



Credential Information Alert

DATE: April 7, 2014

NUMBER: 14-13

SUBJECT: Pedagogy Requirement for Adding a New Credential Type or Content Area

Summary:

This Alert provides additional information regarding pedagogy requirements to supplement Coded Correspondence 13-17 and Program Sponsor Alert 14-01. Changes in regulations were effective January 1, 2014 for completing the requirements in Title 5, California Code of Regulations, section 80499 (section 80499) to obtain a new credential type or add a new content area to an existing general education teaching credential.

Key Provisions:

When seeking a new Single Subject Credential or adding a new single subject content area, an educator must complete a pedagogy course that aligns with the specific content area sought. A non-specific or generic secondary methods course is not acceptable.

Pedagogy Courses and Subject-Matter Programs

Pedagogy courses completed in California are acceptable **only if** the institution has the appropriate Commission-approved multiple or single subject teacher preparation program for the credential type or content area sought. For example, an educator in California seeking to add the content area of mathematics to an existing Single Subject Credential would need to complete a methodology course addressing the teaching of mathematics from an institution with a Commission-approved preparation program in mathematics. Refer to the "Subjects" column of the selected institution on the Commission-approved professional preparation programs chart under the selection "Single Subject" (http://cig.ctc.ca.gov/cig/CTC_apm/SS.php).

It is not necessary for the program sponsor to have a Commission-approved subject-matter program in the content area being sought as long as the institution's teacher preparation program has been approved for the content area. Subject-matter programs may be found at: http://cig.ctc.ca.gov/cig/CTC_NewSubject/all.php.

For example, University 247 has a Commission-approved single subject preparation in all of the single subject content areas. However, the university does not have approved subject-matter programs in Art, Social Science, and Music. An educator may earn a Single Subject Teaching Credential in Art, Social Science, or Music by passing the appropriate subject-matter examinations and completion of the single subject teacher preparation program. For this reason, an educator may use the Art, Social Science, and Music pedagogy courses offered at University 247 to earn a Single Subject Credential when qualifying using the section 80499 process.



Equivalency Letter

Commission-approved program sponsors may grant equivalency for the pedagogy requirement for **coursework completed at their institution** as long as the institution has the appropriate teacher preparation program for the credential type or content area sought. For verification of equivalency, educators must submit with their application an original, signed letter on the institution's letterhead indicating that coursework completed meets the subject specific pedagogy requirement. A letter from an institution of higher education must be signed by the dean/director of teacher education; a letter from a district intern program must be signed by the superintendent or his/her authorized designee. An individual may wish to contact the teacher education office of a Commission-approved program sponsor for information on the content of pedagogy coursework offered.

While a Commission-approved program sponsor may grant equivalency by verifying that coursework completed at their institution fulfills the pedagogy requirement, regulations do not allow a program sponsor to grant equivalency for anything other than coursework, including teaching experience. The completion of a minimum of three semester units or four quarter units of pedagogy coursework addressing the specific content area or credential type sought must be completed and verified with the submission of official transcripts.

An individual may have completed the pedagogy coursework before January 1, 2014 when the new requirements under section 80499 took effect. If coursework completed prior to January 1, 2014 meets the new subject specific pedagogy requirement, but the course title or course description does not indicate that the course included the specific subject area of the pedagogy course, the educator may ask the university to write an equivalency letter to accompany the application following the process outlined above. If the course was a generic course that did not address the subject specific pedagogy *or* the university will not write such a letter, the educator must complete coursework that addresses the current subject specific pedagogy requirement.

Clarification Letter

Some program sponsors may offer their single subject pedagogy courses as separate branches stemming from one main course. For example, University ABG may offer a general single subject pedagogy course 500, with a 500A, 500B, 500C, etc., as sub-courses each targeting different content areas. A transcript and/or course description may be necessary to identify that the appropriate pedagogy course has been taken.

Other program sponsors may have only one course designated as single subject pedagogy but provide for individualized assignments for each candidate taking the course based on the specific content area being sought. While the course may be approved for candidates in their single subject program, the course title shown on a transcript or the course description does not identify each of these individualized assignments.

