

State Of California  
Commission on Teacher Credentialing

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## SINGLE SUBJECT TEACHING CREDENTIAL Requirements for Individuals Prepared Outside of the United States

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California has a two-tier credential structure. A five-year preliminary credential is the first credential issued after an individual meets basic credential requirements. A clear credential is issued when all credential requirements have been completed.

A Single Subject Teaching Credential authorizes the holder to teach the specific subject(s) named on the credential in departmentalized classes such as those in most middle schools and high schools. However, a teacher authorized for single subject instruction may be assigned to teach any subject in his or her authorized fields at any grade level: preschool, grades K–12, or in classes organized primarily for adults.

The statutory subjects available for California Single Subject Teaching Credentials are as follows:

Agriculture	Industrial and Technology Education
Art	Languages Other than English ( <a href="#">specify</a> )
Biological Sciences (Specialized)	Mathematics
Business	Music
Chemistry (Specialized)	Physical Education
English	Physics (Specialized)
Foundational-Level General Science	Science: Biological Sciences
Foundational-Level Mathematics	Science: Chemistry
Geosciences (Specialized)	Science: Geosciences
Health Science	Science: Physics
Home Economics	Social Science

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 renewed.

### Your Application Packet

Individuals who have completed their professional preparation program outside of the United States may apply directly to the Commission for their initial credential either [online](#) or by submitting an application packet consisting of **all** of the following:

1. Completed application ([form 41-4](#)), and, if not previously submitted to the Commission, a completed LiveScan receipt ([form 41-LS](#)). Out-of-country residents have the option of submitting two fingerprint cards in lieu of a LiveScan receipt. If submitting fingerprint cards, current fingerprint processing fees must accompany the application packet in addition to the application processing fee. Fingerprint cards may be ordered by sending an e-mail to the Commission at [credentials@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:credentials@ctc.ca.gov).
2. Application [processing fee](#)
3. [Foreign transcript evaluation](#) (see Commission leaflet [CL-635](#) entitled *Foreign Transcript Evaluation* for additional information).
4. Photocopy of comparable teaching credential or letter verifying eligibility

## Requirements for the Five-Year Preliminary Single Subject Teaching Credential

Individuals who have completed a teacher preparation program outside of the United States may apply directly to the Commission for their initial credential by submitting an application packet consisting of **all** of the following:

1. [Foreign transcript evaluation](#) showing completion of a baccalaureate or higher degree from a college or university that has been deemed to be equivalent to a regionally-accredited institution in the United States
2. [Foreign transcript evaluation](#) showing completion of a professional preparation program in secondary education, including student teaching, taken at a college or university that has been deemed to be equivalent to a regionally-accredited institution in the United States
3. Issued or eligible for a comparable teaching credential (see list of *Closely Related Single Subjects* in Terms and Definitions below) earned in a country other than the United States. The credential does not have to be valid at the time of application. A photocopy of the credential is acceptable verification of this requirement.

## Requirements for the Clear Single Subject Teaching Credential

Individuals must satisfy **all** of the following requirements:

1. Satisfy the [basic skills requirement](#) prior to the issue date of the preliminary credential or within one year of the issue date of the preliminary credential in order to be eligible to continue teaching. See Commission leaflet [CL-667](#), entitled *Basic Skills Requirement* for additional information.
2. Complete course work in Developing English Language Skills including Reading that is research-based and includes the study of phonemic awareness, spelling patterns, early intervention techniques, ongoing diagnostic techniques, and a strong literature, language, and comprehension component (Submit a copy of the course description for evaluation purposes.)
3. U.S. Constitution – individuals must satisfy **one** of the following requirements:
  - a. Complete a course (at least two semester units or three quarter units) in the Provisions and Principles of the United States Constitution from a regionally-accredited college or university (Submit a copy of the course description for evaluation purposes.)
  - b. Pass an examination in the Provisions and Principles of the U.S. Constitution given by a regionally-accredited college or university
4. Subject Matter Competence – individuals must satisfy **one** of the following requirements:
  - a. Achieve a passing score on the appropriate subject-matter examination(s). Information about appropriate subject-matter examination(s), including passing scores and registration, can be found in Commission leaflet [CL-674S](#), entitled *Verifying Subject-Matter Competence by Examination for Single Subject Teaching Credentials*.
  - b. Complete a [Commission-approved 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 approved program (California colleges and universities may have recency requirements that have to be met before a subject-matter equivalency statement can be granted.)
  - c. For Specialized Science Subjects only, individuals may take and pass all appropriate subject matter examinations or obtain verification of completion of subject-matter course work from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Requirements and procedures are explained in [Coded Correspondence 03-0010](#).

