

So You Want to be a...

WHAT DOES A PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER DO?

Physical Education teachers focus on student learning needs by providing opportunities for them to develop motor and fitness skills, as well as knowledge and confidence that can lead to lifelong participation in physical activity. Physical Education teachers can work in either an elementary or secondary setting. At the elementary level the focus is on helping students develop as skillful movers, while teaching healthy habits and lifestyles. At the secondary level the focus is on advancing competence of skills, as well as knowledge and confidence that leads to lifelong physical activity behaviors. Oftentimes at the secondary level, a Physical Education teacher has the opportunity to coach a sports team.

WHAT DEGREE DO I NEED TO BECOME A PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER?

To become a physical education teacher in California and maintain your credential you must complete five steps.

- Complete a Bachelor's degree from an accredited school (suggested) and an Approved Teacher Preparation Program
 - Typically aligned with the subject area
 - Post-baccalaureate programs
 - Intern Programs
- Verify Subject Matter Competence
 - Completion of an approved bachelor's degree in the subject area (program here)
 - Waived CSET for Physical Education
- Apply for Initial Credential
 - Lasts for 5-years
- Apply for a Clear Credential
- Maintain your PE Teaching Credential

Physical Education Teacher

WHAT ARE THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

The state of California is currently facing a projected shortage of teachers in all areas including physical education. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the outlook for job growth for teachers in general is between 6 – 8% through 2024.

The average salary for a beginning Physical Education teacher in California is around \$56,183/year. Salaries do vary by district and region and with experience.

DO I NEED ANY CERTIFICATIONS OR LICENSURE?

Physical education teachers are professionals who incorporate scientific and humanities knowledge of physical activity into their pedagogy, to prepare students to be active for life. To teach at a public school you must complete an approved teacher preparation program and be credentialed. This is regulated by the California State Board of Education. Each state has its own credential/licensure process and while states have reciprocity agreements credential/licensure in one state may not apply to all states

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

There are numerous national and state organizations that offer information on a career in physical education. Nationally visit the Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) America website.

<https://www.shapeamerica.org/>

At the state level visit The California Teachers Association (CTA) and California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (CAHPERD) websites.

<https://www.cta.org/Professional-Development.aspx>