

AT A GLANCE
DEMONSTRATION OF SUBJECT MATTER COMPETENCE USING THE ACADEMIC MAJOR OPTION

The information below only applies if a candidate's degree is in an academic major that is an exact match to the credential area they are seeking. If the degree is in an academic major that is not an exact match, see [Allowable Options to Demonstrate Subject Matter Competence](#). This At-a-Glance document will be updated based upon the outcome of the regulatory process.

Statute authorizing use of academic major to verify subject matter	California Education Code §44310 (Other references: EC §44259 and EC §44280)
Individuals Eligible for this Option	Any individual who needs demonstration of subject matter competence for a credential, permit, or authorization
Acceptable Majors for Multiple Subject (MS) Credential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberal Studies • Interdisciplinary Studies degrees that include any focus or concentration in the title (e.g., Liberal Studies: Urban Education or Liberal Studies: Elementary Education)
Acceptable Majors for Single Subject (SS) Credentials	<p>Degree must be in an academic major that is an exact match to credential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Also acceptable: Applied majors (e.g., Applied Mathematics, Applied Physics) and exact majors in one of the single subject areas that may have additional modifiers (e.g., Biology: Environmental Biology; Art: Art History; and Physical Education: Kinesiology).</p>
Acceptable Academic Degree Major for Education Specialist Credentials	Any of the above listed for MS or SS above
Acceptable Degree Types	Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral degrees
Institution Where Degree was Earned	Degree must have been earned at an institution of higher education that is regionally accredited (by WASC or one of the other regional accrediting bodies).*

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Coursework Evaluation Needed to Determine Alignment with Subject Matter Requirements	Not for this option.
Limitation on Time Passed Since Degree was Earned	None
GPA Requirement	None
Out of State Institution Acceptable?	Yes, as long as the degree was earned at a regionally accredited institution of higher education.*

* Regional Accrediting Bodies approved by Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)

- Higher Learning Commission (HLC)
- Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)
- New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE)
- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU)
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)
- WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC)