



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2011

CONTACT: Marilyn Errett
Phone: 916-445-7912
media@ctc.ca.gov

Commission Increases Teacher Access to Foundational-Level General Science Credential

SACRAMENTO – On January 27, 2011, [The Commission on Teacher Credentialing](http://www.ctc.ca.gov/default.html)¹ (Commission) approved a plan to help meet the continuing shortage of teachers qualified to teach general and integrated science. The Commission had [previously approved](#) a subject area within the science credential arena, the Foundational-Level General Science credential, and had outlined two options for meeting the subject matter requirement: One, to pass the two general science sections of the California Subject Examinations in Science; or two, to complete a Commission-approved university subject matter program in general science.²

The new science credential area is designed primarily to meet shortages at the elementary and middle school levels.

While the examination route was implemented “barrier free,” the development of university subject matter programs in Foundational-Level General Science proved problematic. The Commission historically has set a forty-five semester unit program minimum for subject matter programs. However, since the establishment of the credential option in February of 2009, not one program had come forward to seek approval for Foundational-Level General Science. Commission staff members queried university science and education program faculty to determine the problem and were informed that it was not possible to provide forty-five semester units while keeping the content at the foundational level.

A second survey determined that that a thirty-two semester unit program would suffice to cover the necessary general science content. In addition, the thirty-two semester unit requirement meets federal requirements for Highly Qualified teachers.

[Immediately following the Commission’s action, program sponsors will be allowed to apply for approval.](#)³ Programs currently approved for the full science subject matter programs in biology, chemistry, geosciences and physics will be allowed to recommend candidates for the Foundational-Level General Science credential immediately through a written statement to the Commission that the program intends to use its approved general science coursework for the new credential.

###

¹ <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/default.html>

² <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/coded/2009/0902.pdf>

³ <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2011-01/2011-01-2C.pdf>