



CODED CORRESPONDENCE

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| DATE: November 22, 2013 | NUMBER: 13-13 |
| TO: All Individuals and Groups Interested in the Activities of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing | FROM: Mary Vixie Sandy Executive Director Commission on Teacher Credentialing |
| SUBJECT: Adoption of an Entrance Examination for the Early Completion Intern Option (ECO) and Information on Support and Supervision for ECO Candidates | |

Summary:

At its September 2013 meeting, the Commission adopted a two-part examination to serve as the entry assessment that would allow individuals to qualify for the Early Completion Intern Option (ECO). The previous written examination adopted by the Commission for this purpose was discontinued by its publisher (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2013-09/2013-09-4C.pdf>). This Coded Correspondence addresses the Commission-adopted examination requirement and the support and supervision requirement.

Key Provisions:

ECO Entry

Part 1 of the new two-part examination contains a written assessment component consisting of either the National Evaluation Series (NES) Assessment of Professional Knowledge (APK): Elementary (Test code 051) for Multiple Subject candidates or the NES Assessment of Professional Knowledge: (APK) Secondary (Test code 052) for Single Subject candidates. This part of the examination may be taken more than once. Links to the program and candidate information about these assessments can be found in the "References" section.

The Commission adopted the national benchmark passing score (a scaled score of 220) for both of the NES assessments (APK 051 and 052). Note: The examination scores on the NES APK assessments have a five-year period of validity and must be used towards a credential within that time frame.

Part 2 of the new examination, which measures content-specific pedagogy, uses the existing initial Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA) task(s) provided within a Commission-approved TPA model. The following table identifies, by approved TPA model (CalTPA, FAST, PACT), the specific TPA task(s) that ECO candidates would need to pass on the first attempt for entry into the ECO route.

| TPA Model | ECO Entry TPA Task(s) |
|-----------|---|
| CalTPA | Task 1 |
| FAST | CalTPA Task 1 |
| PACT | Task 1 and Task 2 (excluding the daily reflections of Task 2) |
| edTPA* | Task 1 |

**The edTPA is being piloted by selected institutions in California during the 2013-14 academic year.*

The prospective ECO candidate will need to work with a Commission-approved intern program to complete the TPA task as part of the ECO entry assessment. It is possible that there will be a charge for administration and scoring of the TPA task. There is no required sequence to the two-part entry assessments. A candidate must pass both entry assessments to begin the ECO route.

Individuals pursuing the ECO may do so at any time in their program; however, potential ECO candidates will need to pass the appropriate NES exam (APK 051 or 052) and the TPA content-specific pedagogy task identified in the table above to waive the remaining program coursework.

Support and Supervision

Interns in the ECO route are still required to receive the general support and supervision that must be provided to all interns while they are serving on an Intern credential. Currently, the support and supervision requirements are specified within pending regulations in Title 5, California Code of Regulations §80033. Detailed information regarding the pending regulations is available at: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2013-08/2013-08-1H.pdf>. A Coded Correspondence will be distributed by the Commission when the pending regulations receive final approval.

Completing the ECO Option

All of the remaining tasks within the approved TPA model used by each Intern program must be passed on the first attempt and also must be completed within the first academic year of enrolling in the intern ECO route.

Important Dates:

The Commission formally adopted this new entry assessment structure on September 26, 2013 and it is effective as of that date. Candidates may currently register for the NES assessments (APK 051 and 052). Candidates may use scores on the prior assessment (i.e., the Teaching Foundations Examination) for purposes of the ECO option for a period of five years from the date the assessment was passed.

Background:

The Early Completion Option (ECO) for multiple subject and single subject intern program candidates was first established in law with the passage of Senate Bill 57 (Chap. 269, Stats. 2001). Successful completion of the requirements for the ECO allows a candidate to waive the program coursework and the program fieldwork. ECO candidates must meet specific statutory requirements, including:

- Completing the entrance requirements into an intern program;
- Bachelor's or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university;

- Basic Skills Requirement;
- Subject matter competence;
- U.S. Constitution (via exam or coursework);
- Professional fitness (fingerprinting);
- Written assessment of teaching foundations (APK 051 or APK 052);
- Teaching performance assessment (TPA) passed on the first attempt (multiple and single subject candidates); and
- Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA) (multiple subjects candidates).

Source:

Education Code §44468(a)

Title 5, California Code of Regulations §80033 (pending)

References:*Commission Agenda and Related Items*

September 2013 Commission Agenda Item 1H:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2013-08/2013-08-1H.pdf>

September 2013 Commission Agenda Item 4C:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2013-09/2013-09-4C.pdf>

September 2013 Commission Agenda Item 4C (Insert):

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2013-09/2013-09-4C-insert.pdf>

Additional information regarding applicable regulations can be found at <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/PS-alerts/2013/PSA-13-06.pdf> with information concerning the regulations when they are effective.

Examination Information

Overview of the NES Multiple Subject assessment (APK 051), links to the candidate study guide, and other materials, and to register for the assessment: http://www.nestest.com/TestView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/NT051_TestPage.html.

Overview of the NES Single Subject assessment (APK 052), links to the candidate study guide, and other materials, and to register for the assessment: http://www.nestest.com/TestView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/NT052_TestPage.html.

Summary of the structure of the written examination and the content covered on each examination:

http://www.nestest.com/Content/Docs/NES_Framework_051.pdf (Multiple Subject)

http://www.nestest.com/Content/Docs/NES_Framework_052.pdf (Single Subject)

List of Commission-approved intern programs can be found here: http://cig.ctc.ca.gov/cig/CTC_apm/all.php. Select either 'Multiple Subject (Intern)' or 'Single Subject (Intern)' from the drop down list.

Contact Information:

Contact the Commission's Examinations and Research Unit by email at: exams@ctc.ca.gov.