



State of California
Commission on Teacher Credentialing
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SINGLE SUBJECT TEACHING CREDENTIAL Requirements for Teachers Prepared in California

The Single Subject Teaching Credential authorizes the holder to teach the specific subject(s) named on the credential in departmentalized classes, such as those in most middle schools and high schools, in grades preschool, K–12, or in classes organized primarily for adults.

Teaching English Learners

The Single Subject Preliminary Credential teacher preparation program includes content for teaching English learners that authorizes the credential holder to provide instruction for English language development and specially designed academic instruction in English within the subject area and grade level authorization of the Single Subject Teaching Credential.

The statutory subjects available for Single Subject Teaching Credentials are as follows:

Agriculture	Mathematics
Art	Music
Biological Sciences (Specialized)*	Physical Education
Business	Physics (Specialized)*
Chemistry (Specialized)*	Science: Biological Sciences
English	Science: Chemistry
Foundational-Level General Science	Science: Geosciences
Foundational-Level Mathematics	Science: Physics
Geosciences (Specialized)*	Social Science
Health Science	World Language: English Language Development
Home Economics	World Languages-Languages other than English
Industrial and Technology Education	(specify)

* The last administration of the examinations in the Specialized Sciences was July 11, 2015. Applicants will have five years during which to use passing examination scores toward obtaining California certification. The last date to verify subject-matter equivalency by coursework for any of the Specialized Sciences was July 11, 2015. See [Coded Correspondence 14-09](#).

Requirements for the Preliminary Credential

The preliminary credential is issued for a maximum of **five years**. If requirements for the clear credential are not completed before the expiration of the preliminary, the holder will be unable to teach in California's public schools with that credential until those requirements are met and the document renewed.

Applicants must satisfy **all** of the following requirements for the Five-Year Preliminary Teaching Credential:

1. Complete a baccalaureate or higher degree, except in professional education, from a regionally-accredited college or university

2. Satisfy the [basic skills requirement](#). See Commission leaflet [CL-667](#), entitled *Basic Skills Requirement* for additional information.
3. Verify subject matter competence by **one** of the following three methods:
 - a. Achieve a passing score on the appropriate subject-matter examination(s). Information, including passing scores and registration, can be found in Commission leaflet [CL-674S](#) entitled *Verifying Subject-Matter Competence by Examination for Single Subject Teaching Credentials*.
 - b. Complete a [Commission-approved subject-matter program](#) or its equivalent and obtain verification of completion from the authorized person in the education department of a California college or university with an approved program
 - c. For Specialized Science subjects only, individuals may take and pass the appropriate subject matter examinations or obtain verification of completion of subject-matter course work from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Requirements and procedures may be found in [Coded Correspondence 03-0010](#).*
4. Complete a course (two semester units or three quarter units) in the provisions and principles of the U.S. Constitution or pass an examination given by a regionally-accredited college or university
5. Complete a [Commission-approved teacher preparation program](#), that includes satisfying the following requirements (content listed below must be addressed in the program but does not require specific standalone courses):
 - a. Developing English Language Skills, including Reading, by completing comprehensive reading instruction that includes the following: the systematic study of phonemic awareness, phonics, and decoding; literature, language and comprehension; and diagnostic and early intervention techniques
 - b. instruction in foundational and advanced computer technology that includes general and specialized skills in the use of computers and technology in educational settings
 - c. instruction in Health Education, including, but not limited to, nutrition; the physiological and sociological effects of alcohol, narcotics, and drug abuse; the use of tobacco; and provide verification of training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) that covers infant, child, and adult CPR skills that meets the standards established by the American Heart Association or Red Cross
6. Obtain a formal recommendation for the credential by the program sponsor

* The last administration of the examinations in the Specialized Sciences was July 11, 2015. Applicants will have five years during which to use passing examination scores toward obtaining California certification. The last date to verify subject-matter equivalency by coursework for any of the Specialized Sciences was July 11, 2015. See [Coded Correspondence 14-09](#).

***Note:** The final issuance date for an initial Preliminary Multiple or Single Subject Teaching Credential based on Ryan program completion for California prepared teachers was **January 1, 2012**. The sunset date includes all routes for an extension by appeal.*

Requirements for the Clear Credential

Individuals who complete a professional teacher preparation program and receive a five-year preliminary credential must earn a clear credential by completing one of the following options:

Option 1

Complete a Commission-approved [Teacher Induction Program](#) and submit their application for the clear credential through the Induction program sponsor.

