



PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

Date: November 4, 2016

Number: 16-12

Subject: Reinstating Elementary Subject Matter Programs

Summary

With the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the highly qualified teacher (HQT) requirement from No Child Left Behind (NCLB) is no longer in effect. Therefore, prospective Multiple Subject teachers will once again have the option to complete a Commission-approved Elementary Subject Matter (ESM) program to satisfy the subject matter requirement in lieu of the CSET examination option.

With input from stakeholders and in preparation for implementing revised Title 5 regulations regarding ESM programs, the ESM program standards have been updated to align with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

This PSA provides information for programs with previously-approved SB 2042 Subject Matter ESM programs that wish to continue operating an approved ESM program as well as for institutions that wish to offer a new ESM program in alignment with the updated ESM standards.

Background

California Education Code (EC) provides two routes for individuals to satisfy the subject matter requirement for earning teaching credentials:

1. EC §44282 directs the Commission to adopt examinations and assessments to verify subject matter knowledge and competence for Multiple and Single Subject Teaching Credentials.

2. EC §44310 authorizes the Commission to “waive” the subject matter examination requirement for individuals completing coursework at authorized institutions as approved by the Commission:

The commission shall waive the subject matter examination requirement for graduates of accredited public and private institutions of higher education who successfully complete subject matter programs specified by the commission.

Eligibility for an examination waiver can only be achieved when the subject matter program is one which is listed by the commission under Section 44282, and the program has been successfully completed in an approved institution of higher learning.

To conform with the federal NCLB law and the California State Board of Education’s State Compliance Plan, the Commission took action at its October 2003 meeting and determined that all candidates for a Multiple Subject Credential must pass the Commission-adopted examination (CSET) to satisfy the subject matter requirement, and credential candidates enrolled after July 1, 2004 would no longer be able to complete a subject matter program to satisfy the subject matter requirement, as outlined in [Coded Correspondence 03-0025](#).

However, as a result of the passage of ESSA, states are no longer federally mandated by NCLB to require all teachers of core academic subjects to be “highly qualified.” Highly qualified teacher (HQT) is a term that was defined in Section 1119 of NCLB and among the provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) that states are not required to implement in the 2016-17 school year. Under ESSA, the federal definition of HQT is eliminated in favor of allowing states to set their own teacher standards. States will continue to be required to disclose the steps they are taking to evaluate the equity of teacher distribution and the qualifications of their teachers and school administrators. With this change, the Commission may once again make the completion of ESM programs an option for meeting the subject matter requirement for the Multiple Subject teaching credential.

[Agenda item 2J](#) was presented at the September 2016 Commission meeting and brought forth proposed amendments to Title 5 Regulations that would allow prospective Multiple Subject teachers to satisfy the subject matter requirement by completing a Commission-approved ESM Program. The Commission adopted these proposed amendments, and was also asked in [Agenda item 3D](#) to direct staff to work with stakeholders to finalize the revisions to the ESM Program Standards. The finalized revisions to the Program Standards were presented in [Agenda item 2A](#) and adopted by the Commission at the October 2016 Commission meeting. The regulatory process should be completed in spring 2017. No institution may verify subject matter for a multiple subject candidate until the revised regulations are in effect.

ESM Program Approval Process

Previously-approved SB 2042 ESM Programs

Over 30 institutions (Appendix A) completed the review process and were approved to offer Elementary Subject Matter programs prior to 2004 when NCLB took effect and all prospective Multiple Subject teachers were required to pass the subject matter examination. These institutions may elect to 'reactivate' the ESM by completing the following activities:

1. Notify the Commission by January 15, 2017 that the institution plans to offer the ESM program and indicate when the materials in #2 will be ready for submission. This is required for all programs that would like to be approved prior to the beginning of the 2017-18 school year.
2. Complete and submit the following:
 - a. Course scope and sequence for the program;
 - b. [ESM Alignment Matrix](#); and
 - c. Course syllabi.

Once the ESM Alignment Matrix has been determined to address the updated Subject Matter Requirements (SMRs), the ESM program will be placed on the Commission Consent Calendar. Once approved by the Commission and once proposed regulations are approved by the Office of Administrative Law, institutions will be able to verify subject matter completion for multiple subject candidates. There will not be a Cost Recovery fee assessed for any of these institutions that choose to reactivate to continued approved status.

The last day for a previously approved SB 2042 ESM program to notify the Commission it plans to submit the ESM Alignment Matrix for continued approval is June 30, 2017. If an institution does not notify the Commission of its intent to submit the ESM Alignment Matrix, the program's approval status will expire and if at a later date the institution wants to offer an ESM program, the program will have to complete the IPR process. Institutions that notify the Commission of their intent will have until June 30, 2018 to activate their ESM program.

New ESM Programs

If an institution is interested in offering a Commission-approved ESM program, the institution must submit the following:

- [Intent to Submit](#);
- IPR Cost Recovery Fee;
- Program proposal that responds to the ESM preconditions and 2 adopted program standards (Appendix B) limit 5 pages per standard;
- Course scope and sequence;
- [Completed ESM Alignment Matrix](#); and
- Course syllabi.

