

# QUESTIONS FOR RECENT GRADUATES OF TEACHING CREDENTIAL PROGRAMS IN THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Questions Asked by the  
Deans of Education,  
California State University

Answers Tallied by the  
Office of the Chancellor,  
California State University

In a Statewide Evaluation of  
Teacher Education Programs  
Spring 2009

- ▶ A convenient way to answer these CSU questions is to log onto the Internet at
  - ▶ <http://www.evalcate.org>  
User Name = See the Lower Right Corner Below  
Password = See the Lower Right Corner Below
- ▶ If you do not have web access, you can mark this booklet quickly and mail your answers in our pre-stamped, pre-addressed envelope (enclosed).
- ▶ Estimated Time = 20 Minutes or Less. Thank you very much.

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## A. YOUR CSU CAMPUS AND THE CREDENTIALS THAT YOU EARNED

1. At which campus of the California State University did you complete a professional teacher preparation program to earn a teaching credential? (Please circle one number. You may have earned your Bachelor's Degree at a different institution. Please circle the number where you earned your credential.)

01	CalStateTeach Program (CSU)	09	Cal State, Fullerton	17	Cal State, San Marcos
02	Cal Poly, Pomona	10	CSU Hayward or East Bay	18	Cal State, Stanislaus
03	Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo	11	Cal State, Long Beach	19	Humboldt State University
04	Cal State, Bakersfield	12	Cal State, Los Angeles	20	San Diego State University
05	Cal State, Channel Islands	13	Cal State, Monterey Bay	21	San Francisco State University
06	Cal State, Chico	14	Cal State, Northridge	22	San Jose State University
07	Cal State, Dominguez Hills	15	Cal State, Sacramento	23	Sonoma State University
08	Cal State, Fresno	16	Cal State, San Bernardino	24	Other. Print Its Name Below.

2. At the CSU campus that you circled in Question #1 above, which teaching credential(s) did you earn? (Please circle all code numbers below that apply to you. Do not circle more than one number in any row.)

In the right columns, circle a code number for each credential.

I Earned a . . .

	▶	▶	▶	▶
	NO	with	with	with
	Emphasis	a CLAD	a BCLAD	Another
	Emphasis	Emphasis	Emphasis	Emphasis
Multiple Subject Teaching Credential . . .	01	02	03	04
Single Subject Teaching Credential in English . . .	05	06	07	08
Single Subject Teaching Credential in a Language Other than English . .	09	10	11	12
Single Subject Teaching Credential in Mathematics . . .	13	14	15	16
Single Subject Teaching Credential in Music or Art . . .	17	18	19	20
Single Subject Teaching Credential in Physical Education . . .	21	22	23	24
Single Subject Teaching Credential: Life, Physical or Health Science . .	25	26	27	28
Single Subject Teaching Credential in Social Science and History . . .	29	30	31	32
Single Subject Teaching Credential in a Vocational Subject: Agri- culture, Business, Home Economics, or Technology Education . . .	33	34	35	36
Education Specialist Credential for Teaching in Special Education. ▶	45			

3. For the one teaching credential in #2 that was most important for you to earn, how did you meet the subject-matter requirement? (Please circle the one number that answers this question most accurately.)

- 1 I met the subject-matter requirement for my most important credential by passing an examination of my subject-matter knowledge such as the CSET Examination or the SSAT-Praxis Examinations.
- 2 I met the subject-matter requirement for my most important credential by completing a program of subject-matter preparation primarily or entirely at the CSU campus that I circled in Question #1.
- 3 I met the subject-matter requirement for my credential by completing a program of subject-matter preparation at ANOTHER CSU campus, which was Campus Number \_\_\_\_\_ in Question #1 above.
- 4 I met the subject-matter requirement for my credential by completing a program of subject-matter preparation at a college or university outside the CSU (an institution not listed in Question #1 above).
- 5 I met the subject-matter requirement for my credential when the CSU campus that I circled in #1 gave me credit for academic coursework that I previously completed at other colleges or universities.

