



Teacher Credential Checklist **for obtaining an Education Specialist Instruction Credential***

(Updated 8/29/19)

The Commission for Teacher Credentialing issues a two-level special education teaching credential: 'preliminary' and 'clear'. A Preliminary Education Specialist Instruction Credential is the first document issued after an individual has met basic credential requirements. The Clear credential is issued once all credential requirements have been completed.

In addition to the requirements listed below, individual CSU campuses may have additional requirements. Credential advisors can provide personal assistance with all of the requirements. Contact information for advisors at each CSU campus is available at:

<http://educorps.csu-eppsp.org/campus-programs>

Additional help is available at CSU's EduCorps Help Center at:

<http://educorps.csu-eppsp.org/frequently-asked-questions>

And, you can pose questions at the following link about credential requirements, and a CSU advisor will get back to you shortly with an answer:

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3747091/CSU-Teacher-Education-Help>

Authorization

The Education Specialist Instruction Credential authorizes the holder to conduct Educational Assessments related to student's access to the academic core curriculum and progress towards meeting instructional academic goals, provide instruction, and Special Education Support to individuals in the area of specialization listed on the credential in the following settings:

- Resource rooms or services
- Special education settings
- General education settings
- Special schools
- Home/hospital settings
- State hospitals
- Development centers
- Correctional facilities
- Non-public, non-sectarian schools and agencies
- Alternative and non-traditional instructional public school settings other than classroom

* This information was adapted from information posted on the California Commission for Teacher Credentialing website <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/req-teaching>





Autism Spectrum Disorders

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) content is included in the new preliminary Education Specialist Instruction Teaching Credential programs for all specialty areas. The preliminary and clear credential authorizes the holder to provide autism instructional services to students within the specialty area(s) of their credential. The ASD authorization appears as a separate authorization on the Education Specialist Instruction Credential.

Teaching English Learners

The Education Specialist Preliminary 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 Education Specialist Instruction Teaching Credential.

Specialty Areas

- **Mild/Moderate Disabilities (M/M)**

Includes specific learning disabilities; mild to moderate intellectual disabilities; other health impairments; serious emotional disturbance; and authorizes service in grades K–12 and in classes organized primarily for adults through age 22.

- **Moderate/Severe Disabilities (M/S)**

Includes autism; deaf-blindness; moderate to severe intellectual disabilities; multiple disabilities; serious emotional disturbance; and authorizes service in grades K–12 and in classes organized primarily for adults through age 22.

- **Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH)**

Includes deafness; hearing impairment; deaf-blindness; and authorizes service to individuals ages birth through 22.

- **Visual Impairments (VI)**

Includes blindness; visual impairment; deaf-blindness; and authorizes service to individuals ages birth through 22.

- **Physical and Health Impairments (PHI)**

Includes orthopedic impairment; other health impairment; multiple disabilities; traumatic brain injury; and authorizes service to individuals ages birth through 22.

- **Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)**



Includes the mild/moderate and moderate/severe disabilities listed above and traumatic brain injury; authorizes service to children ages birth to pre-kindergarten only.

- **Language and Academic Development (LAD)**

Authorizes the holder to provide instructional services to students with academic communication and language needs to children in preschool, kindergarten, in grades 1 - 12 through age 22, and classes organized primarily for adults, but does not take the place of speech and language services as defined in Education Code section 56333.

An added authorization in Early Childhood Special Education is also available to individuals who hold a preliminary, Level I, professional clear, clear, Level II, or life special education teaching credential, and who complete a program through a Commission-approved program sponsor.

The ECSE Added Authorization authorizes the holder to provide special education services in the area of mild/moderate or moderate/severe disabilities for students ages birth to pre-K as determined by the local level special education assessment.

Requirements for the Preliminary Credential (valid for 5 years):

- Obtain a baccalaureate or higher degree
- Satisfy the Basic Skills Requirement by one of the following methods:
 - Pass the CBEST
 - Pass the CSET: Multiple Subjects Plus Writing Skills Examination
 - Pass the CSU Early Assessment Program or the CSU Placement Examinations
 - Achieve Qualifying Score on the SAT or ACT
 - College Board Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations with qualifying score
 - Pass a
 - Basic Skills Examination from Another State

For more information, go to https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/leaflets/cl667.pdf?sfvrsn=91a6cf60_8

- One of the following requirements must be satisfied**:
 1. Provide verification of subject-matter competence by either passing the appropriate subject matter examination(s) as specified in Verifying Subject-Matter Competence by Examination (Multiple Subject) leaflet or Verifying Subject-Matter Competence by Examination (Single Subject) leaflet, as aligned with No Child Left Behind (NCLB) core academic subjects (See Terms and Definitions). 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.

2. Complete a Commission-approved single subject subject-matter program of course work or its equivalent and obtain certification of completion from the authorized person in the education department of a California college or university with an approved program. The subject-matter program must align with the subject-matter competence requirements for the teaching credential under NCLB. 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.

** Verification of subject-matter competence is not required for the area of Early Childhood Special Education, nor is it required of individuals who hold a valid California clear or life general education teaching credential based upon possession of a bachelor's degree and completion of a professional teacher preparation program, including student teaching.

- Pass the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment (RICA). RICA is not required for the area of Early Childhood Special Education, nor is it required of individuals who hold a valid California teaching credential which was issued based upon possession of a bachelor's degree and completion of a teacher preparation program including student teaching.
- 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
- Complete a Commission-approved Education Specialist Credential program in an education specialist specialty area. Contact CSU campus for specific program requirements.

Requirements for the Clear Credential

- Individuals who complete a teacher preparation program and receive a five-year preliminary credential must earn a clear credential by completing one of the following three options:
 1. Complete a Commission approved General Education Induction Program. The Induction program must be approved specifically for special education.

An individual with both general education (multiple or single subject) and special education preliminary teaching credentials may complete one set of clear credential requirements through induction. The list of professional development options in the



IIP must address the candidate's needs for both the general education and special education credentials. To clear both a general education and special education credential with one induction program, the induction program must be completed concurrently through a program that is approved to offer both the general education and special education programs.

An individual who earned the clear multiple or single subject credential by completing a general education Induction Program who subsequently earns a preliminary Education Specialist Instruction Credential (in any of the specialty areas) must complete the portions of the approved induction program specific to special education. The individual is not required to repeat parts of the clear program that are in common with the general education Induction Program. The IIP for a multiple or single subject credential holder who did not complete induction to earn their clear credential or the holder of a General or Standard general education teaching credential will need to clarify with the approved induction program if any additional content in the induction program will need to be met.

Transition to the Clear Credential for holders of Level I Credentials

Holders of the Level I Education Specialist Instruction Credential may transition to a Commission-approved Induction Program in special education to obtain the Clear Education Specialist Instruction Credential. The preliminary education specialist preparation program will develop a Transition Plan for each candidate prior to the completion of the preliminary program. The Transition Plan will assist the developers in the creation of the Individualized Induction Plan (IIP).

An IIP for a candidate with a Level I Education Specialist Instruction Credential completing an induction program must also address the content currently in the Level II program. A credential holder should contact the approved induction program concerning this option.

Note: Teaching experience is not required to earn a clear Education Specialist Instruction Credential.

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification

Individuals who earn National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification in the area of Exceptional Needs/Early Childhood through Young Adulthood after the issuance of their California Preliminary Education Specialist Instruction Credential will be issued a Clear Credential.



For a description of Terms and Definitions, go to: https://www.ctc.ca.gov/docs/default-source/leaflets/cl808ca.pdf?sfvrsn=acab8f79_0