

CSUF Preliminary PK-3 ECE Specialist Instruction Program-Specific Preconditions

1) Limitation on Student Teaching Prerequisites.

No college or university shall require candidates to complete more than the equivalent of nine semester units of credential preparation courses prior to allowing candidates to enroll in student teaching in a preschool or elementary classroom. This restriction may be increased to the equivalent of twelve semester units if the student teaching prerequisites include study of effective methods of English Language Skills as required by Program Precondition 2.

CSUF Program Response

The CSUF PK-3 ECE Credential Program design prepares teacher candidates to begin their student teaching/fieldwork in the 2nd week of their first semester, after completing nine undergraduate prerequisite courses. Candidates must complete the following undergraduate coursework, totaling no more than 9 units:

[READ 360: Literacy Education for Social Change](#) (3 units)

[CAS 325A: Conception through Age 8](#) (3 units)

[CAS 350: Curriculum and Early Learning Environments](#) (3 units)

This program policy is described on page 18 of the [CSUF PK-3 ECE Credential Handbook](#) and reflected in the one-year clinical practice [Clinical Practice Program Timeline](#)

2) Literacy Instruction.

The program includes the study of effective means of teaching literacy, in accordance with 44259 (b)(4)(A) and (B).

CSUF Program Response

The CSUF PK-3 ECE Credential Program meets the requirement of Education Code Section 44259 (b)(4)(A) and (B), which mandates the study of effective means of teaching literacy, including:

(A) Language acquisition, phonemic awareness, phonics and decoding, vocabulary development, reading fluency, and reading comprehension.

(B) The study of effective means for teaching literacy to English learners, including second language acquisition and the development of academic language.

These areas are introduced, practiced, and assessed throughout the program. Literacy instruction is explicitly integrated into the following coursework and clinical experiences: Cross cutting themes are introduced in [CAS 350](#), [READ/EDEL 431](#), [READ 407](#) and [READ 408](#), practiced through assignments and fieldwork in [READ 407](#), [READ 408](#), [EDEL 430](#), [READ/EDEL 431](#) and [SPED 428](#) and fully implemented and assessed in [READ 407](#), [READ 408](#), [READ 438](#) and

[READ 439](#) during supervised clinical practice. The [evidence guide for Standard 7](#) addresses each aspect of teaching literacy.

(3) Undergraduate Student Enrollment.

Professional preparation, including student teaching, shall be made available in the upper division course offerings at all California public institutions of higher education.

CSUF Program Response

Undergraduate students pursuing the PK-3 ECE Credential at CSUF must complete three upper-division prerequisite courses: [READ 360](#), [CAS 325](#), and [CAS 350](#). These courses provide essential foundational knowledge critical for their development as future educators, offering a blend of theory to practice and fieldwork experiences. An outline of these [program prerequisite](#) requirements and a [policy statement](#) can be found in the CSUF PK-3 ECE Credential Handbook.

To further enhance their professional preparation, students are strongly encouraged to enroll in courses offered through the new College of Education teacher preparation [Urban Learning Degree](#), or the Reading and Education [Minor in Literacy for Social Change](#). These programs offer specialized just, equitable and inclusive pedagogies and methodologies that are invaluable for future teachers. Additionally, active participation in professional development activities organized by the [Center for Careers in Teaching](#) and teaching workshops offered by the [Center for Creativity and Critical Thinking](#) are highly recommended. These opportunities provide practical experiences, exposure to advising, current educational trends, and valuable networking possibilities, all designed to give undergraduate students a significant advantage as they begin their teaching careers.

4) Assessing Candidates for Subject Matter Competence.

The program sponsor has a timely and systematic process for evaluating and notifying candidates of their standing in relation to the subject matter competence requirement.

This process includes:

- Providing candidates with clear and accurate information in all advising and application materials about all options available to demonstrate subject matter competence, for the PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction credential.
- Within the first 60 days of the candidate's admission, the institution must complete an assessment of each candidate's standing in relation to demonstration of the subject matter competence requirement and notify candidates of that standing.

CSUF Program Response

CSUF's PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction Credential Program's design includes a timely, systematic, and well-documented process for assessing each candidate's standing and recommendation for the credential. Our PK-3 ECE Credential determines that

each candidate meets the subject matter requirement prior to being given daily whole class instructional responsibilities in a preschool through third grade setting. Candidates are informed of these subject matter requirements during the application process, via the upcoming program website and information sessions. Within the first 60 days of admission, CSUF's PK-3 Advisor uses the [Verification of Subject Matter Competency Requirement form](#) to assess teacher candidates' subject matter competency. This form clearly shows if the candidate has met the requirement or outlines the next steps needed to complete it. Candidates may meet this requirement in one of two ways:

- Possession of a baccalaureate degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution of higher education with a degree major in Child Development, Child and Adolescent Development, Human Development, Early Childhood Education, Child and Family Studies, Early Childhood Studies, Human Development and Family Science, Family Science, or Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies. OR
- Completion of 24 semester units or the equivalent quarter units of non-remedial, degree-applicable coursework completed at a regionally accredited institution of higher education, with a grade of C or higher, in early childhood education and/or child development

Candidates will receive a notification of their standing via email, and the completed form will be kept in their file.

