



PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

Date: January 17, 2014

Number: 14-01

Subject: Subject Specific Pedagogy

Summary

This alert clarifies (1) the requirement for single subject teacher preparation programs to offer subject specific pedagogy course(s) within the Commission-approved single subject preparation program and (2) recent changes to the Title 5 section 80499 process that requires individuals who seek to add a content area to a single subject teaching credential to complete a subject specific pedagogy course.

Background

Recent discussions by the Commission have underscored the need to provide prospective teachers with appropriate and sufficient subject specific pedagogical preparation so that they can teach the content area effectively to K-12 students. These discussions and subsequent actions by the Commission regarding subject specific pedagogical preparation affect both preliminary credential candidate preparation and credential holders who are seeking an additional authorization.

Preparation of Candidates for the Preliminary Teaching Credential

All single subject teacher candidates must complete subject specific pedagogy coursework as part of the professional preparation program. Single subject teacher preparation programs are approved by the Commission to offer preparation in the single subject content areas for which a response has been submitted to Program Standard 8B. Program Standard 8B identifies the content specific pedagogy concepts that each single subject teacher must master prior to being recommended for the preliminary single subject teaching credential. The standard contains an introductory paragraph (see below) and then 14 subject specific sections. In order to be approved to offer the specific single subject area, programs must submit a response, including supporting documentation, to the specific single subject content area within Standard 8B to be approved through the program review process.

The Commission-adopted standards do not prescribe *how* the program sponsor must structure pedagogical instruction; thus, program sponsors may offer subject specific pedagogy coursework in numerous ways. For instance, a program sponsor may offer a specific pedagogy course for each content area (i.e. mathematics or physical education). Alternatively, program sponsors may offer a pedagogy course that includes candidates seeking a single subject teaching credential in different content areas. In this instance, however, the coursework must be individualized to the content areas represented by enrolled candidates. Regardless of the manner in which the pedagogy preparation is provided, all aspects of Program Standard 8B **must** be addressed. The language of Program Standard 8B is included below with emphasis added to underscore that regardless of how the program sponsor chooses to deliver the preparation, that the pedagogical preparation **must be subject specific**.

Program Standard 8B (emphasis added)

In the subject to be authorized by the single subject teaching credential, the preliminary teacher preparation program provides **substantive instruction and supervised practice** that effectively prepare each candidate for an SS Credential to **plan and deliver content-specific instruction** that is **consistent with (a) the state-adopted academic content standards for students and/or curriculum framework in the content area**, and (b) the **basic principles and primary values of the underlying discipline**. The program provides **multiple opportunities** for each SS candidate (a) to **learn, practice and reflect on the specific pedagogical knowledge and skills** that comprise the Commission adopted subject-specific *Teaching Performance Expectations* (TPE 1B), and (b) to **apply the TPEs to instruction in the subject to be authorized by the credential**. In the program, each SS candidate demonstrates basic ability to: **plan and organize instruction to foster student achievement of state-adopted K-12 academic content standards for students in the subject area**; use instructional strategies, materials, technologies and other resources to make content accessible to students; and interrelate ideas and information within and across major subdivisions of the subject.

In the event that the pedagogy course offered by a program sponsor includes candidates seeking a single subject credential in different content areas, the pedagogy course must include significant emphasis for each candidate in the discipline in which the single subject credential will be earned. For example, the assignments in a given course must be individualized for each candidate's content area and the candidate must be allowed the opportunity to practice the pedagogical skills that the course specifically addresses in the single subject content area of the pursued credential.

