



# CODED CORRESPONDENCE

**DATE:**

August 7, 2018

**NUMBER:**

18-03

**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: Guidance on a College Degree in Professional Education Used Toward the  
Requirements to Earn a Teaching Credential**

**Summary:**

This Coded Correspondence provides guidance from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) regarding whether a college degree in Professional Education is appropriate to use to meet the requirement of a baccalaureate degree for a teaching credential.

Assembly Bill (AB) 170 (Chap. 123, Stats. 2017) amended Education Code (EC) sections 44225 and 44259 effective January 1, 2018. These EC sections now allow a college degree in Professional Education to be used to meet the requirement of a baccalaureate degree for a Multiple Subject teaching credential. These amendments did not include provisions to also allow a degree in Professional Education to be used to meet the requirement for Single Subject or Education Specialist Instruction teaching credentials.

**Key Provisions:**

For all preliminary teaching credentials in California, there is a requirement that the individual complete a baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally-accredited college or university.

Prior to January 1, 2018, the degree requirement for a teaching credential could not be met with a degree or degree major in Professional Education. Following the passage of AB 170, this requirement changed for an individual earning a Multiple Subject teaching credential. An individual applying for a Multiple Subject teaching credential may now complete a baccalaureate or higher degree in Professional Education from a regionally-accredited college or university. The degree

requirement did not change for the Single Subject or Education Specialist Instruction teaching credentials.

While a degree in Professional Education cannot be accepted toward meeting this requirement for a Single Subject or Education Specialist Instruction teaching credentials, the term 'education' in the degree or major title in some instances may still be appropriate. For the purpose of meeting the degree requirement, if the baccalaureate or higher degree contains pedagogy and field experience courses as found in a professional teacher preparation program and does not include a primary focus on the arts and sciences of a traditional college degree program then it would be considered a degree in Professional Education and would be precluded from use for this purpose. A full review of all applicable transcripts may be necessary in order to make this determination.

**Important Date:**

Effective as of January 1, 2018

**Background:**

Prior to the passage of AB 170, a baccalaureate degree or higher in Professional Education was prohibited from use in order to meet the degree requirement for all teaching credentials.

**Sources:**

California Education Code sections 44225 and 44259

**References:**

Multiple Subject Teaching Credential (CL-561C):

[https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/leaflets/cl561c.pdf?sfvrsn=7aab1162\\_12](https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/leaflets/cl561c.pdf?sfvrsn=7aab1162_12)

Single Subject Teaching Credential (CL-560C):

[https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/leaflets/cl560c.pdf?sfvrsn=8db75dfc\\_4](https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/leaflets/cl560c.pdf?sfvrsn=8db75dfc_4)

Education Specialist Instruction Teaching Credential (CL-808CA):

[https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/leaflets/cl808ca.pdf?sfvrsn=acab8f79\\_0](https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/leaflets/cl808ca.pdf?sfvrsn=acab8f79_0)

**Contact Information:**

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

Questions from Program Sponsors of Multiple Subject, Single Subject, and Education Specialist Instruction teaching credential programs may be sent to [PSDInfo@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:PSDInfo@ctc.ca.gov).