4. Which one of the following statements best describes what you did during your teaching credential program? (Circle one number. If multiple statements were true, please circle the one that lasted longest.)
- 1 I earned a salary as a K-12 school teacher while I had an *Individual Internship Certificate*(do #5 next).
  - 2 I earned a salary as a teacher in a K-12 school while I had an *Internship Teaching Credential* (skip #5).
  - 3 I did NOT earn a salary as a public school teacher during my professional coursework. I DID complete one or more student teaching assignments with cooperating/supervising teachers in K-12 schools (skip 5).
- 
5. If you circled 1 in Question 4, when did you begin to work as a salaried teacher with an **Individual Internship Certificate**? Please circle one number that best completes the following sentence: **I began to earn a monthly salary as a teacher with an individual certificate.** . (Skip this item if you circled 2 or 3 in #4.)
- 1 . . . *before* I was accepted into the teaching credential program at the CSU campus in Question #1.
  - 2 . . . *after* I enrolled in education courses but *before* I started my first student-teaching assignment.
  - 3 . . . *after* I started student teaching but *before* I finished the series of student-teaching assignments.
- 
6. **Prior to earning your credential, what academic work did you do?** (Please check all that apply to you.)
- ☐ I completed most of the courses for *my first year of college* at a two-year community college.
- ☐ I completed most of the courses for *my second year of college* at a two-year community college.
- ☐ I attended more than one four-year institution while I earned my Bachelor's Degree.
- ☐ I attended more than one California State University campus while earning my Bachelor's Degree.
- ☐ I earned a Bachelor's Degree at the same CSU campus that I circled in #1 above (for a credential).
- ☐ I earned a Bachelor's Degree at a different CSU campus than the campus I circled in Question #1.
- ☐ I earned a Bachelor's Degree outside the CSU system.
- 
7. **Prior to the 2008-09 year, what was your employment experience?** (Please check all that apply to you.)
- ☐ In K-12 schools or pre-schools, I was a teacher's assistant or a substitute teacher for \_\_\_\_\_ years.
- ☐ In K-12 public schools, I was an emergency teacher or an intern teacher for \_\_\_\_\_ years.
- ☐ In K-12 private schools, I was a classroom teacher for \_\_\_\_\_ years. (*How many years each one?*)
- ☐ Outside of education, I worked in professional positions in which I utilized my college education.
- ☐ Outside of education, I worked for one or more years in jobs **not** related to my college education.
- 

## B. YOUR TEACHING POSITION AND YOUR STUDENTS THIS YEAR

8. What teaching position(s) have you had in 2008-09? (Please circle the one number that best describes your teaching job. Please read the entire row. If you had two jobs, circle the one that you held the longest.)
- |                                       |   |  |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 Self-Contained Classroom Teacher:   | I Teach <i>One Classroom</i> of Students. I Teach <i>All or Most of Their Subjects</i> .  |  |
| 2 Core-Classroom Teacher:             | I Teach <i>2 or 3 Classes</i> of Students. I Teach <i>2 Core Subjects in Each Class</i> . |  |
| 3 Department-Based Teacher:           | I Teach <i>3 to 7 Classes</i> of Students. I Teach <i>One Subject in Each Class</i> .     |  |
| 4 Special Education Teacher:          | The Majority of My Students are Identified <i>Special Education Students</i> .            |  |
| 5 Other Teaching Position (Describe): |   |  |
- 
- 9-a. **Your teaching assignments in 2008-09.** Beside each of the following subjects, circle the number if you taught one or more classes this year. (Please circle all numbers that apply to you.)
- |                                       |                              |                                    |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Agriculture Class(es)               | 5 Health Education Class(es) | 9 Physical Education Class(es)     |
| 2 Business Education Class(es)        | 6 Home Economics Class(es)   | 10 Physical/Life Science Class(es) |
| 3 English or Language Devt. Class(es) | 7 Mathematics Class(es)      | 11 Social Science Class(es)        |
| 4 Foreign Language Class(es)          | 8 Music or Art Class(es)     | 12 Technology Education Class(es)  |
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- 9-b. **Your teaching assignments in 2008-09.** Circle the numbers of all statements that were true in 2004-05.
- 1 I did *not* have a credential to teach ONE of my classes, but I was well-prepared to teach that subject.
  - 2 I did *not* have a credential to teach TWO or more of my classes, but I was well-prepared to teach the subject(s).
  - 3 I did *not* have a credential to teach ONE of my classes, and I felt poorly-prepared to teach that subject.
  - 4 I did *not* have a credential to teach TWO or more of my classes, and I was poorly-prepared to teach the subjects.
  - 5 Both semesters, my teaching assignments were consistent with the credential(s) that I circled in Question #2.

