

Update on Implementation of AB 130: Subject Matter Competency Requirement



OCTOBER 18, 2021

CERTIFICATION DIVISION/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

AB 130: TK-12 Education Trailer Bill

- Signed into law on July 9, 2021, by Governor Newsom; took effect immediately
- Provides additional options for meeting the Basic Skills Requirement and Subject Matter Competence
- Extension of some testing flexibilities into 2021-22 school year, including the authority to further extend flexibilities to June 30, 2022
- Extension of some Executive Order program flexibilities into 2021-22 school year



Existing Subject Matter Competence Options

- Passage of applicable CSET examinations
- Completion of a Commission-approved Subject Matter Preparation Program



Caveats about New Options in AB 130

- AB 130 did NOT eliminate the Subject Matter Requirement but provides new ways to demonstrate subject matter competence.
- Part of the impetus is to reduce the heavy reliance on standardized tests and to recognize the importance of successful passage of collegiate coursework as a means to demonstrate SM competence.
- Although these new options are available to all candidates and prospective candidates, some individuals will still need to take and pass one or more subtests of the CSET examination.



New Subject Matter Competence Options: Degree

- A **bachelor's degree or higher degree** from a regionally accredited college or university in the statutory subject sought on the credential can now satisfy subject matter competence.



New Subject Matter Competence Options: Degrees for Single Subjects

- For Single Subjects, a degree major in one of the subject areas in which the Commission credentials candidates:

Agriculture

Art

Business

Dance

English

World Language

Health Science

Home Economics

Industrial and Technology

Education

Mathematics

Music

Physical Education

Science

Social Science

Theater



New Subject Matter Competence Options: Degrees for Single Subjects

- Additional acceptable majors:
 - Science includes majors in Biology, Chemistry, Geoscience or Earth and Space Science, and Physics
 - “Applied” majors in the single subject credential areas (e.g., Applied Mathematics, Applied Physics)
 - Subject areas that may have additional modifiers (e.g., Biology: Environmental Biology; Art: Art History; and Physical Education: Kinesiology)



New Subject Matter Competence Option: Degrees for Multiple Subjects

For Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials, the degree major must be in:

- **Liberal Studies**, or
- An interdisciplinary studies major that includes coursework in the content areas for Multiple Subjects

- Language studies
- Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social studies
- History,
- The Arts
- Physical education
- Human development



New Subject Matter Competence Option: Degrees for Education Specialists

- For Education Specialist Instruction Credentials, any degree that meets the subject matter competence requirement for Single Subject or Multiple Subjects is acceptable.



New Subject Matter Competence Option: Coursework Aligned to SMRs

- Successful completion of coursework that addresses the Subject Matter Requirement for the credential area being sought.



New Subject Matter Competence Option: Coursework Aligned to SMRs

- Coursework must have been taken at a regionally accredited institution of higher education
- At this time, no definition for “successful completion” but the Commission will be seeking to add C- or better to regulations.
- No time limit or recency requirement on coursework – but must address the SMRs
- Only Commission-approved programs may make the determination that a course can be used toward demonstration of subject matter.
- No specific unit requirement for coursework – content is what is important



What are the SMRs?

- Each content area has a set of Subject Matter Requirements which serve as the foundation for subject matter programs and the CSET examination.
- Subject matter requirements were developed by content experts, are aligned to the TK-12 academic content areas, have been adopted by the commission, and identify the content that candidates are expected to know.
- SMRs may be found in several places:
 - Demonstration of Subject Matter Webpage: [Demonstration of Subject Matter Webpage](#)
 - Within Alignment Matrices on Subject Matter Program Webpages: [Subject Matter Programs](#)
 - Pearson Webpages for CSET Exams: [CSET Exams Webpage](#) (Look for preparation materials under each CSET exams)



How are SMRs organized?

Subject Matter Requirements are organized by Domain Level and then by Elements.

