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# MA/Credential Program Admissions FAQs

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### General Program Questions: 2022-2023

#### When are applications due?

The application window opens October 1, 2021 and ends January 31, 2022.

#### How can I satisfy the California Basic Skills Requirement?

All admitted applicants must verify completion of the California Basic Skills Requirement (BSR) by meeting one of the options A through F below. The deadline to complete this requirement is June 10th of each year (prior to official enrollment in the program). However, it is highly recommended that documentation of completion be submitted with the application. Exam registration confirmations, and/or exam score reports, or verification of meeting an alternate option for the Basic Skills Requirement must be submitted with your application.

- A. The California Basic Skills Test (CBEST).
- B. The California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET): Multiple Subjects Subtests I-III plus the CSET: Writing Skills subtest #142 (passing these tests also meets the Subject Matter Competency requirement for Multiple Subject candidates; see below).
- C. CSU EAP ('Ready' in English and Math) or CSU Placement Exams (English Placement Test (EPT) and Entry Level Math (ELM)).
- D. SAT (Math 550, English Critical Thinking 500).
- E. ACT (Math 23, English 22).
- F. AP English (3 or higher) and AP Calculus or AP Statistics (3 or higher).

For more information on these additional options please see: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl667.pdf>

#### ASSEMBLY BILL 130: NEW OPTIONS TO MEET THE BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENT

Assembly Bill (AB) 130 was signed by the Governor and became effective July 9, 2021. Provisions of the bill create **new options** to meet the BSR. The bill does not waive these requirements.

#### New Basic Skills Options

Individuals may now meet the BSR by passage of courses in reading, writing, and mathematics as outlined below. Courses must have been taken at a regionally-accredited college or university for **credit, passed with a grade of B-** or better, be degree applicable, and be at least 3 semester units or 4 quarter units.

- Reading proficiency: a course in critical thinking, literature, philosophy, reading, rhetoric, or textual analysis.
- Writing proficiency: a course in composition, English, rhetoric, written communication, or writing.

- Mathematics proficiency: a course in algebra, geometry, mathematics, quantitative reasoning, or statistics.

In addition, you may meet the BSR by mixing available options. For example, a candidate who has passed the CBEST subtests in reading and writing but not mathematics may use the two passed CBEST subtests along with coursework that meets the mathematics criteria. Or, a candidate with coursework meeting the reading and writing requirements may pass the CSET math subtest. Please note that coursework applies only when a grade of B or higher was awarded and the course was taken at a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

Detailed information for meeting the BSR can be found on the following link [Basic Skills Requirement \(CL-667\) \(ca.gov\)](#)

If you are meeting the BSR with college or university coursework, please complete a [41-BSR form](#) to upload with your application.

The deadline to submit evidence of satisfying the BSR is June 10. However, it is highly recommended that documentation of satisfying the BSR be submitted at the time of application. Alternatively, at the time of application, you may submit evidence of registration for this exam.

### How can I satisfy the [Subject Matter Competency Requirement](#)?

California state law mandates that all teachers provide evidence of their subject-matter knowledge (state requirement and subject to change).

#### Multiple Subject Applicants:

Individuals can verify subject-matter competence by passing all portions of the California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET). Passing exam scores are valid for five years.

The CSET Multiple Subjects exams are comprised of three required subtests. Admitted MA/Credential applicants are required to submit passing test scores for the following:

- CSET: Multiple Subjects - Subtest I (test code 101)
- CSET: Multiple Subjects - Subtest II (test code 214)
- CSET: Multiple Subjects - Subtest III (test code 103)

Additionally, Multiple Subject applicants may satisfy Subject Matter Competency via a [CTC-Approved Subject Matter Program](#).

The deadline to submit evidence of satisfying Subject Matter Competency Requirement is June 10. However, it is highly recommended that documentation of satisfying the Subject Matter Competency Requirement be submitted at the time of application.

\*Please note that admission priority may be given to applicants with passing test scores at the time of application.\*

### Single Subject Applicants:

Individuals may verify subject-matter competence by passing all portions of the California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET) by content area. Passing exam scores are valid for five years.

