

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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To: Individuals and Agencies Interested in the Subject Matter Preparation Requirements for the Single Subject Teaching Credential

From:  Philip A. Fitch, Ed. D.
Executive Director

Subject: CHANGES IN THE SUBJECTS AVAILABLE FOR THE SINGLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL

Senate Bill 654 (Bergeson) made changes in the subjects available to be placed on the Single Subject Teaching Credential. These changes are consistent with the *Standards of Program Quality and Effectiveness for Subject Matter Programs in Science and Social Science*.

Subject Areas for Single Subject Credentials

The changes in the subject areas for Single Subject Credentials are as follows:

1. **Life science** and **physical science** are eliminated as single subject areas, and are replaced by **science**.
2. **Government** and **history** are eliminated as single subject areas, and **social science** is retained.

The result is that credential candidates will no longer be able to receive credentials in the four areas eliminated, but rather will be able to receive the broader subject authorizations of **science** and **social science**.

The single subject areas now listed in the Education Code §44257 are:

Agriculture	Industrial and Technology Education
Art	Mathematics
Business	Music
English	Physical Education
Foreign Language	Science
Health Science	Social Science
Home Economics	

All other subjects that are commonly taught in departmentalized classes in California public schools are subsumed under the above categories.

Specific Concentration Required for Science Credentials

Senate Bill 654 requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to issue science credentials with a specified concentration in a particular subject. The four science concentrations are: biological sciences, chemistry, geosciences, and physics. Each credential in science must list at least one concentration. The holder of a Single Subject Teaching Credential in science will be qualified and authorized to teach courses in general science, introductory science, integrated science, and coordinated science in kindergarten and grades 1-12. In addition, the holder will be qualified and authorized to teach specialized courses in the areas of concentration.

Implementation of Changes in State Law

For candidates meeting the subject matter requirement through an approved subject matter preparation program at a college or university, the following implementation schedule is in effect for the eliminated subjects:

Government and History - Candidates who are enrolled in Commission-approved subject matter programs in government or history on or before December 31, 1994, are entitled to complete those programs, as long as the programs are completed by January 1, 1998. On or after January 1, 1995, candidates may not enroll in those programs for the first time.

Colleges and universities with approved programs in government or history should identify students in those two subject areas, **enrolled in their institution on or before December 31, 1994**, who indicate teaching as a career objective. Their names should be placed on a list of "protected" students who will be allowed to apply for credentials in government or history, provided that they complete the programs prior to January 1, 1998. Students not on the list will be required to complete a program in one of the subject areas listed on page 1 and in Education Code Section 44257. These lists will be kept on file at the institution so that students can be appropriately advised.

Colleges and universities are urged to advise students interested in teaching government or history to enroll in a Commission-approved social science subject matter program even before January 1, 1995, since the social science credential has a broader authorization that includes government and history, as well as the other social sciences.

Life Science and Physical Science - Candidates who are enrolled in Commission-approved subject matter programs in life science or physical science on or before December 31, 1994, are entitled to complete those programs, as long as the programs are completed by January 1, 1998. On or after January 1, 1995, candidates may not enroll in those programs for the first time. Further, once the Commission approves a "new" science program (in accordance with the Commission's standards) at a college or university, students may be admitted only to that program and not to an "old" program in life science or physical science.

Colleges and universities with approved programs in life science or physical science should identify students in those two subject areas, **enrolled in their institution on or before December 31, 1994**, who indicate teaching as a career objective. Their names should be placed on a list of "protected" students who will be allowed to apply for credentials in life science or physical science, provided that they complete the programs prior to January 1, 1998. Students not on the list will be required to

complete a program in one of the subject areas listed on page 1 and in Education Code Section 44257. These lists will be kept on file at the institution so that students can be appropriately advised.

Colleges and universities are urged to advise students interested in teaching life science or physical science to enroll in a Commission-approved science subject matter program with an appropriate concentration as soon as it is available at the institution, since the science credential has a broader authorization that includes a concentration in one of four science areas, as well as general science, introductory science, integrated science and coordinated science. Institutions are also urged to encourage credential candidates to seek supplementary authorizations.

Examinations - For candidates planning to meet the subject matter requirement through an examination, the following information is available at this time.

For government and history, examinations are not available and have not previously been available. An examination continues to be available in the area of social science.

For life science and physical science, examinations will be available until Fall of 1995. New examinations in science with the four concentrations will be available at that time.

Questions

Questions about examinations may be directed to Information Services at (916) 445-7254. Questions about all other parts of this Coded Correspondence may be directed to Dr. Lawrence Birch, Consultant, Program Evaluation and Research at (916) 327-2967.