

SUBJECT MATTER COMPETENCY for K-12 TEACHING CREDENTIAL
ADVISING GUIDELINES

All options described below meet the [Subject Matter Competency](#) admission requirement to a Teaching Credential program.

1. Undergraduates planning to apply to a K-12 teaching credential program are strongly advised to complete a [Subject Matter Waiver Program](#). This is the best option for students who know early that they wish to pursue a teaching credential.
2. An [approved degree major](#) also meets the requirement for admission.

NOTE: the two options above do not require additional fee-based exams to meet Subject Matter Competency, i.e., CSET.

3. Students planning to apply to a K-12 teaching credential program can also meet the Subject Matter Competency requirement by passing the CSET exam in the required subject matter area. More information can be found in the far right column [on this document](#) or on the [CSET website](#). This is a good option for students whose degree major is not on the approved list (#2 above) but whose degree major is at least somewhat aligned with the subject matter content that they want to teach (e.g. environmental studies majors who are interested in teaching under a Foundational Level General Science credential).
 - a. Information on the CSET Multiple Subjects [can be found here](#).
 - b. Information on various CSET Single Subject exams [can be found here](#) (scroll down to the dropdown menu and choose the desired subject matter area).
 - c. Subject Matter Advisors: If you have students choosing this route, please refer them to the COE Student Success Center and/or Educational Equity Program for additional assistance and study materials.
4. Applicants can “mix and match” (combine) CSET subtests with coursework. Students should make an appointment with a COE Student Success Center advisor to construct a “mix and match” plan. The COE Student Success Center and Educational Equity Program can provide additional assistance and study materials for the CSET. This option applies to students whose degree major coursework meets part but not all of the SMC requirement. Past examples:
 - a. Applicant has a degree in science which includes coursework that meets Multiple Subject domains that are tested in CSET MS subtest 2 (math and science); applicant passes Multiple Subject CSET subtest 1 and CSET subtest 3.
 - b. Applicant has a degree in history which includes coursework that meets the domains that are assessed in two Single Subject social science CSET subtests and passes the third CSET subtest.

5. Applicants are [allowed by law](#) to use coursework only (not a full Subject Matter Program; not a full degree program) to meet the Subject Matter Competency requirement. Students should make an appointment with a COE Student Success Center advisor to determine the additional coursework needed. NOTE: this is the **least advisable** path since students pursuing this path will need additional coursework, and/or may also need to prepare for at least one CSET subtest.

This option is generally only applicable to students whose degree major is **closely** aligned with the subject matter requirements; e.g., history majors who are not in a Subject Matter Program and who want to teach on a Single Subject Social Science credential.