Admitted MA/Credential applicants are required to submit passing test scores for the following:

Single Subject Area	Credential Type	CSET Subtests Required (test code)
English	English	English Subtest I (105) English Subtest I (106) English Subtest III (107) English Subtest IV (108)
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics Subtest I (211) Mathematics Subtest II (212) Mathematics Subtest III (213)
	Foundational-Level Mathematics	Mathematics Subtest I (211) Mathematics Subtest II (212)
Science	Science: Life Science	Science Subtest I (215) Science Subtest II (217)
	Science: Chemistry	Science Subtest I (215) Science Subtest II (218)
	Science: Earth and Space Sciences	Science Subtest I (215) Science Subtest II (219)
	Science: Physics	Science Subtest I (215) Science Subtest II (220)
Social Science	Social Science	Social Science Subtest I (114) Social Science Subtest II (115) Social Science Subtest III (116)

Additionally, Single Subject applicants may satisfy Subject Matter Competency via a [CTC-Approved Subject Matter Program](https://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/reports/data/app-sub-matt-prog): <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/reports/data/app-sub-matt-prog>.

### ASSEMBLY BILL 130: NEW OPTIONS TO MEET THE SUBJECT MATTER REQUIREMENT

Assembly Bill (AB) 130 was signed by the Governor and became effective July 9, 2021. Provisions of the bill create **new options** to meet the Subject Matter Requirements. The bill does not waive these requirements.

#### New Subject Matter Competence Options

AB 130 expands the available options to allow candidates to meet the Subject Matter Requirement by completion of an academic major in the subject they will teach.

- For Single Subject credentials at UCSC, current options are as follows:
  - If BA/BS is in English, Math, Social Science, or Science (Biology, Physics, Chemistry, or Geology) then YES, student has met SUBJECT MATTER REQUIREMENT.
  - English degrees currently accepted
    - English
  - Math degrees currently accepted
    - Mathematics, applied mathematics

- Social Science degrees currently accepted
  - Social science
- Science degrees currently accepted
  - Biology, human biology, marine biology, etc.
  - Physics, applied physics
  - Chemistry, applied chemistry
  - Earth science, geoscience, earth and space science
- For Multiple Subject credentials, the major must be in liberal studies or an interdisciplinary major that includes coursework in each of these areas: language studies, literature, mathematics, science, social studies, history, the arts, physical education, and human development.

The current statutory language does not provide leeway for the acceptance of closely related subjects; the degree major match must be exact.

Prospective Students: If you meet the Subject Matter requirement with your BA/BS, you will have the option to state so on your application.

The deadline to submit evidence of satisfying Subject Matter Competency Requirement is June 10. However, it is highly recommended that documentation of satisfying the Subject Matter Competency Requirement be submitted at the time of application.

Please note: Admission priority may be given to applicants who meet the Subject Matter Requirement at the time of application.

### Which credentials are offered at UCSC?

The MA/Credential Program offers the following types of California Teaching Credentials:

- Multiple Subject (Elementary) Preliminary Teaching Credential:
  - Prepares candidates to be elementary school teachers who teach in self-contained classrooms, typically grades K-6, where all subjects are taught by the same teacher.
- Single Subject (Secondary) Preliminary Teaching Credential:
  - Prepares candidates to be secondary school teachers who teach in a departmentalized setting where the teacher is generally responsible for one subject area, typically grades 7-12 (middle school and high school). The single subject credential is offered in the following subject areas:
    - English
    - Math and Foundational-Level Mathematics
    - Science (Life Science, Geoscience, Chemistry, Physics, Foundational-Level Science)
    - Social Sciences

### What type of Master's Degree will I earn?

Candidates who complete the MA/Credential Program will earn a Master of Arts in Education.

### What is the timeline for completing the program?

UCSC's MA/Credential program is one calendar year (12 months). Admitted candidates complete five consecutive academic quarters. Candidates will begin the program in July of 2022 with a six-week summer session. Candidates then progress to three standard academic quarters of ten-weeks each (Fall, Winter, and Spring). Following the academic year, students attend a final summer session and complete the program in July of 2023.

The program has two main components: master's level courses and student teaching placements. In their master's courses, candidates develop a theoretical and research-based perspective on important educational issues while gaining practical applications in their methods courses and student teaching placements. Master's coursework and student teaching placements run concurrently during the majority of the program. Student teaching placements begin and end according to the local school districts' academic calendars (generally late August to early June).

### How many candidates are in the MA/Credential Program?

Each year, typically 60-70 candidates are enrolled in the MA/Credential Program.

### What is a cohort?

A cohort is a small group (typically 10-30) of students working towards the same credential. Cohorts provide a collaborative learning environment for our candidates.

### What are teacher supervisors?

Teacher supervisors are exemplary seasoned classroom teachers who lead credential cohorts in bi-weekly student teaching seminars. They also perform direct observation and evaluation of candidates in their student teaching placements. Teacher supervisors provide mentorship and the perspective of extensive classroom experience to their students.