Example: SMRs for Agriculture Single Subject credential 6 Domains:

1. Plant and Soil Science
2. Ornamental Horticulture
3. Animal Science
4. Environmental Science and Natural Resource Management
5. Agricultural Business and Economics
6. Agricultural Systems Technology



How are SMRs organized?

Example of Domain 1: Agriculture

- **Domain 1. Plant and Soil Science:** Candidates demonstrate a broad understanding of principles of plant and soil science. Candidates apply this knowledge to plan and implement programs. Candidates are able to demonstrate an understanding of a range of topics in plant and soil science, including soil science; plant nutrition and soil treatments; plant classification, anatomy, and physiology; plant genetics, reproduction, and propagation; crop production practices; and emerging technologies in plant and soil science. (CSET Subtest 1)



Domains vs. Elements

- The document on the Subject Matter Competence Webpage contains ONLY the Domains.
- Domain 1 also has 6 sub elements (available on test prep and subject matter pages) (crop management and production, emerging technologies in plant production).
- These may be used to assist programs but review of candidate coursework can take place at the Domain level.



Who should determine if a course meets SMR

- Decision is made by the program/institution.
- These are not the same as BSR, requires understanding of the content
- Commission encourages programs to involve faculty and subject matter experts including Commission approved subject matter program faculty.



New Subject Matter Competence Options: Combination Coursework Aligned to SMRs and CSET Examination

- Completion of a combination of coursework and examination that together meet the Subject Matter Requirements for the credential being sought.
- Allows a mixing and matching of coursework and exam subtests



New Subject Matter Competence Options: Combination Coursework Aligned to SMRs and CSET Examination

Institution will need to do the following:

- 1) Determine what subtests a person has taken and passed
- 2) Determine what courses a candidate has already taken that addresses some or all of the domains of the SMRS
- 3) And make a determination as to what the candidate must do: Does the totality of the coursework and exam mean the candidate has demonstrated all the domains or does the candidate need to take a particular subtest or coursework to demonstrate one or more domains?



New Subject Matter Competence Options: Combination Coursework Aligned to SMRs and CSET Examination

These two documents will be essential to your review:

- 1) [Domains of the Subject Matter Requirements](#) (SMR for each credential area with domains)
- 2) [Subject Matter Domains and CSET Examination by Subtest](#) (SMR Domains covered by each CSET exam)

Note: 10 year rule applies here for acceptance of scores.



SMR Domains and CSET Examination

CSET Agriculture – Subtest Number	Domain Measured
I	Plant and Soil Science
I	Ornamental Horticulture
II	Animal Science
II	Environmental Science and Natural Resource Management
III	Agricultural Business and Economics
III	Agricultural Systems Technology



Promulgating Regulations

- Emergency Regulations not moving forward at this time
- New (non emergency) regulatory package will be considered at the December 2021 Commission meeting
- Revised reg package will seek to: 1) identify a list of acceptable majors beyond those listed, 2) define successful completion of coursework as a C- or better.
- Staff will work with the field to inform the reg package.
- Staff will continue to work with the field as this law is implemented over the next few years to address any issues



Revised anticipated timeline for regulatory package

- December 2021 – Commission considers regulations package
- End of January 2022 – Regulatory package submitted to Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for approval
- Jan-Feb 2022–OAL review of proposed regulations
- Beginning of March 2022– If approve by OAL, regs will go into effect



Recommending Program Completers

Save **Cancel** * = Required Field

Candidate Completion Date*	10/18/2021		Subject Matter	SM by degree major	
Issue Date*	10/18/2021		Qualification Route:		
Program Name:	SINGLE SUBJECT TEACHING CREDENTIAL				
Program Type:	2042 PRELIMINARY				
Document Title*	Single Subject Teaching Credential		County of Employment:		
Document Term:	Preliminary				
Document Category:	New Credential Type				
Methodology:	Art				

- Examination
- SM program at a different IHE
- SM program at the recommending IHE
- SM by coursework
- SM by coursework and exam combination
- SM by degree major



