



State of California  
Commission on Teacher Credentialing  
1900 Capitol Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95811-4213  
Email: [credentials@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:credentials@ctc.ca.gov)  
Website: [www.ctc.ca.gov](http://www.ctc.ca.gov)

## ADDING A TEACHING OR SUBJECT AREA TO GENERAL OR STANDARD TEACHING CREDENTIALS

California Education Code, Section 44225(e) and Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Section 80499 allow a teacher to obtain an additional teaching credential without completing the full professional preparation program for that credential.

Individuals who hold a valid General or Standard basic teaching credential (issued under laws and regulations in effect prior to January 1, 1971) may obtain an additional multiple or single subject instruction authorization by verifying subject matter competence in the subject area sought.

Qualified applicants who have completed a fifth year of study beyond their bachelor's degree may be granted a clear Multiple Subject or Single Subject Teaching Credential valid for five years. If a fifth year of study has not been completed, a five-year preliminary Multiple Subject or Single Subject Teaching Credential may be granted. If a preliminary credential is granted under this provision, the holder must complete a [Commission-approved general education clear credential program](#) or the fifth year and obtain a formal recommendation from a California college or university with a Commission-approved professional preparation program before the clear credential will be granted.

### Subject Matter Competence

Holders of a General or Standard Teaching Credential authorizing service in a departmentalized classroom seeking a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential may verify elementary subject matter competency as outlined below:

- Achieve a passing score on the appropriate subject matter examination(s). Information regarding subject matter examination(s), including passing scores and registration, can be found in [Verifying Subject Matter Competence by Examination for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials \(CL-674M\)](#).
- Complete a Commission-approved subject-matter program or its equivalent and obtain verification of completion from the person authorized by the program sponsor. [Click here for a list of institutions with Commission-approved subject matter programs](#).

Holders of a General or Standard Teaching Credential authorizing service in a departmentalized classroom seeking to obtain an additional content area may obtain a Single Subject Teaching Credential in that subject as outlined below:

- Achieve a passing score on the appropriate subject-matter examination(s). Information, including passing scores and registration, can be found in [Verifying Subject-Matter Competence leaflet CL-674S](#) <sup>[PDF]</sup>.
- Complete a Commission-approved subject-matter program or its equivalent and obtain verification of completion from the person authorized by the program sponsor. [Click here for a list of institutions with Commission-approved subject matter programs](#).
- 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. Information, including requirements and procedures, can be found in [Coded Correspondence 03-0010](#).\*

Holders of a General or Standard Teaching Credential authorizing service in a self-contained classroom seeking a Single Subject Teaching Credential must verify specialty area subject matter competency, by one of the methods outlined below:

- a. Achieve a passing score on the appropriate subject-matter examination(s). Information, including passing scores and registration, can be found in [Verifying Subject-Matter Competence leaflet CL-674S](#) [PDF].
- b. Complete a Commission-approved subject-matter program or its equivalent and obtain verification of completion from the person authorized by the program sponsor. [Click here for a list of institutions with Commission-approved subject matter programs.](#)
- 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. Information, including requirements and procedures, can be found in [Coded Correspondence 03-0010](#).\*

\* 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](#).

The following statutory subjects are available for the Single Subject Teaching Credential:

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 Languages-English Language Development
Home Economics	World Languages-Languages other than English
Industrial and Technology Education	(specify)

### National Board Certification

Effective January 1, 2012, Senate Bill 941 (Chap. 348, Stats. 2011) authorized the Commission to issue an authorization for an additional subject or new credential type to the holder of a valid Multiple Subject or Single Subject Teaching Credential, or equivalent previously issued general education teaching credential, who has earned certification from the [National Board for Professional Teaching Standards](#) (NBPTS) in an additional single subject content area or credential type (See National Board Certification—Subject Areas).

Holders of a General or Standard Teaching Credential authorizing service in a departmentalized classroom seeking a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential based on National Board Certification must pass the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET): Multiple Subjects examination. See [Coded Correspondence 12-02](#) for more detailed information.

### How to Apply

Applications for added teaching or subject areas may be submitted to the Commission through your employing agency or directly to the Commission office and must include the following items:

1. A completed application ([form 41-4](#))

2. Supporting documentation, such as transcripts and/or copies of test scores, National Board Certificate, etc., as applicable
3. [Application processing fee](#)

## National Board Certification—Subject Areas

### Multiple Subject:

Early Childhood (ages 3 – 8)/Generalist

Middle Childhood (ages 7 – 12)/Generalist

### Single Subject:

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

- 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, along with all other supporting materials as noted above. 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 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.