



## **Options for Earning a General Education (MS/SS) Clear Teaching Credential**

Individuals holding a Preliminary General Education (Multiple or Single Subject) teaching credential are required by Education Code §44259(c)(2) to complete a Commission-approved Induction program to earn the Clear Teaching Credential. It is the responsibility of the new teacher to earn a clear teaching credential within a five-year period from the issuance of the Preliminary Teaching credential. The method intended by statute for new teachers to earn a clear teaching credential is completion of a Commission-approved Induction program.

An induction program is designed to support and guide the new teacher in his or her teaching assignment by incorporating local school and district goals under the guidance and assistance of a support provider who has deep knowledge of the local school, district and community as well as of new teacher development. Each individual holding a Preliminary teaching credential should be supported and mentored during the first two years of teaching. All Commission-approved General Education Induction programs are listed on the Commission's Approved Programs web page. A drop down list allows for filtering so only those institutions sponsoring Induction programs are listed ([http://cig.ctc.ca.gov/cig/CTC\\_apm/GE\\_i.php](http://cig.ctc.ca.gov/cig/CTC_apm/GE_i.php)). Currently there are 156 Commission-approved Induction programs [0 California State University (CSU), 1 University of California (UC), 3 private colleges and universities, and 152 sponsored by local education agencies].

The following options are available to Preliminary General Education (Multiple or Single Subject) Credential Holders:

**1. Enroll in and complete an induction program sponsored by, or in partnership with, the employing district or county office of education.**

The usual way for an educator to earn a clear teaching credential is by completing a Commission-approved Induction program that is sponsored by, or that is in partnership with, the employing school district or county office of education. When the induction program is sponsored by the employing district or the employing district is a partner in the program, it is more likely that the program will incorporate the local school and district goals.

If the individual's employer is not sponsoring or partnering with a Commission-approved Induction program, the following alternatives are available for earning the general education clear credential.

**2. Enroll in and complete an Induction program that is offered by a college or university.**

If a teacher is employed in a district that is not sponsoring an Induction program or partnering to offer Induction to its teachers, the individual may elect to complete an

induction program that is offered by a college or university. An induction program sponsored by a college or university shall incorporate the local school and district goals and most will accomplish this through the work of the support provider with the Preliminary credential holder. This option is limited, however, since at this time there are only four Commission-approved Induction programs sponsored by colleges or universities.

**3. Enroll in and complete an Induction program sponsored by a neighboring district or a county office of education if the program accepts participants who are not employed by a partner district.**

The teacher must find an Induction program sponsored by a local school district or county office of education willing to work with an educator who is not employed by a partner district. When the Induction program is not sponsored by the employing district, it may be difficult for the program to address local school and district goals. It is likely that the new teacher would have to pay fees to the Induction program. This option may also be limited, as many programs are not prepared to work with teachers from outside of the partner districts.

**Note:** Online programs are beginning to be offered by both Local Education Agency (LEA)- and colleges/university-sponsors. Currently the Commission does not have specific information on which Induction programs are offered through an online delivery model. The educator would need to contact LEA and college/university induction program sponsors to see which institutions offer this option. Although this option seems promising, it is a limited choice for candidates since there are few programs currently available at this time.

**4. Complete a General Education Clear Credential program**

If none of the Induction programs options described above are available to an educator who holds a Preliminary Teaching Credential and the educator is employed as a teacher, completing a Commission-approved Clear Credential program is the alternate route to earn the Clear Teaching Credential.

This is the option available to candidates if a teacher's employer verifies that Induction is not available to that teacher or the teacher must satisfy the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirement. The employer must complete a form, known as the [CL 855](#). This allows the individual to enroll in a Commission-approved Clear Credential program sponsored by a college or university. It would be expected that if an employer does not or cannot make available an Induction program to a beginning teacher during the first two years of employment, the employer would sign this form and provide it to the candidate.

The chart at the following link shows which employers are eligible to complete the CL 855 form and verify that induction is unavailable: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/PS-alerts/2011/PSA-11-15.pdf>

All Commission-approved General Education Clear Credential programs are listed on the Commission's Approved Programs web page. A drop down list allows filtering so only those institutions sponsoring Clear Credential programs are listed ([http://cig.ctc.ca.gov/cig/CTC\\_apm/GE\\_c.php](http://cig.ctc.ca.gov/cig/CTC_apm/GE_c.php)). At this time there are 21 Commission approved Clear programs (2 CSU, 3 UC, and 16 private colleges and universities) in operation.

## Other Considerations

The Commission does not collect, maintain, or post information on the costs associated with educator preparation programs. It has been the Commission's policy that each individual has the right to select among any of the Commission-approved educator preparation programs that lead to the credential sought. This means that a holder of a Preliminary Multiple or Single Subject Teaching Credential may potentially select among any of the Commission-approved Induction programs, enroll in, and complete the induction program to earn the Clear Teaching credential. However, it should be noted that some employers may require candidates to enroll in the Induction program sponsored by the district as a condition of employment. In this instance, candidates could be required to enroll in the district program rather than choose another enrollment option.

Not all employers (school districts, county offices of education, or charter schools) are sponsoring, or partnering in the sponsorship of a Commission-approved Induction program. Some employers that are sponsoring or partnering in the sponsorship of a Commission-approved Induction program have instituted candidate fees for participating in the program.

It is important that each holder of a General Education (Multiple or Single Subject) Preliminary Teaching Credential understand the requirement to complete a Commission-approved Induction program to earn the Clear Teaching Credential and understand that the availability and cost of a Commission-approved Induction programs varies across California's local education agencies.

Important questions a Preliminary Credential holder might consider asking a prospective employer:

- 1) "Do you sponsor, or partner in sponsoring, a Commission-approved Induction program through which I can earn my Clear Teaching Credential?"

If the answer to the first question is **Yes**, then an appropriate follow-up question would be:

- 2) "What cost, if any, is there to me to participate in the district's Commission-approved Induction program?"