

Trailer Bill AB 130: Subject Matter Competency

UPDATES FOR TEACHER CANDIDATES

Agenda

- What is Subject Matter Competency?
- Trailer Bill AB 130 and how it has impacted Subject Matter Competency
- The routes the School of Education, University of Redlands can review
- The routes the School of Education, University of Redlands cannot review and why
- How to have your academic major reviewed for Subject Matter Competency

What is Subject Matter Competency?

Teacher candidates in California are required by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to **demonstrate competence in the subject matter they will be authorized to teach**. This is called the Subject Matter Competence requirement.

Subject matter competency must be met prior to applying for student teaching or internship eligibility as well as prior to receiving a recommendation for an Intern Teaching credential or a Preliminary Teaching credential.

Prior to AB 130, Subject Matter Competency could be met through:

- Examination (CSET exams)
- Commission-approved subject matter preparation program (waiver letter)

What changes came with Trailer Bill AB 130 to Subject Matter Competency?

- Trailer Bill AB 130 was announced in a [press release from CTC on July 9, 2021](#).
- It opened three new routes to meet Subject Matter Competency which included, [as outlined in the Coded Correspondence 21-05 from CTC on July 22, 2021](#):
 1. Successful completion of coursework that addresses each of the Commission-adopted domains of the applicable subject matter requirements.
 2. Successful completion of an academic major in the subject they will teach.
 3. A combination of coursework and examination options that meet or exceed the domains of the subject matter requirements. Such mixing of options may only be done by candidates enrolled in a Commission-approved preparation program that allows for this option

The routes the School of Education, University of Redlands can review:

- ✓ Examination (CSETs)
- ✓ Commission-approved subject matter preparation program (waiver letter)
- ✓ Successful completion of an academic major in the subject they will teach (transcript).

Academic Majors/Credential Areas that can be reviewed:

[CTC clarified which majors can be reviewed in Program Sponsor Alert 21-10 on September 3, 2021.](#)

- **Multiple Subject candidates: Liberal Studies degrees** as well as Liberal Studies degrees that include any focus or concentration in the title. Examples include, but are not limited to, Liberal Studies: Urban Education and Liberal Studies: Elementary Education.
- **Single Subject candidates:** The major must be an exact degree/credential subject match in one of the subjects named in Education Code section [44257\(a\)](#). These subjects are: • Agriculture • Art • Business • Dance • English • World Language (in any of the languages for which there is a credential) • Health Science • Home Economics • Industrial and Technology Education • Mathematics • Music • Physical Education • Science (including Biology, Chemistry, Geoscience or Earth and Space Science, and Physics) • Social Science • Theater
- **Education Specialist candidates:** the major must align with one of the acceptable majors for the Multiple Subject credential or Single Subject credential mentioned above.

What if a candidate's degree is in a closely related subject, but is not in the exact subject of the single subject credential they seek?

CTC addressed this question in [Coded Correspondence 21-05, Page 4](#):

- The current statutory language does not provide leeway for the acceptance of closely related subjects; **the match must be exact**. The Commission has begun work on emergency regulations that would expand the degree majors that could meet the Subject Matter Requirement through subsumed subjects or through evaluation of the coursework taken to complete the degree. These regulations would clarify that the subsumed subjects as outlined in Title 5 section 80005 would be acceptable degree majors for meeting subject matter. This flexibility is not available until and unless it is approved by the Office of Administrative Law

At this time, we cannot complete reviews of two of the new routes

CTC also clarified in Program Sponsor Alert 21-10 that, at this time, we cannot review the following routes for Subject Matter Competency:

- × Successful completion of coursework that addresses each of the Commission-adopted domains of the applicable subject matter requirements.
- × A combination of coursework and examination options that meet or exceed the domains of the subject matter requirements. Such mixing of options may only be done by candidates enrolled in a Commission-approved preparation program that allows for this option

Should CTC announce any changes to this policy, University of Redlands, School of Education will update all teacher candidates.

Why can't my coursework be reviewed? Why can't a mix of my exams and coursework be reviewed?

