

## COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

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76/445-0184



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

January 31, 1984

83-8427

TO: Deans, Directors and Credential Analysts of Schools of Education

FROM: John F. Brown, Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: United States Constitution Requirement for Teaching Credentials

During the past months problems have surfaced regarding the United States Constitution requirement for teaching credentials. Education Code Section 44335 (copy attached) shows how the requirement must be fulfilled. Please notice that either a course or examination may be used to satisfy this requirement, but the requirement must be satisfied at the college or university level. Since the graduation requirement at some institutions can be satisfied by the completion of a high school civics course, and since private institutions are no longer required by law to ensure that their graduates meet a U.S. Constitution requirement, we need to be particularly aware of the requirement as it relates to TEACHING CREDENTIALS.

The problem is that candidates entering the teacher education programs have been told that the "U.S. Institutions Requirement Met" statement on their college transcript clears the requirement for the teaching credential. This is not necessarily true. We have rejected several applications when we couldn't find verification that the requirement was met at the college level. Because the discrepancy between college graduation requirements for U.S. Constitution and the teaching credential requirement was not fully understood at the IHEs, our rejects have caused embarrassment at the institutions and hardships for candidates who thought they were finished and found themselves with one more course to take.

To solve this problem we ask you to comply with the following procedures when submitting a recommended application:

1. If U.S. Constitution has not been completed according to requirements in Title 5, but a commitment has been made to the student before 3-1-84, leave blank the box indicating that the requirement has been met. Instead, write "see attached" and include a separate sheet of paper with an explanation.
2. If U.S. Constitution has been completed, please mark the appropriate box and indicate what course you accepted by listing the course number on the application. If the requirement was completed by exam, make sure that verification of passing the exam is enclosed.

(over)

3. If the U.S. Constitution box is checked but there is no evidence of a course on the transcript, no letter regarding the exam, and no notation that an explanation is attached, CTC staff will reject the application for proof of completion of the requirement.
4. Effective immediately, you are to be sure that all applicants entering your credential program meet the U.S. Constitution requirement at the college level.

THESE PROCEDURES WILL BE IN EFFECT UNTIL FILING DATE 7-1-84. AFTER THAT YOU WILL HAVE TO SUBMIT EVIDENCE OF COMPLETION OF THE COLLEGE LEVEL COURSE-  
WORK OR EXAM FOR ANY DOCUMENT WHICH REQUIRES THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please let us know.

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Knowledge of Constitution of United States

44335. The issuance of any teaching credential requires

(1) the passing of a satisfactory examination on the provisions and principles of the Constitution of the United States in a community college, college, or university of recognized merit or

(2) the satisfactory completion of two semester units of work on the provisions and principles of the Constitution of the United States in any university or college from which undergraduate credits earned are accepted by the commission as meeting undergraduate credit requirements for credentials issued by the commission or in any publicly supported community college in the state. Public and private institutions in California may be authorized to attest to the individual's satisfaction of this requirement.

The requirements of this section do not apply to the designated subjects teaching credential authorizing part-time employment only.

(Amended by Stats. 1971, ch. 438; Stats. 1976, ch. 1250; Stats. 1977, ch. 36)