



## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***What is a teacher preparation program?***

Teacher preparation is a program of professional course work (including student teaching) that develops the skills needed for serving in the classroom. This includes course work in areas such as teaching methods, curriculum development, and classroom management.

### ***What is subject matter competence and how does it differ from a teacher preparation program?***

While teacher preparation is knowledge of HOW to teach, subject matter competence is knowledge of WHAT is taught. Subject matter competence is a requirement for all multiple subject, single subject, and special education credentials (with the exception of Early Childhood Special Education), which assess the prospective teacher's knowledge in the academic subject area that she or he will be teaching. This requirement is met either by completing specific examinations or by taking courses (in addition to the teacher preparation courses) in the academic subject area through a California college or university that has a Commission-approved subject matter program for that area. In compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind Act, all multiple subject candidates must pass an exam to meet subject matter competence.

### ***What is the processing time for applications?***

The processing time for applications is set in law as 50 working days. Generally, online applications are processed within 10 working days. Over 80 percent of applications are processed on-line.

### ***What is the fee for processing a credential?***

The fee to process most applications is \$100. A full list of processing fees is available at [www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl659.pdf](http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl659.pdf)

### ***Can you tell me which school districts in California have a need for teachers?***

Individuals interested in teaching opportunities throughout California should visit the Ed Join website at [www.edjoin.org](http://www.edjoin.org)

### ***What is accreditation?***

When an institution (college, university, school district, county office of education or other entity) wants to offer one or more educator preparation programs to prepare candidates to teach or provide services in the California public schools, the institution and each of its credential programs need to become approved by the Commission. This process is called *accreditation*. More information on accreditation is available at [www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/DOC/Accreditation-System-Summary.doc](http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/DOC/Accreditation-System-Summary.doc)

***What is the Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA)?***

The TPA requires elementary and secondary teacher candidates to demonstrate in a K-12 classroom, the knowledge, skills, and abilities required of beginning teachers in California public schools. Passage of the TPA is required before a teacher can be issued a preliminary credential. Visit the TPA website at [www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/TPA-files/CalTPA-Info-Policy.pdf](http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/TPA-files/CalTPA-Info-Policy.pdf) for more information.

***Where can I get current information on Commission-approved programs?***

Current information on Commission-approved subject matter, teacher preparation and induction programs can be viewed at [www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/approved-programs.html](http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/approved-programs.html)

***What exams are required to be a teacher in California?***

Required exams vary with credential type and desired route to a credential. Information on educator exams can be found at [www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/files/CAW-exams.pdf](http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/files/CAW-exams.pdf)

***What is the Committee of Credentials?***

The Committee of Credentials is a disciplinary review committee created by statute and appointed by the Commission. The Committee evaluates the moral character and fitness of all persons who wish to teach or perform certified services in the public schools. The Committee reviews allegations of misconduct against credential holders and applicants. If the Committee finds that probable cause exists for adverse action against a credential holder or applicant, it recommends an appropriate adverse action to the Commission. The Committee is comprised of seven members appointed by the Commission for two-year terms. Membership includes an elementary teacher, a secondary teacher, one school board member, a school administrator, and three public representatives. The Committee meets 4 days each month at the Commission's offices in Sacramento. For more information on the teacher discipline process, please see <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-discipline/default.html>

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