10. **What grade level(s) have you taught during this 2008-09 school year?** (Please circle all that apply.)

Pre-K   K   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10   11   12   Adults

- 11-a. **This year, approximately what percent of the students in your class(es) were limited English proficient (LEP) students or English language learners (ELL)?** (Estimate the percentage OR check I Don't Know.)

\_\_\_\_\_ % of My Students Were LEP/ELL Students      OR      \_\_\_\_\_ I Don't Know

- 11-b. **Please estimate how many times your on-the-job supervisor visited your classroom when you were actively teaching your students this year.** (Please circle your best estimate, which may be an inexact count.) Please limit your estimate to classroom visits that lasted longer than 10 minutes.

Estimated Number of Class Visits:      None      1-2      3-5      6-10      11-15      16+

- 11-c. **Please estimate how many times you have discussed your work in face-to-face conferences with your supervisor this year.** (Please circle your best estimate, which may be an inexact count.) Include conferences longer than 10 minutes about topics such as lesson planning, discipline, parent communications, etc.

Estimated Number of Conferences:      None      1-2      3-5      6-10      11-15      16+

## C. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF YOUR PREPARATION FOR TEACHING

12. **Your CSU campus designed your initial teaching credential program to prepare you to start working as a new teacher in a school where your preparation would continue.** In your credential program, the CSU wanted you to learn basic teaching skills and educational ideas *at an initial level*. Your campus expected you would have a *mentor in your school* to assist you in learning how to *use* your teaching skills in class with your students. CSU expected that you would also have chances to *develop* your teaching skills and ideas with your mentor's help. **Important aspects of a teacher's job are listed below. At the CSU, how well prepared were you to begin each aspect of a teacher's job while you extended your initial skills with a mentor's help?** Please finish each statement below by circling one number that best describes the level of your preparation. (Circle "x" on the right side if you have not done a particular item since you finished your CSU preparation.)

After My CSU Program, I Was . . .	... well prepared to begin ...	. adequately prepared to begin ...	. somewhat prepared to begin ...	.. not at all prepared to begin ...	Cannot Answer An Item
1. . . . to <u>know</u> and <u>understand</u> the subject(s) in which I earned my teaching credential(s).	3	2	1	0	x
2. . . . to prepare lesson plans and make prior arrangements for students' class activities.	3	2	1	0	x
3. . . . to organize and manage a class or a group of students for instructional activities.	3	2	1	0	x
4. . . . to organize and manage student behavior and discipline satisfactorily.	3	2	1	0	x
5. . . . to use an effective mix of teaching strategies and instructional activities.	3	2	1	0	x

12.

