSE that are subject to review by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) as basic or advanced credential programs. The Teacher Education Department (TED) includes the undergraduate Liberal Studies program along with graduate programs in Multiple and Single Credentials ([TED website](#)). While the Bilingual Authorization, Reading Literacy Authorization, and the MA, Curriculum and Instruction program are in the Department of Teacher Education, they are housed online through Extended University. The Advanced Educational Studies (AES) department houses the Special Education teacher preparation program, preparing candidates for the Educational Specialist credential, the School Counseling program, preparing candidates for the Pupil Personnel Services credential, and the Educational Administration program, preparing candidates for the Preliminary Administrative Services credential ([AES website](#)).

The EPP is in turn housed with the College of Social Science and Education, which is comprised of 12 academic departments and supported by the dean's office, advisors, and a credentials office ([SSE Organizational Chart](#)). The SSE College is in turn nested within the university's academic affairs division, which includes the provost's programs for grants, research and sponsored programs, faculty affairs, institutional research planning and assessment, and academic affairs ([Academic Affairs Organizational Chart](#)).

The Chairpersons of the Teacher Education Department and the Advanced Educational Studies Department are responsible for ongoing oversight of the educator preparation programs offered at CSUB and report directly to the Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Education. In turn, the Teacher Education Department supports one Director for Multiple and Single Subject programs on the Bakersfield campus and one on the Antelope Valley campus. The Advanced Educational Studies Department supports a Director for Special Education on the main campus and a coordinator on the Antelope Valley campus. The Department of Advanced Educational Studies also supports a Director for the Educational Counseling program and a Director for the Educational Administration program. Program faculty in the Department of Advanced Educational Studies and the Department of Teacher Education meet on a regular basis to evaluate programs and recommend curricular changes to the SSE Curriculum Committee, and monitor and review assessment activities.

While organization within the TED and AES departments has remained relatively stable, the EPP SSE College and CSUB are all undergoing a period of change and budgetary adjustment. Until the summer of 2025, the EPP included a Director of Education Assessment and Accreditation responsible for supporting and coordinating accreditation needs for all credential programs, program reviews, and new education program proposals and documents. Unfortunately for the EPP, the director retired in summer 2025, and university budget restraints prevented the position from being filled. Faculty release time was granted to fill part of this formerly full-time responsibility and is split between a faculty member from TED and another from AES.

There are further transitions expected leading into the 2026-2027 school year as both the Interim Associate Dean and Interim Dean's roles are expected to be filled on a permanent basis. The Associate Dean provides operational support to the Dean and the two Department Chairs. The Dean's office also oversees the credential staff and organizes the Teacher Education Advisory Committee (TEAC), including representation from across the campus and throughout the PreK-14 community. The dean, faculty, and staff representatives also participate in professional councils, organizations, and boards within the University and community, such as the Kern Induction Council and Antelope Valley Curriculum Articulation Council.

Despite this period of organizational transition, we have added two additional offerings since our 2021 Preconditions Report: 1) Single Subject Dance Credential and 2) Child Welfare and Attendance Authorization for the PPS Credential. Further, the PK-3 Credential Initial Program Review was submitted on May 5, 2025, and is currently in the review process.

We look forward to this round of accreditation review of our programs to acknowledge our strengths and seek continuous program improvement to better serve our students, educational partners, and communities.