



MULTIPLE SUBJECT TEACHING CREDENTIAL Requirements for Teachers Prepared in California

The Multiple Subject Teaching Credential authorizes the holder to teach in a self-contained classroom such as the classrooms in most elementary schools. However, a teacher authorized for multiple subject instruction may be assigned to teach in any self-contained classroom (preschool, K–12, or in classes organized primarily for adults). In addition, the holder of a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential may serve in a core or team teaching setting.

All candidates who complete their teacher preparation through a [Commission-approved program](#) in California must be formally recommended for the credential by the college or university where the program was completed. Programs will vary slightly from college to college, but all programs will include specific requirements established by the Commission. An overview of requirements is provided below.

Requirements for the Preliminary Credential

The preliminary credential is issued for a maximum of five years. If requirements for the clear credential are not completed before the expiration of the preliminary, the holder will be unable to teach in California's public schools with that credential until those requirements are met and the document is renewed.

Applicants must satisfy **all** of the following requirements for the Five-Year Preliminary Teaching Credential:

1. Complete a baccalaureate or higher degree, except in professional education, from a regionally-accredited college or university
2. Satisfy the [basic skills requirement](#). See Commission leaflet [CL-667](#), entitled [Basic Skills Requirement](#) for additional information.
3. Complete a [multiple subject teacher preparation program](#) including successful student teaching, and obtain a formal recommendation for the credential by the California college or university where the program was completed
4. Verify subject matter competence by **one** of the following two methods:
 - a. Achieve a passing score on the appropriate subject matter examination(s). Information regarding the appropriate subject matter examination(s), including passing scores and registration, can be found in Commission leaflet [CL-674M \[pdf\]](#), entitled *Verifying Subject Matter Competence by Examination*.
 - b. Complete a [Commission-approved elementary subject-matter program](#) or its equivalent and obtain verification of completion from the authorized person in the education department of a California college or university with an accredited program. This option is only available to those individuals who completed the subject matter program and enrolled in a teacher preparation program prior to July 1, 2004. For individuals enrolled in blended programs, candidates must be continuously enrolled and complete either a Ryan blended program by December 31, 2008 or an SB 2042 blended program by June 30, 2009.
5. Pass the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment ([RICA](#)). Individuals who hold a valid California teaching credential which was issued based upon completion of a teacher preparation program including student teaching, are exempt from this requirement. Visit the Commission's website or the National Evaluation Systems (NES) website at www.rica.nesinc.com for more information.
6. Satisfy the Developing English Language Skills, including Reading requirement by completing a comprehensive reading instruction course that includes the following: the systematic study of phonemic awareness, phonics, and decoding; literature, language and comprehension; and diagnostic and early intervention techniques
7. Complete a course (two semester units or three quarter units) in the provisions and principles of the U.S. Constitution or pass an examination given by a regionally-accredited college or university
8. Complete foundational computer technology course work that includes general and specialized skills in the use of computers in educational settings

Requirements for the Clear Credential

Individuals who complete a teacher preparation program and receive a five-year preliminary credential must earn a clear credential by completing **one** of the following three options:

Option 1

Complete a Commission-approved [Professional Teacher Induction Program](#) through an approved school district, county office of education, college or university, consortium, or private school. The induction program includes the advanced study of health education, special populations, computer technology, and teaching English learners.

Individuals applying for the clear credential under Option 1 must submit their application through their approved Induction Program sponsor.

Holders of SB 2042 preliminary credentials issued on or after August 30, 2004 must complete Option 1. Holders of SB 2042 preliminary credentials issued prior to August 30, 2004 may complete Option 1 or Option 2.

Option 2

Complete a Commission-approved SB 2042 fifth year of study completed at a California college or university, securing that institution's formal recommendation for the clear credential. The following must also be verified with the application for the clear credential:

- advanced course work in health education that includes, but is not limited to, nutrition; the physiological and sociological effects of alcohol, narcotics, and drug abuse; and the use of tobacco
- advanced course work in the laws, methods, and requirements for providing educational opportunities to special populations in the regular classroom
- advanced course work in computer technology including the use of computers in educational settings
- advanced course work in teaching English learners

Option 2 is only available to holders of SB 2042 preliminary credentials issued prior to August 30, 2004. Holders of SB 2042 preliminary credentials issued on or after August 30, 2004 must complete option 1.

Individuals applying for the clear credential under Option 2 must contact their California college or university and obtain a formal recommendation. If an individual opts to complete the fifth year, and the advanced study course work, the course work must be completed **after** the issuance date of the Five-Year Preliminary Multiple Subject Teaching Credential.

Option 3

Teachers who are certified by the [National Board of Professional Teaching Standards](#) in one of the qualifying subjects listed below will be issued a Clear Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. This includes those who obtained National Board Certification after their California Preliminary Multiple Subject Teaching Credential was issued.

National Board Certification:

Early Childhood (ages 3 – 8)/Generalist

Middle Childhood (ages 7 – 12)/Generalist

Individuals applying for the clear credential under Option 3 may apply directly to the Commission for a clear teaching credential by submitting **all** of the following:

1. Photocopy of National Board Certification
2. Completed application ([form 41-4](#)), and, if not previously submitted to the Commission, a completed LiveScan receipt ([form 41-LS](#))
3. Application [processing fee](#)

Private School Experience

Individuals who have three or more years teaching experience in a private school should refer to the information leaflet entitled *Single Subject and Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials – Requirements for Teachers with Private School Experience* ([CL-834](#)) for information on additional ways to qualify.

Reference: California Education Code, Sections 44251, 44252, 44259, 44280, 44281, 44283, 44310, and 44335; and Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Sections 80413 and 80424