After My CSU Program, I Was . . .		... well prepared to begin ..	. adequately prepared to begin ...	. somewhat prepared to begin ..	. . not at all prepared to begin ..	Cannot Answer An Item
6.	. . . to teach my primary subject according to State Academic Standards in my grade(s).	3	2	1	0	x
7.	. . . to contribute to students' reading skills including comprehension in my subject area.	3	2	1	0	x
8.	. . . to use textbooks and other materials that are aligned with State Standards in my area.	3	2	1	0	x
9.	. . . to recognize adolescence as a period of intense pressure for students to be like peers.	3	2	1	0	x
10.	. . . to anticipate and address the needs of students who are at risk of dropping out.	3	2	1	0	x
11.	. . . to communicate effectively with the parents or guardians of my students.	3	2	1	0	x
12.	. . . to meet the instructional needs of students who are English language learners.	3	2	1	0	x
13.	. . . to meet the instructional needs of students from diverse cultural backgrounds.	3	2	1	0	x
14.	. . . to meet the instructional needs of pupils with special learning needs in my classes.	3	2	1	0	x
15.	. . . to understand adolescence, how people learn, and the purposes of public education.	3	2	1	0	x
16.	. . . to understand how personal, family and community conditions often affect learning.	3	2	1	0	x
17.	. . . to learn about students' interests and motivations, and how to teach accordingly.	3	2	1	0	x
18.	. . . to get students involved in engaging activities and to sustain on-task behavior.	3	2	1	0	x
19.	. . . to maintain positive rapport with students and to foster their excitement and motivation.	3	2	1	0	x
20.	. . . to monitor student progress by using formal and informal assessment methods.	3	2	1	0	x
21.	. . . to assess student learning by analyzing a variety of evidence including exam scores.	3	2	1	0	x
22.	. . . to assist individual students in areas of their instructional needs in my subject area.	3	2	1	0	x
23.	. . . to adjust my teaching strategies so all pupils have chances to understand and learn.	3	2	1	0	x
24.	. . . to adhere to principles of educational equity in the teaching of all students.	3	2	1	0	x
25.	. . . to use computer-based applications to help students learn subjects of the curriculum.	3	2	1	0	x
26.	. . . to use computer technology in class activities and for classroom record-keeping.	3	2	1	0	x
27.	. . . to use class time efficiently by relying on daily routines and planned transitions.	3	2	1	0	x
28.	. . . to know about resources in the school & community for at-risk students and families.	3	2	1	0	x
29.	. . . to think about problems that occur in teaching and to try-out various solutions.	3	2	1	0	x
30.	. . . to establish academic expectations that are intellectually challenging for students.	3	2	1	0	x

31.	. . . to provide opportunities for students to develop advanced problem-solving skills.	3	2	1	0	x
32.	. . . to communicate my course goals and requirements to students and parents.	3	2	1	0	x
33.	. . . to develop fair criteria for course grades and to explain these to students and parents.	3	2	1	0	x
34.	. . . to help students realize the connections between my subject and life beyond school.	3	2	1	0	x
35.	. . . to encourage/enable students to assume increasing responsibility for their learning.	3	2	1	0	x

13. **Based on your experience as a K-12 classroom teacher, how valuable or helpful was instruction in your Teaching Credential Program?** A subject listed below may have been the focus of one class or instruction in the subject may have been in 2 or more classes. (*Circle one number or letter in each row*). *Your program may have provided no instruction in some subjects. For them, circle “x” on the right side.*

Question for You to Answer ►		How Valuable or Helpful?				Does Not Apply
Instruction in Your Teaching Credential Program ▼		Very	Some-what	A Little	Not At All	
1.	Instruction in how children and adolescents grow and develop.	3	2	1	0	x
2.	Instruction in the implications of human learning and motivation.	3	2	1	0	x
3.	Instruction in school purposes, organization, issues and history.	3	2	1	0	x
4.	Instruction in ways of teaching <i>my primary subject</i> in grades 7-12.	3	2	1	0	x
5.	Instruction in the state's academic content standards in my subject.	3	2	1	0	x
6.	Instruction in <i>general methods</i> of teaching and management in 7-12.	3	2	1	0	x
7.	Instruction in how to establish challenging academic expectations.	3	2	1	0	x
8.	Instruction in how reading instruction can add to my content classes.	3	2	1	0	x
9.	Instruction in how to develop academic vocabulary and writing skills.	3	2	1	0	x
10.	Instruction in ways to develop my students' general language skills.	3	2	1	0	x
11.	Instruction in the teaching of English language learners (ELL).	3	2	1	0	x
12.	Instruction in cultural diversity and multicultural education.	3	2	1	0	x
13.	Instruction in teaching students with special learning needs.	3	2	1	0	x
14.	Instruction in federal and state laws that govern special education.	3	2	1	0	x
15.	Instruction in the assessment of students with disabilities.	3	2	1	0	x
16.	Instruction in positive behavioral support techniques.	3	2	1	0	x
17.	Instruction on adapting instruction for students with disabilities.	3	2	1	0	x
18.	Instruction in research-based teaching of students with disabilities.	3	2	1	0	x
19.	Instruction in using computer technology for classroom instruction.	3	2	1	0	x
20.	Instruction in helping students use computers for class assignments.	3	2	1	0	x
21.	Instruction in computer terminology and operating procedures.	3	2	1	0	x
22.	Instruction in ways to use electronic media and educational websites.	3	2	1	0	x
23.	Instruction in ways to use software programs for group presentations.	3	2	1	0	x
24.	Instruction in ways to communicate effectively with parents.	3	2	1	0	x
25.	Instruction in how to reflect on and improve my teaching practices.	3	2	1	0	x
26.	Courses <i>about</i> my primary subject (not in my credential program).	3	2	1	0	x