- d. For Foundational-Level General Science only, individuals prepared outside the United States must verify completion of a minimum of 18 semester units across the four science areas of biological science, chemistry, geoscience, and physics. A minimum of one course in each of the four areas is required.

5. Individuals must satisfy **one** of the following requirements:

- a. Complete a [Commission-approved Professional Teacher Induction Program](#). (See Terms and Definitions) Verification of training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) that covers infant, child, and adult CPR skills is also required. Submit a copy of both sides of the CPR card for evaluation purposes.
- b. If a Commission-approved professional teacher induction program is not available (this must be verified by the employing agency), individuals may complete an SB 2042 fifth year of study at a California college or university with a Commission-approved teacher preparation program, securing that institution's formal recommendation for the clear credential

### Course Work Submitted for a Credential

Individuals must have an overall grade point average of "C" or better on a five-point scale in all course work offered toward fulfillment of credential requirements. Continuing education units (CEU's) and professional development units are not acceptable to fulfill credential requirements. A course description or a letter from the appropriate department chairperson verifying the content of the course work should be enclosed with the credential application for course work in Developing English Language Skills including Reading and U.S. Constitution.

### Terms and Definitions

#### [Commission-approved Professional Teacher Induction Program](#)

A Commission-approved Professional Teacher Induction Program is a two-year program of situated learning for the preliminary credentialed teacher. A *Verification of Induction Program Completion Form* must be signed by the Induction Program director or designee. The Induction Program will also need to provide verification of training in CPR that covers infant, child and adult CPR skills. Verification of CPR training is not required of individuals whose health education requirement was satisfied with the issuance of their preliminary credential.

#### *Closely Related Single Subjects*

The academic majors for single subject credentials include the following:

**Agriculture:** agribusiness, animal science, agriculture mechanics, agriculture science, forestry, plant science, landscaping, crop science, dairy science, natural resources management, horticulture, or soil science

**Art:** art history, art appreciation or studio art

**Business:** accounting, business management, economics (business), business administration, finance, or marketing

**English:** composition, drama, journalism, speech, theatre arts, debate, forensics, or literature

**Health Science:** child development, foods, nutrition, health science, human sexuality, or public health

**Home Economics:** child development, foods, nutrition, interior design, or clothing

**Industrial and Technology Education:** photography, radio and television, industrial technology, computer education/science, or industrial design

**Languages Other than English:** French, German, Spanish, or any language other than English, including American Sign Language

**Mathematics:** algebra, calculus, statistics, probability, or mathematics

**Music:** instrumental or vocal music

**Physical Education:** dance, kinesiology or physical education

**Science: Biological Sciences:** biology, marine biology, anatomy, ecology, environmental science, genetics, zoology, physiology, life science, or botany

**Science: Chemistry:** chemistry or biochemistry

**Science: Geoscience:** astronomy, earth science, ecology, oceanography, meteorology, or geology

**Science: Physics:** physics or thermodynamics

**Social Science:** anthropology, economics (social science), psychology, sociology, geography, government, political science, or history

*Reference: California Education Code, Sections 44227, 44259, 44274, 44274.1, 44274.2, 44275.3, and 44275.4, and Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Section 80025.1*