### What are student teaching placements?

All candidates in the teacher preparation programs participate in two student teaching placements. In August, students receive their first placement. They begin with initial observations of the class to become familiar with the students, classroom routines and procedures, and the teaching style of their cooperating teacher. Student teachers assume increasing levels of responsibility within their placement — teaching small groups, parts of lessons and full lessons. The second placement begins in November for Single Subject candidates and December for Multiple Subjects candidates. During this second placement, candidates assume more responsibility for instruction.

### Do people work during this program?

Due to the intensity of the MA/Credential Program, candidates are not encouraged to work. If candidates do work, we recommend working no more than 10-16 hours per week while enrolled in the MA/Credential

Program. The intensity of candidates' schedules in a one-year program — with coursework and school placements — cannot be overemphasized.

### Can I earn just a Credential?

No. Unfortunately, UCSC only offers the combined MA/Credential track.

### I already have a valid Teaching Credential; can I complete just the Master's portion of the program?

No. UCSC only offers the combined MA/Credential track. Additionally, individuals with a valid teaching credential (either CA issued or from out-of-state) are not eligible to apply for the MA/Credential Program.

### What is the cost of attendance?

The 2020-21 in-state graduate student tuition and fees are currently \$6,262.70 per quarter or about \$26,880 for five quarters (see the Office of the Registrar's website under "[Graduate Student Fees](#)"). Fees include enrollment in the Graduate Student Health Insurance Program (may be waived). Please note that fees, tuition and other charges are subject to change by the UC Board of Regents of the University of California without advance notice. Fees generally increase at the beginning of the year starting with the summer quarter. Estimated budgets (Fall, Winter, Spring), including fees and living expenses can be found on UCSC's Financial Aid website <https://financialaid.ucsc.edu/cost-to-attend/graduate-costs.html>

## Application Questions

### What is the timeline for the application process?

Applications will be accepted online for the 2022 - 2023 MA/Credential Program: October 1, 2021 and ends January 31, 2022.

### Does the MA/Credential Program offer rolling admission?

No, the UCSC MA/Credential Program admissions review process happens once per year. All applications submitted during the application period are reviewed at that time.

### When are applicants notified if they were accepted to the program?

The MA/Credential Admissions Committee notifies applicants of their decision by mid-March and accepted candidates must submit their "Statement of Intent to Register" to the university by April 15. Admitted students matriculate in June.

### Where can I find the online application?

UCSC's Graduate Division hosts the Education MA/Credential application online <https://www.gradadmissions.ucsc.edu>.

### How do I obtain a Certificate of Clearance?

Obtaining a Certificate of Clearance is a multiple-step process that can take as little as 10 days and as long as several months. Please follow the detailed instructions provided by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) at:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl900.pdf>

### Do I need to submit GRE scores in addition to my CBEST & CSET scores?

The GRE is not required for admission to the MA/Credential Program at UCSC.

### Do I need to submit anything in hard copy?

No. The application and all supplemental materials (Letters of Recommendation, Test Scores/ Registration verification, transcripts, Certificate of Clearance, etc.) are submitted within the online application.

### Is financial aid available?

Financial aid inquiries should be directed to the Office of Financial Aid. See the Financial Aid website for more information: <https://financialaid.ucsc.edu/cost-to-attend/graduate-costs.html>.

Students wanting financial aid during the program must submit two (2) Free Applications for Federal Students Aid (FAFSAs); a 2021-22 FAFSA for the first summer quarter; and a second FAFSA for 2022-2023 for Fall 2022 through Summer of 2023. Both FAFSA's must be filed online by May 1, 2022. Additionally, the Education Department offers a few small scholarships. Once enrolled in the program, students are invited to apply for these in the fall and spring.

### Where can I get more information?

Education Department	<a href="http://education.ucsc.edu">education.ucsc.edu</a>	831.459.3249
Credential Analyst	<a href="mailto:zamora@ucsc.edu">zamora@ucsc.edu</a>	831.459.1261
Graduate Division	<a href="http://graddiv.ucsc.edu">graddiv.ucsc.edu</a>	831.459.5905
Registrar's Office	<a href="http://reg.ucsc.edu">reg.ucsc.edu</a>	831.459.4412
Financial Aid	<a href="http://www2.ucsc.edu/fin-aid">www2.ucsc.edu/fin-aid</a>	831.459.2963
CBEST registration	<a href="http://www.cbest.nesinc.com">www.cbest.nesinc.com</a>	
CSET registration	<a href="http://www.cset.nesinc.com">www.cset.nesinc.com</a>	