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About the NS Education Minor Hide

The Natural Sciences Education (NSED) Minor is primarily intended for students interested in teaching careers at the K-12 level. The minor is being developed as part of the Science and Mathematics Initiative (SMI) also known as California Teach (CalTeach) Program. Under the governor's initiative CalTeach has been instituted as a UC-wide effort to address the severe shortage of science and mathematics teachers in California's secondary schools. The program offers courses, academic and career counseling that allows students majoring in science and engineering to explore and prepare for careers in teaching sciences and mathematics in secondary schools. NSED Minor would allow leveraging SMI program to offer a wider range of UC Merced students an opportunity to explore additional career options, deepen their understanding of science and mathematics, and improve their ability to communicate scientific and mathematical concepts.

The 24-unit NSED minor program will prepare students majoring in sciences or mathematics for direct admission into teaching credentialing programs such as the one administered by California State University, Stanislaus (CSUS). In fact, the minor program has been developed with close consideration of the teacher credentialing program at CSUS to ensure that students who complete the NSED minor will be able to obtain a teaching credential in a shorter amount of time. In particular, the courses and fieldwork that NSED Minor consists of, will allow students with degrees in science and mathematics to continue their education in a teaching credentialing program without completing any additional requirements. In addition, students will have an opportunity to become intern teachers even as they enter the teaching credentials program, which would allow them to start their teaching career earlier and be paid while completing the single-subject credential.

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