



CODED CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: March 10, 2015	NUMBER: 15-03
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: Options for Meeting the Basic Skills Requirement	

Summary:

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) took action at its December 2014 meeting to approve additional options for individuals seeking a California Teaching Credential to meet the state's basic skills requirement.

In addition to previously available options for meeting the Basic Skills Requirement, specified scores on selected College Board Advanced Placement (AP) examinations can now be used to demonstrate basic skills competency.

Key Provisions:

California Education Code and Title 5 Regulations specify, that in most cases, applicants for a credential, certificate, or permit to serve in the public schools of California must demonstrate basic skills proficiency before the credential, certificate, or permit will be issued. For Multiple and Single Subject Teaching Credential candidates, the basic skills requirement must be met prior to being assigned daily responsibility for whole class instruction in student teaching or serving as an intern. However, institutions may require the basic skills requirement to be met prior to program enrollment.

Current options for meeting the basic skills requirement:

1. Pass the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) – Individuals only need to pass the CBEST once; CBEST passing scores remain valid indefinitely for all credential purposes. To pass the CBEST, one must obtain a minimum score of 41 in each of the three sections—reading, writing, and mathematics. However, a score as low as 37 on an individual section is acceptable if the total score is at least 123. Any or all sections of the CBEST can be repeated as many times as necessary to obtain a passing score.

2. Pass the CSET: Multiple Subjects plus the CSET: Writing Skills Examination – Passing the California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET): Multiple Subjects examination in combination with the CSET: Writing Skills examination meets the basic skills requirement. Passing exam scores on the CSET: Multiple Subjects examination used only for purposes of meeting the basic skills requirement remain valid indefinitely. The CSET: Writing Skills may not be used alone and must always be used in combination with the CSET: Multiple Subjects examination.
3. Demonstrate proficiency on the California State University (CSU) Early Assessment Program. Demonstrating proficiency on the CSU Early Assessment Program (EAP) (English and Mathematics sections) is sufficient to meet the basic skills requirement. For use of the EAP, individuals must achieve a score of “College Ready” or “Exempt” for both math and English.
4. Demonstrate proficiency on the California State University (CSU) Placement Examinations. Demonstrating proficiency on the CSU Placement Examinations (English Placement Test [EPT] and Entry Level Mathematics [ELM]) is sufficient to meet the basic skills requirement. For use of the EPT, individuals must achieve a score of 151. For use of the ELM, individuals must achieve a score of 50.
5. Pass a Basic Skills Examination from Another State – The Commission will accept basic skills examinations from other states. There is no recency requirement for the date the examination was passed. The list of Basic Skills examinations from other states accepted by the Commission can be found at: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl667.pdf>.
6. Achieve the minimum acceptable scores on the College Board SAT examination. Individuals who achieve a score of at least 500 on the SAT English exam and a score of at least 550 on the SAT mathematics exam are determined to have met the basic skills requirement.
7. Achieve the minimum acceptable scores on the ACT examination. Individuals who achieve a score of at least 22 on the ACT English exam and a score of at least 23 on the ACT mathematics exam are determined to have met the basic skills requirement.

As of December 2014 the following additional option for meeting the basic skills requirement is approved:

8. Achieve the minimum acceptable scores on selected College Board Advanced Placement (AP) examinations. Individuals who achieve: 1) a score of 3 or higher on the College Board AP English exam; and 2) a score of 3 or higher on the AP Calculus exam or AP Statistics exam, are determined to have met the basic skills requirement.

The table below shows the options for individuals to use scores from examinations other than Commission-owned examinations (CBEST and CSET) to meet the basic skills requirement.

Options for Meeting the Basic Skills Requirement other than the CBEST or CSET

Examination	English Score Requirement	Math Score Requirement
CSU Early Assessment Program (EAP)	“College Ready” or “Exempt”	“College Ready” or “Exempt”
CSU Placement Exams (EPT and ELM)	Score of 151 or above	Score of 50 or above
College Board SAT	Score of 500 or above	Score of 550 or above



Examination	English Score Requirement	Math Score Requirement
ACT	Score of 22 or above	Score of 23 or above
College Board Advanced Placement Examinations (AP)	Score of 3 or above on one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP English Language and Composition • AP English Literature and Composition 	Score of 3 or above on one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP Calculus AB • AP Calculus BC • AP Statistics

Candidates must complete the Basic Skills Requirement through one of the eight available options. Parts of different options may not be combined to meet the Basic Skills Requirement. For example, an individual cannot combine passage of the mathematics section of the EAP with the reading section of the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) and the Writing section of the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET): Multiple Subject Plus Writing examination.

Candidates using only the CSU examinations to meet the BSR, however, may combine scores from the EAP and the EPT/ELM examinations to meet the BSR as long as the individual passes a section of English and a section of Mathematics. For example, an individual may combine passage of the Mathematics EAP and the CSU Placement Examination in English (EPT) to satisfy the BSR. See [Coded Correspondence 11-18](#).

Important Dates:

The described options for meeting California’s basic skills requirement are available immediately.

Source:

Education Code section 44252

References:

December 2014 Commission agenda item 3F – Update on the Basic Skills Requirement and Potential Approval of an Additional Option for Meeting the Basic Skills Requirement: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2014-12/2014-12-3F.pdf>

Contact Information:

Questions regarding credential requirements and application submission may be directed to the Commission’s Information Services staff by email at credentials@ctc.ca.gov or by telephone at (916) 322-4974 Monday through Friday from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

Questions about Commission examinations may be directed to the Commission’s Examinations staff by email at exams@ctc.ca.gov.