Example: University ZYX offers a general three semester unit pedagogy course ED 415. The course includes a subject-specific seminar component where a candidate is prepared for subject-specific content instruction, being grouped in subject-specific teams where the candidate receives instruction in connecting content knowledge with pedagogy in their respective disciplines. Additional seminar topics include



all other knowledge and skills specific to pedagogical preparation in the given subject area the candidate is pursuing along with general pedagogy topics.

In this case, the educator may ask the university for a letter of clarification (not equivalency) on the university letterhead with an original signature by a person authorized from the credentials office verifying that the course includes the specific content area pedagogy as set out in section 80499. The original letter must be included with the application. Refer to PSA 14-01 *Subject Specific Pedagogy* for additional information.

Exceptions to Completing a Pedagogy Course

An educator holding a Single Subject Credential seeking to add a new content area that falls within the same broad content area would not need to complete additional pedagogy coursework. An educator adding the following content areas are exempt from this requirement:

- adding a Science content area to any existing Science credential including Foundational-Level General Science;
- upgrading a Foundational-Level Mathematics credential to the full Mathematics content area; or
- adding a World Language (WL)/LOTE (Language other than English) content area, other than English Language Development (ELD), to an existing WL/LOTE credential in any content area other than ELD (see charts below)

Adding a WL/LOTE content area - pedagogy course requirement

Credential Held	Content Area to Add	Pedagogy Course
1) Single Subject in WL: ELD	Another WL/LOTE	WL/LOTE in any language other than ELD
2) Single Subject in WL/LOTE other than WL: ELD	Another WL/LOTE other than WL: ELD	n/a
3) Single Subject in any content area except WL/LOTE	WL/LOTE other than WL: ELD	WL/LOTE in any language other than ELD
4) Single Subject in any content area	WL: ELD	WL: ELD

Examples:

- 1) Holder of a Single Subject Credential in WL: ELD adding a new WL/LOTE area such as Spanish or French must complete a WL/LOTE pedagogy course in any language other than ELD due to the specialized preparation and pedagogy for WL: ELD.
- 2) Holder of a Single Subject Credential in French seeks to add Mandarin—it is not necessary to complete a Mandarin pedagogy course. This educator has already met the WL/LOTE pedagogy requirement. See PSA 14-01 (link in Reference section) for additional information.
- 3) Holder of a Single Subject Credential in any content area except WL/LOTE seeking to add a World Language/LOTE content area must take a WL/LOTE pedagogy course. However, the



course can be completed at an institution that is approved to offer any WL/LOTE single subject program even though the pedagogy course is not focused on a specific language. For example, a Single Subject Credential holder in Social Studies seeking to add Mandarin as a new single subject content area may complete a World Language/LOTE pedagogy course at an institution approved to offer any WL/LOTE single subject program and the course need not be focused on Mandarin.

- 4) Holder of a Single Subject Credential in any content area seeking to add the WL: ELD content area must complete a WL: ELD pedagogy course due to the specialized preparation and pedagogy for WL: ELD.

Adding a WL/LOTE SS Credential - pedagogy course requirement

Credential Held	To earn	Pedagogy Course
Multiple Subject	WL/LOTE: ELD	WL: ELD
Multiple Subject	Any other WL/LOTE	WL/LOTE in any language other than ELD

Background

Section 80499 allows an educator to obtain a new credential type or add an additional content area to an existing general education teaching credential without completing the entire professional preparation program for that type. An educator must establish subject matter competence by passing the appropriate examinations or, for single subject areas only, by completing a Commission-approved subject matter program. In addition, a pedagogy (methods of teaching) course must be completed when seeking to add a new credential type or single subject content area to an existing credential.

References:

Coded Correspondence 13-17: *Approved Amendments to Title 5 Section 80499 of the California Code of Regulations Pertaining to Adding a Teaching or Content Area to a General Education Credential*
<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/coded/2013/1317.pdf>

PSA 14-01: *Subject Specific Pedagogy*
<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/PS-alerts/2014/PSA-14-01.pdf>

Adding a Teaching or Content Area to Multiple and Single Subject Credentials
<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl621a.pdf>

Contact Information:

The most direct method to receive a response to specific questions is by email to the Commission’s Information Services Section at credentials@ctc.ca.gov. Place key words indicating the nature of your question in the subject line to allow the Commission to direct the email to the appropriate staff.

You may also contact the Commission by telephone at (916) 322-4974 Monday through Friday between 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time.