

Abstract: CalTeach student support extends beyond traditional academic advising, counseling, and tutoring. Throughout the academic year, students incur significant expenses related to program participation, and so, while the rigor of the program weighs on the confidence of some during this exceptionally demanding time of year, the UCI CalTeach Program also endeavors to alleviate the additional burden of programmatic related financial stress.

Challenging Term Can Take its Toll

By Cheryl Turrise (March 2022)

Spring is undeniably in the air, as are both the excitement, and trepidation levels of our 2022 CalTeach Cohort.

As our students approach their final term at UCI while in the CalTeach Program, there's still much to accomplish as they finalize preparations towards applying for their secondary teaching credential with the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing this summer after graduation.

While we commend their considerable efforts to this point, we continue to guide and support these amazing driven students as members of the CalTeach family, while they complete both their credential related activities, as well as their primary UCI STEM major requirements.

It's a strenuous time for many, with competing and pressing demands within a continually condensing timeframe. Our support extends beyond traditional academic advising, counseling, and tutoring. CalTeach also endeavors to provide useful and needed financial support available through grant funding for reimbursements of significant expenditures incurred by our students through program participation.



With all the pressure of finals looming, completing STEM program graduation requirements, while also preparing for the submission of required individual student teaching performance assessments, it is a time when many begin questioning their choices.

“Do I really belong here?”

“Why am I subjecting myself to all these requirements?”

“Is all the pressure, tight deadlines, and hard work worth it?”

We see and hear it all. It certainly can be a heavy load, especially for those also with jobs or other external responsibilities, and we strive to make sure they understand that the CalTeach Advising and Resource Center is always available to listen to their worries and fears, their doubts and uncertainties, and will endeavor to always detail practical options given their unique circumstances when needed.



Fortunately, the vast majority of our students do get through these demanding periods of their academic year, and go on to successfully graduate, earn their teaching credential, and progress onto their elected path towards very promising careers as math and science educators who exemplify the CalTeach mission of becoming “equity-oriented secondary teachers who are change agents in high-need schools.”

I am proud and thankful to work with our delightfully dedicated students, and be part of the incredible UCI School of Education’s CalTeach team!

To learn more about [CalTeach mission and vision](#), and [ways to get started in our program](#), or how you can help others towards this rewarding path, please visit our website for more details: <https://calteach.uci.edu/giving/>

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