- According to CTC, the option to review “successful completion of coursework addressing each of the Commission-adopted subject matter domains” and the option to review “combination of coursework and examination(s) that meets or exceeds the subject matter domains”... “is currently **available only** for use by Commission-approved institutions with Commission-approved subject matter preparation programs.” [Program Sponsor Alert 21-10, Page 2-5](#)
- The University of Redlands has one Commission-approved subject matter preparation program, which is [Music](#).
- Because of this CTC-stipulation, we cannot review coursework in any subject area other than Music.
 - If you are a University of Redlands, School of Music student (who is not in the Music Education program) and want to have your coursework reviewed, please contact your [OSS Advisor](#).
 - Please note that this time, we do not have a system in place to review Music coursework. This is subject to change.

How to request a review of your academic major from your OSS Advisor

- **Step 1:**

Identify how you will meet the Subject Matter Competency according to the options to meet the requirement.

- **Step 2:**

Obtain official test results, program waiver letter, or official transcripts. *Official transcripts must be received by the University of Redlands directly from the accrediting institution. Transcripts provided by students are not considered official. **If you have already provided official transcripts, at the point of admission, you may provide an unofficial transcript in this step.***

- **Step 3:**

Complete the [Verification of Subject Matter Competency](#) form.

- **Step 4:**

Upload completed [Verification of Subject Matter Competency](#) and your transcripts to the [File Upload Form](#). Ensure to select “Subject Matter Competency” as the document title. Submit to your OSS Advisor.

Step 1

Identify how you will meet the Subject Matter Competency according to the below.

Options:

- ✓ Examination (CSETs)
- ✓ Commission-approved subject matter preparation program (waiver letter)
- ✓ Successful completion of an academic major in the subject they will teach (transcripts)

Step 2

- Obtain official test results, program waiver letter, or official transcripts. *Official transcripts must be received by the University of Redlands directly from the accrediting institution. Transcripts provided by students are not considered official. **If you have already provided official transcripts, at the point of admission, you may provide an unofficial transcript in this step.***

If you need to send official transcripts to the University of Redlands, please have them sent to the Registrar's Office at registrar@redlands.edu.

Step 3

- Complete the Verification of Subject Matter Competency form.



Verification of Subject Matter Competency

This is to certify that the individual identified below has met Subject Matter Competency with a bachelor's degree or higher.

Last name:

Middle name:

First name:

CHECK ONE

Candidate Program Information:

Multiple Subjects

Single Subject

Education Specialist

Subject area:

Undergraduate Degree Information:

Name of regionally accredited undergraduate institution:

Title of bachelor's or higher degree:

Cumulative G.P.A.:

Grades of B- or better for all upper-division courses:

 YES NO

Degree equivalence is determined by the Office of Student Success, School of Education in collaboration with department faculty in line with Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) and State policy.

Step 4

- Upload completed Verification of Subject Matter Competency and your transcripts to the File Upload Form on Etrieve.
- Ensure to select “Subject Matter Competency” as the document title.
- Submit to your OSS Advisor.

File Upload Form

Today's Date

10/11/2021

This form offers students a convenient way to securely submit documents to the School of Education for review and processing. For any technical assistance with this form please contact oss@redlands.edu.

Student Information

Last Name	First Name	Middle	Redlands ID
<input type="text" value="O'Harra"/>	<input type="text" value="Natalie"/>	<input type="text" value="E"/>	<input type="text"/>
Phone	Email	Program	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="natalie_oharra@redlands.edu"/>	<input type="text"/>	

File Upload Instructions

1. Choose or describe the document below
2. Upload and attach the document using the Attachments button on the action bar below the form
3. Submit the form

Document Title

Subject Matter Competency: CSET results, College Degree Transcripts, Prog

*You may upload more than one document.

We will
continue to
keep you
updated!

- CTC continues to come out with updates and clarifying details.
- They plan to post a “Frequently Asked Questions” document soon and will be hosting technical assistance webinars.
- [You can sign up for CTC’s newsletters here.](#)
- All announcements from OSS will be sent to your Redlands email.

Resources

[Subject Matter Competency](#), Information from the School of Education,
University of Redlands

[Book an appointment with Natalie O’Harra \(last names A-L\)](#)

[Book an appointment with Melissa Villegas \(last names M-Z\)](#)

[Guidance for Credential Programs During COVID-19](#)
