



PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

Date: June 6, 2011

Number: 11-12

Subject: Foundational-Level Science Subject Matter Program
Preconditions

Summary

This alert provides information on Preconditions for Foundational Science Subject Matter Programs for single subject credentials. Foundational Science subject matter programs must include a minimum of 32 semester units with a minimum of 8 semester units in each of these four science areas: biology, chemistry, geosciences, and physics.

Background

In late 2008, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing approved the Foundational-Level General Science Single Subject Credential which authorizes instruction in general science and introductory science in grades K-12, and integrated science in grades K-8. Credential candidates may meet the subject matter requirement for this credential through either passing CSET Science Subtests 118 and 119 (General Science) or completing an approved Foundational-Level Science subject matter preparation program.

To obtain subject matter program approval, program sponsors must submit a program document which addresses all of the standards and all of the program preconditions. Preconditions for subject matter programs address the required number of course units in the approved program, and they designate the subject matter content areas which must be included in the program.

Key Provisions

On January 27, 2011, the Commission approved Preconditions for Foundational-Level General Science subject matter programs. Teachers holding this authorization are also considered "Highly Qualified" for the purpose of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. The approved Preconditions are as follows:

To be approved by the Commission, a Subject Matter Program in Foundational-Level General Science must comply with the following preconditions.

- (1) Each Program of Subject Matter Preparation for the Single Subject Teaching Credential in Foundational-Level General Science shall include (a) a minimum of 32 semester units (or 48 quarter units) of coursework in science as commonly taught in departmentalized science classes in California public schools through grade 9.*

- (2) The program of study shall include at least 8 semester units (12 quarter units) as defined by the General Science Subject Matter Requirements in each of four science areas: biology, chemistry, geosciences, and physics.*

By written notification to the Commission, fully approved science programs which include a concentration in a science content area may offer a Foundational-Level Science subject matter program through their already approved general science course sequence if it meets the Preconditions above. Those wishing to submit a new sequence of Foundational Science coursework for review and approval should apply according to the guidelines found at the link below (Submitting a Proposal for an Educator Preparation Program in California).

References

Foundational-Level General Science Subject Matter Authorization PSA

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/PS-alerts/2008/PSA-08-05.pdf>

Science Subject Matter Standards Program Handbook

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/standards/SSMP-Handbook-Science.doc>

Adoption of Proposed Preconditions for Foundational Science Subject Matter Programs

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

Submitting a Proposal for an Educator Preparation Program in California

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/new-program-submission.html>

Contact Information:

The Professional Services Division provides a full list of topic specific dedicated email addresses as well as program areas with the most up to date Commission staff member's email address here

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/PSD-contact.html>.