A generic single subject pedagogy course that does not differentiate and provide subject specific pedagogical preparation for enrolled candidates does not meet the Commission's requirements for the preparation of single subject teachers. Accreditation reviewers will require evidence that the specific requirements in Program Standard 8B are being addressed by each approved sponsor. In addition, a generic single subject pedagogy course would not meet the requirements for a subject specific pedagogy course for the Title 5 section 80499 process as discussed in the next section

Subject Specific Pedagogy Requirement for Adding an Additional General Education Teaching Credential through Title 5 Section 80499

During 2013 the Commission made changes to the Title 5 section 80499 process to require that individuals holding a single subject teaching credential who seek an additional credential have appropriate pedagogical preparation in that new content area. An individual who holds a single subject teaching credential may add an authorization to teach another content area by satisfying the subject matter requirement (by examination or by completion of a Commission-approved subject matter program) and completing 3 semester units (or 4 quarter units) of subject specific pedagogy. Complete details are included in Coded Correspondence 13-7 and applicable information leaflets (see Reference section below).

Individuals qualifying for a new credential type or additional content area(s) with a document issuance date of **January 1, 2014** or later will need to provide verification of completion of these new requirements. Applications to add a general education credential or new content area through the Title 5 section 80499 process must be submitted as a paper application. These types of applications may not be submitted by program sponsors as a CTC Online recommendation.

Institutions may provide subject specific pedagogy coursework to candidates seeking to add an authorization through the Title 5 80499 process. However, **the program sponsor must be approved to offer the single subject credential in the specific content area which the candidate seeks to add.** For instance, an institution that is approved to offer single subject credential in mathematics and science only may not offer the pedagogy course for a candidate seeking to add a physical education content area since the institution is not approved to offer that single subject physical education content area within their approved program. Program sponsors may refer to the “Subjects” column of the selected institution on the Commission-approved professional preparation programs chart under the selection “Single Subject” to verify which single subject areas are offered by each institution (http://cig.ctc.ca.gov/cig/CTC_apm/SS.php).

Candidates who hold a single subject credential in Mathematics, Science, and LOTE/World Language, who are seeking a new authorization in the same general content area are not required to complete another subject specific pedagogy course in order to add the new authorization. For instance, a single subject teacher in physics who is seeking to add chemistry is not required to complete an additional pedagogical course specific to chemistry because the candidate has already completed a science-specific pedagogy course. Similarly, a single subject credential holder in Languages Other than English (LOTE): Spanish would not need to take an additional pedagogy course in French in order to add LOTE: French because he or she has already completed a Language Other than English pedagogy course.

This is not the case when the holder of a single subject LOTE credential adds the World Language: English Language Development (WL: ELD) content area. A specific WL: ELD pedagogy course is required to add WL: ELD content area. Holders of a WL: ELD Credential who add another LOTE content area must complete a LOTE pedagogy course.

However a single subject credential holder in Social Studies, for example, who is seeking to add a Single Subject credential in LOTE/World Language Mandarin, may take the pedagogy course

at an institution that has been approved to offer any LOTE/World Language single subject program even though the pedagogy course is not specifically focused on Mandarin. More information on the pedagogy requirement is available in Coded Correspondence 13-17.

Important Dates:

The recent changes to requirements using the provisions of Title 5 section 80499 became effective January 1, 2014.

References

Coded Correspondence 13-17: Approved Amendments to Title 5 Section 80499 of the California Code of Regulations Pertaining to Adding a Teaching or Content Area to a General Education Credential

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/coded/2013/1317.pdf>

Single Subject Program Standards

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/standards/AdoptedPreparationStandards-2013.pdf>

Adding a Teaching or Content Area to a General or Standard Teaching Credential (CL-621):

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl621.pdf>

Adding a Teaching or Content Area to a Multiple or Single Subject Credential (CL-621A):

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl621a.pdf>

Commission-approved Preparation Programs Chart-Single Subject Programs:

http://cig.ctc.ca.gov/cig/CTC_apm/SS.php

PSA 12-07: Meeting the Subject Matter and the Single Subject Credential Pedagogy Requirements

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/PS-alerts/2012/PSA-12-07.pdf>

Contact Information

The Professional Services Division provides a full list of topic- and program- specific dedicated email addresses at: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/PSD-contact.html>.

For questions concerning the requirement to add a content area or credential type using the provisions of Title 5 section 80499, contact the Commission's Information Services Unit at (916) 322-4974, Monday through Friday from 12:30 to 4:30 pm or by email at credentials@ctc.ca.gov.