Recommending Program Completers

Authorizations **New** **Delete** 1 - 1 of 1

For Single Subject Credential Title documents, first select either the Subject Matter Program or Exams button. **Supplementary Authorization**

Authorization	Authorization Description	Subject	Subject Description	Major/ Minor	Added Authorization Date
> ELAS		NONE		MAJ	

Navigation icons: H << >> H



Recommending Program Completers

Methodology: Art

Authorizations

Save **Cancel**

Authorization Code:★

Subject Code:

Authorization Description:

Subject Description:

Added Authorization Date:

Major/ Minor:



Implications for Accreditation

New law will impact the following:

- 1) Preconditions Language (Program Preconditions, Intern Preconditions)
- 2) Common Standard 1 (recommendation process)
- 3) Common Standard 5 (program ensures that candidates have met all requirements)
- 4) Any program standards that discuss candidate requirements



Implications for Accreditation

More details about any submission requirements to be shared in coming months. But keep this in mind:

- Document your process.
 - What is your process?
 - How do you inform candidates of the options?
 - When does the review/determination take place?
 - Who does it and who oversees it?
 - How do you maintain records for each candidate and how it was determined that they meet subject matter competence? (Part of your electronic database/record keeping system)



Possible Scenarios

Diego has a Liberal Arts degree from a local university and applies to a Commission-approved teacher credentialing program in California. Can this degree be used to satisfy subject matter by academic degree major?

- 1) Language in the law says “Liberal Studies” not Liberal Arts.
- 2) Is the Liberal Arts degree an interdisciplinary studies major that includes coursework in all of the following?
Language studies, Literature, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, History, the Arts, Physical Education, Human development

If so, this major may qualify as under the major option.

- 3) If not, it is not eligible to be used under the major option BUT you may still do coursework evaluation against the SMRs to determine if it meets it through that option.



Possible Scenario

- I have a person who majored in History and wants a Single Subject Social Science credential. Is the History degree enough to satisfy subject matter for the Social Science? – *Not by degree but could do a coursework evaluation.*
- I have a person who majored in Environmental Science and now wants a Chemistry credential. Are they subject matter competent based on their degree? - *Not by degree, but could do a coursework evaluation*
- What if they wanted a foundational level science credential? – *Not by degree but could do a coursework evaluation*



Possible Scenarios

- I have a candidate who started as an agriculture science major and changed their major their junior year and now has an Animal Science Degree. How might I determine what they need for a Single Subject Agriculture credential?
- We have a degree we call Education for the 21st Century. It does not contain the words “interdisciplinary studies” nor “Liberal Studies” in the title but it contains all of the content areas listed on slide 7. Does this work under the allowable majors?
- We’ve reviewed a candidate’s history of coursework and there is one small aspect of a domain that it is unclear whether they have covered the content. How do we determine that their coursework has met this domain?



Common Questions

- Can we accept an out of state degree or out of state coursework?
- Can a Commission approved program that is an LEA implement these options?
- Do we need to ensure coursework alignment to the SMRs with the academic degree option?
- What about community college coursework?
- Can we partner with other Commission approved programs to review coursework/transcripts?
- Can we charge candidates for the coursework evaluation process?
- Must we accept another institution's determination of a subject matter competence for one of our candidates if they are not enrolled in our program?



Useful Links and Information

- Coded Correspondence [21-05](#)-Subject Matter Competence and Basic Skills Requirement
- Program Sponsor Alert [21-11](#) Update on Implementation of Subject Matter Competence
- Program Sponsor Alert [21-10](#)-Additional clarification on Subject Matter Competence
- Information on [AB 130](#)
- Credential Information Guide (CIG)
 - Username: cig2011
 - Password: ctcguide



Contacting the Commission

- Certification Division: credentials@ctc.ca.gov
- Professional Services Division: PSDinfo@ctc.ca.gov
- Division of Professional Practices: DPPinfo@ctc.ca.gov
- The Certification Division hosts “Office Hours” once per month answering questions from the field.
- The Professional Services Division hosts “Office Hours” several times per month on various topics.