Information on program submission and review process can be found on the Subject Matter Program Approval web page at the link provided under **References**. The ESM program standards document contains additional guidance for the submission of a program proposal.

Timeline for Review and Approval of ESM Programs Seeking Reactivation

The proposed timeline below is contingent upon several factors: the number of program matrices received, the number of volunteer reviewers available, and the time it takes for an institution to provide a response to reviewer feedback. Given the submission and review requirements, the Commission staff anticipates bringing to the Commission an initial group of proposed ESM programs for reactivation at the April 7-8, 2017 Commission meeting. As programs are deemed aligned with the ESM requirements, they will be added to the agenda of the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting.

Activity	Timeline
Commission adopts revised ESM program standards	October 2016
Institutions with previously approved ESM programs inform Professional Services staff if they intend to submit an ESM alignment matrix for review and approval prior to the beginning of the 2017-18 year (via electronic survey link)	January 15, 2017
For programs to be considered for approval at the April 2017 Commission meeting, if deemed aligned: Scope and sequence, alignment matrices, and course syllabi due.	January 31, 2017
Review session	February/March 2017
For programs to be considered for approval at the June 2017 Commission meeting, if deemed aligned: Scope and sequence, alignment matrices, and course syllabi due.	March 15, 2017 May 15, 2017
For programs to be considered for approval at the September 2017 Commission meeting, if deemed aligned: Scope and sequence, alignment matrices, and course syllabi due.	July 15, 2017
Last day to notify the Commission if an institution will be seeking reactivation (program will be removed from list of approved programs and the program would need to complete the IPR process if the institution decides to propose a program at a later date.)	June 30, 2017
Anticipated Date of Approval of Regulations by Office of Administrative Law	April 1, 2017
Last Day for Programs to Be Approved for Reactivation (limited to those that submitted Intent to Reactivate on or before June 30, 2017)	June 30, 2018

Although according to the timeline the Commission may review and approve ESM programs as new or reactivated programs in early 2017, no program will be authorized to “waive” the subject matter examination for any candidate unless and until the Office of Administrative Law approves the associated proposed regulations.

All institutions intending to offer to offer a Commission-approved ESM program, please complete the following survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ESMprogram>

References

Elementary Subject Matter Program Standards

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/STDS-subject-matter.html>

ESM Alignment Matrix

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/standards/SSMP-ESM-Alignment-Matrix-July-2016.doc>

Subject Matter Program Approval web page

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/elig-inst-new-subject.html>

Agenda Item 2J

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2016-09/2016-09-2J.pdf>

Contact Information

The Professional Services Division provides a full list of topic- and program- specific dedicated email addresses at: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/PSD-contact.html>.

Appendix A

Institutions Previously Approved to Offer Elementary Subject Matter Preparation

California State University

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
California State University, Bakersfield
California State University, Chico
California State University, Fullerton
California State University, Los Angeles
California State University, Monterey Bay
California State University, Northridge
California State University, Sacramento
California State University, Stanislaus
Humboldt State University
San Diego State University
San Francisco State University
San Jose State University

Private/Independent Colleges and Universities

Antioch University
Azusa Pacific University
Biola University
California Baptist University
California Lutheran University
Chapman University
Concordia University
Dominican University of California
Fresno Pacific University
Holy Names University
La Sierra University
Loyola Marymount University
Mount Saint Mary's University
National University
Notre Dame de Namur University
Patten University
Pepperdine University
Point Loma Nazarene University
The Master's College
United States University
University of La Verne
University of San Diego
University of the Pacific
Westmont College

Appendix B

Adopted Elementary Subject Matter Program Standards

Standard 1: Program Design

Elementary Subject Matter programs are based on an explicit statement expressing the purpose, design, and learning outcomes of the program within the context of the university or college. The program curriculum builds on the TK-8 state-adopted content standards, with candidate outcomes and assessments aligned to Commission-adopted subject matter requirements, including the required depth of study concentration. The program provides prospective teachers with conceptual knowledge of the defined subject matter, develops academic literacy and discipline-based fluency, uses technology to enhance learning, offers opportunities to consider issues of equity and diversity across disciplines, and exposes candidates to a variety of learning experiences including field experiences with TK-8 public school students. The program will only verify subject matter competence for candidates who have passing grades in the courses in the Elementary Subject Matter program.

Standard 2: Program Resources and Support

The program sponsor allocates sufficient human, fiscal and physical resources to support effective leadership, planning, direction, implementation, and coordination of the program; to advise students, to facilitate collaboration among stakeholders. A coordinator ensures that the coursework across the departments, schools, or colleges addresses the Commission's adopted Subject Matter Requirements (SMRs). Ongoing review processes use data from candidate assessments and a variety of data such as input from stakeholders and other appropriate sources for review and continuous improvement of the subject matter program.