The [PK-3 ECE Credential Handbook](#) provides teacher candidates with clear and accurate information about both options available to demonstrate subject matter competence. Candidates are also made aware of these options in application materials, info sessions, new student orientation, and advising sessions,

5) Demonstration of Subject Matter Competence.

The approved PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction credential preparation program sponsor determines that each candidate meets the subject matter requirement prior to being given daily whole class instructional responsibilities in a preschool through third grade setting.

CSUF Program Response

CSUF's PK-3 ECE Credential utilizes the following forms to advise and track candidates to ensure they have demonstrated subject matter proficiency before being given daily whole class instructional responsibilities in their first semester of the program:

- [Course Planner](#)
- [PK-3 ECE Credential Handbook](#)
- [Program Progress Tracker](#)

During program overviews, the PK-3 ECE Advisor, with the support of the Student Support Specialist, informs candidates of all available pathways to demonstrate subject matter proficiency. During new student orientation, the PK-3 Advisor, with the support of the Student Support Specialist, will review the Course Planner with candidates and obtain their signatures to ensure their understanding of subject matter requirements. The PK-3 ECE Advisor is responsible for tracking students, advising students 1:1, and ensuring that all requirements are met, including subject area verification, before the candidate is placed in a setting with whole-class responsibilities, or week five of semester one. The PK-3 Handbook outlines the [clinical practice timeline](#). Candidates will receive a notification of their standing via email.

6) Completion of Requirements.

A college or university or school district that operates a program for the PK- 3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction credential shall determine, prior to recommending a candidate for the credential, that the candidate meets all legal requirements for the credential including but not limited to:

- Possession of a baccalaureate degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.
- Completion of the subject matter requirement
- **Passage of the literacy assessment performance**
- Completion of a Commission approved preparation program
- Passage of a Commission approved teaching performance assessment for multiple subjects in a TK-3 setting, or passage of a commission approved teaching performance assessment for early childhood education.
- **Demonstration of knowledge of the principles and provisions of the Constitution of the United States**

CSUF Program Response

CSUF's PK-3 ECE Credential utilizes the following forms to advise and track candidates to ensure they have legal requirements for the credential. These forms will be posted to the program website and are included in the PK-3 ECE Credential Handbook:

- [Course Planner](#)
- [Program Progress Tracker](#)

During program overviews, the PK-3 ECE Advisor informs candidates of all program requirements. At new student orientations, the Advisor and Student Support Specialist introduces the Course Planner, Program transition points, and Program Progress Tracker. The Program Progress Tracker is completed by the Advisor and/or Student Support Specialist with each candidate at four key points in the program:

1. Admission to program
2. Admission to First Semester Clinical Practice

3. Advancement to Second Semester Clinical Practice
4. Program Recommendation to Credential

The Course Planner and Program Progress Tracker are digitized and kept on students' online files. The [program transition points](#), and verification of each legal requirement prior to credential recommendation, is fully described in the PK-3 ECE Credential Handbook. Candidates will receive a notification of their standing via email.

CSUF's PK-3 ECE program is actively monitoring updates from the Commission regarding the phase-out of RICA and adoption of the new literacy performance assessment. The PK-3 ECE Program Handbook and advising materials are regularly updated to reflect the most current assessment guidance.

(7) Equivalency for Clinical Practice.*

Commission approved professional preparation programs for the PK-3 Early Childhood Specialist Instruction credential shall recognize and grant equivalency for prior experience, as follows, and shall develop a clearly articulated process for granting such equivalency.

CSUF Program Response

1. The information provided to teacher candidate regarding equivalency for clinical practice within CSUF's PK-3 ECE Program includes the following in [Clinical Practice Description of Options 1 and 2](#) in PK-3 ECE Credential Handbook and [Equivalency for Clinical Practice form](#).

Note: Equivalency is only available for up to 400 hours of PK/TK clinical practice placement. There is no clinical practice equivalency for the required clinical practice in a K-3 setting.

2. CSUF's PK-3 ECE Credential program's description of the process for granting equivalency, includes the following:
 1. Candidates seeking clinical practice equivalency begin by submitting the Clinical Practice Equivalency Request Form, along with supporting documentation (e.g., employer verification letters, performance evaluations, and time logs, outlined in the CSUF ECE Handbook).
 2. The request is reviewed by the PK-3 ECE Advisor in consultation with the Literacy and Reading Department Chair/PK-3 ECE Program Lead.
 3. If necessary, an interview or classroom observation may be conducted.
 4. A written decision is provided to the candidate within 30 days, and documentation is stored in the candidate's file.
 - Clinical Practice Course Equivalency [Advisor Form](#)
 - [Professional Equivalency Verification](#)