



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Commission Approves New Programs For Teachers**

Prospective teachers will have expanded opportunities to earn single subject teaching credentials at CSU, Los Angeles, CSU, Dominguez Hills and Pepperdine University as a result of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing's recent action.

"Excellent teachers are those who have a thorough knowledge of the subject they teach and who have the skill to communicate that knowledge to students in a meaningful and lasting way. Subject matter programs are designed to align with California's K-12 Academic Content Standards and go hand-in-hand with teacher preparation programs that include the most effective methods for teaching the subject to a wide range of students," stated P. David Pearson, Chair of the Commission.

"The Commission has the authority to approve educator preparation programs including undergraduate subject matter programs such as those in English, mathematics and social science, to name a few," continued Pearson.

At its June 27-28, 2007 meeting in Long Beach, the Commission approved the following programs:

- CSU, Dominguez Hills      Social Science
- CSU, Los Angeles         English
- Pepperdine University     English

Descriptions of the programs can be found at:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2007-06/2007-06-6A-revised.pdf>

Over the next decade, school districts will face teacher shortages in all subject areas due to large-scale teacher retirements. Universities and local school districts continue to identify ways to fill the gap and to meet local needs. One way to ensure that teachers are available to teach the needed subject areas is for universities to offer more subject matter programs for teaching credentials. Programs can be integrated with undergraduate level education programs and fieldwork in the schools, or can be offered separately.

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All subject matter programs are based on specified criteria and standards and are reviewed by a panel of experts in the subject. The expert panel is made up of representatives of K-12 public schools and university faculty. The review process includes early technical assistance, review, and requests for additional information or suggestions for program changes. When the program meets the criteria and standards, the panel recommends approval to the Commission.

Single subject teaching credentials are most often used in middle schools and high schools. They authorize teaching the subject named on the credential in a “departmentalized” setting. Single subject teaching credential candidates may meet the subject matter requirement by completing an approved subject matter program or by passing a Commission-approved subject matter examination. The approved subject matter programs are part of an academic baccalaureate program and consist of approximately 45 semester units. Teachers may have more than one subject listed on their credential as long as they meet the requirements. They must also complete all other credentialing requirements such as student teaching.

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