Please Answer the Same Question Other Elements of Your Teaching Credential Program ▼ (Circle "x" if you did not experience an element below.)	How Valuable or Helpful?				Does Not Apply
	Very	Some-what	A Little	Not At All	
27. My supervised student-teaching experiences in K-12 schools.	3	2	1	0	x
28. My school visits and class observations prior to student-teaching.	3	2	1	0	x
29. Off-campus fieldwork assignments in my reading methods class.	3	2	1	0	x
30. Guidance and assistance by field supervisor(s) from the campus.	3	2	1	0	x
31. Guidance and assistance by supervising teacher(s) in K-12 schools.	3	2	1	0	x

14.	Please circle the one most accurate response to each question about your preparation to teach special education students:	Circle an Answer in Each Row.		
		Yes	No	Don't Know
	1. During your program of professional credential preparation, did you complete a distinct course in the teaching of special education students?			
	2. When you started teaching after receiving your credential, did you feel you were qualified to teach special education students?	Yes	No	Don't Know

15.	While you were in the CSU Teaching Credential Program, how true was each of the following statements? (Please circle one number or letter in each row.) Circle "x" on the right side if you have no basis for knowing. For example, circle "x" in Row 6 if you were <u>not</u> a student teacher in a K-12 supervising teacher's class.	New Question for You to Answer: How True Was Each Statement?				Does Not Apply
		True	Mostly True	Somewhat True	Not True	
	1. The program had a sequence of courses and school experiences that addressed the complexities of teaching gradually over time.	3	2	1	0	x
	2. The program provided an appropriate mixture of theoretical ideas and practical strategies, and I learned about links between them.	3	2	1	0	x
	3. During the program, I saw evidence that university faculty and administrators worked closely with educators in K-12 schools.	3	2	1	0	x
	4. At each stage of the teaching credential program, I felt ready to assume a little more responsibility for K-12 student instruction.	3	2	1	0	x
	5. I taught in at least one school that was a good environment for practice teaching and for reflecting on how I was teaching pupils.	3	2	1	0	x
	6. My supervising teacher(s) frequently observed my teaching, met with me and offered suggestions and advice about my teaching.	3	2	1	0	x
	7. My university supervisor (s) occasionally observed my class, met with me and offered suggestions and advice about my teaching.	3	2	1	0	x
	8. During supervised teaching, my university-based supervisor and cooperating teacher communicated effectively with each other.	3	2	1	0	x
	9. Over time, the CSU credential program and its curriculum met my needs as I prepared myself to become a good teacher.	3	2	1	0	x

16. **What is your overall evaluation of your CSU Teaching Credential Program?** *Circle the number of the one statement that most closely matches your current overall perspective on your program, based on your actual teaching experience.*

- 1 My CSU credential program provided a rich array of ideas and skills that have been useful in my teaching this year.
- 2 The CSU program offered many useful ideas and skills, but some of the material has been less helpful in my teaching.
- 3 The CSU program included relatively little substance. Most of the material has been of little value in my teaching.
- 4 The CSU professional teacher preparation program offered nothing of value. It was entirely a waste of my time.

17. **In the space below, please name the one course in your credential program that turned out to be most valuable for you in your subsequent teaching. Briefly tell what made the course so valuable for you.**

Please continue on the back if needed.

18. **Which element of your teaching credential program was least valuable for you in your subsequent teaching? Briefly tell what made this element of the program the least valuable for you.**

Please continue on the back if needed.



19. Based on your recent experience as a classroom teacher, what specific change(s) should be made in the teacher preparation program where you earned your teaching credential?

**Thank you very much for answering our questions. Please mail your responses in the envelope that we provided. Your feedback will help your CSU campus to improve teacher education programs.**

Please continue from Page 7 if needed.