Note: The final issuance date for an initial Ryan Clear Multiple or Single Subject Teaching Credential for California, out-of-state and out-of-country prepared teachers was **January 1, 2018**. See [Coded Correspondence 17-06](#) regarding options for individuals who do not obtain Ryan clear teaching credentials by January 1, 2018.

Option 2

Teachers who are certified by the [National Board of Professional Teaching Standards](#) (NBPTS) after obtaining the California Preliminary Single Subject Teaching Credential will be issued a Clear Teaching Credential in the subject area in which they have received national certification. (See Table 1)

Individuals applying for the clear credential under Option 2 may apply directly to the Commission for a clear teaching credential by submitting an application by mail including all of the following:

1. Photocopy of National Board Certification
2. Completed application ([form 41-4](#)), and, if not previously submitted to the Commission, a completed Live Scan receipt ([form 41-LS](#)). Out-of-state residents must submit two fingerprint cards (FD-258) in lieu of a Live Scan receipt. If submitting fingerprint cards, current fingerprint [processing fees](#) must accompany the application packet.
3. Application [processing fee](#)

In addition, individuals may earn an additional credential or add a content subject area to a general education teaching credential based on National Board Certification. This is an option for individuals who earned their original Multiple or Single Subject Credentials, or equivalent previously issued general education teaching credentials, based on completion of a California, out-of-state, or outside the United States preparation program. See [Credential Leaflet CL-621A](#) for additional details.

Private School Experience

Individuals who have three or more years teaching experience in a private school should refer to the information leaflet titled *Single Subject and Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials – Requirements for Teachers with Private School Experience* ([CL-834](#)) for information on additional ways to qualify.

Reference: California Education Code, Sections 44251, 44252, 44257, 44259, 44280, 44281, 44283, 44310, and 44335; and Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Sections 80413 and 80424

TABLE 1
National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification

National Board Certification	National Board Certification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early and Middle Childhood Certificate in Art • Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood Certificate in Art 	Single Subject Teaching Credential in Art
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Adolescence Certificate in English Language Arts • Adolescence and Young Adulthood Certificate in English Language Arts 	Single Subject Teaching Credential in English
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood Certificate in Career and Technical Education 	Single Subject Teaching Credential in Industrial and Technology Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood Certificate in World Languages Other Than English 	Single Subject Teaching Credential in World Languages (specify language)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood in Health 	Single Subject Teaching Credential in Health Science
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Adolescence Certificate in Mathematics • Adolescence and Young Adulthood Certificate in Mathematics 	Single Subject Teaching Credential in Mathematics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early and Middle Childhood Certificate in Music • Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood Certificate in Music 	Single Subject Teaching Credential in Music
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early and Middle Childhood Certificate in Physical Education • Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood Certificate in Physical Education 	Single Subject Teaching Credential in Physical Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Adolescence Certificate in Science • Adolescence and Young Adulthood Certificate in Science 	Single Subject Teaching Credential* Foundational-Level General Science Science: Biological Sciences Science: Chemistry Science: Geosciences Science: Physics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Adolescence Certificate in Social Studies-History • Adolescence and Young Adulthood Certificate in Social Science-History 	Single Subject Teaching Credential in Social Science

* Teachers holding National Board Certification in the area of Science will be issued the specific California science authorization based upon

- 1) an out-of-state credential with a matching subject,

- 2) a copy of the individual's NBPTS "My Profile" status page report which indicates the specific science certificate specialty area in which National Board Certification was issued (a National Board score report will not meet this requirement), **or**
- 3) official (original) transcripts from a [regionally-accredited](#) college or university showing a bachelor's or higher degree major or 32 semester units of coursework in the appropriate Science subject.

The required documentation must be submitted with the photocopy of the individual's National Board Certificate and all other supporting materials. Option 2 is only available to individuals who obtained National Board Certification in Adolescence and Young Adulthood in Science.

Teachers with out-of-state credentials issued in the general subject area "Science" who hold National Board Certification in "Science" will be issued a California Single Subject Teaching Credential in Foundational-Level General Science unless a specific subject pathway is identified.