

CSET Study Tips From Successful Candidates

A Message from the TRP Directors

Passing the CSET exams tends to be the biggest hurdle for students in the process of obtaining the additional credential in Foundational-Level Mathematics or Foundational-Level General Science. We encourage you to focus on these (CSET 211 & 212 for math; 215 for science) early as life gets very busy once you are enrolled in the Multiple Subject Credential Program and, currently, the test results may be used for ten years and passing them qualifies students for sizeable scholarships!

See our TRP Scholarships link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-qJRKdws6t_6AOcksCFh1zxtgxwLC5Yhq7HNaCbJafU/edit?usp=sharing)

Learn more about CSET 215 (science) here:

https://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/CA_CSET215_PrepMaterials.html

Learn more about CSET 211 & 212 (math) here:

https://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/CA_CSET211_PrepMaterials.html

Tips from Students

See Slide 22 on the PPT on our webpage!

Math

“The free CSET sessions offered by TRP were so valuable. [Facilitator’s] flexibility and insights into test taking strategies and teaching methods were very helpful. He answered questions clearly and gave specifics on ways to answer exam questions... These sessions take time, but persist!”

TRP Directors’ Note: Be sure to submit your Statement of Interest (link is located on the lower right side of our webpage). That puts you on our distribution list when opportunities such as CSET support and scholarships arise.

“The CSET books provided by TRP helped me to refresh my memory because it had been awhile since I had studied these concepts. I kept practicing and practicing math problems. I set aside a certain amount of time to study each day. Also, I used the whole time allowed for the test and went back and checked my answers.”

“I found the free CSET workshops available through CSU Fresno (open to all!) very helpful!”

TRP Directors’ Note: Go here to see both math and science CSET offerings:

<https://kremen.fresnostate.edu/centers-projects/teachmathscience/workshops.html> (scroll down to “CSET Information”)

“I read through the study guide twice and did all the practice problems and sample tests multiple times. I also took the sample test on the [CSET website](#).”

"I found it really helpful to search YouTube for math videos so I could hear the thinking behind certain processes in student-friendly language."

"The biggest piece of advice I would give, and the hardest thing to prepare for, was the time given for the test. I found it incredibly difficult to finish the test in the allotted time, especially as many of the problems require you to show your work. If I were to do the test again [no need to!], I would start with the constructed-response questions as they are a sizable portion of your score. It is imperative to practice taking this test within the time frame of the actual CSET."

"I completed study guide questions and the official guide on the CTC website as if they were real tests. If I did not get all correct I would then restudy, redo, or find additional similar questions online to test my understanding."

"I did practice questions on the CSET website and in the study guides provided by the TRP project over and over again. I passed both 211 and 212 on the first attempt!"

Science

"I took advantage of the free science CSET workshops by Dr. Grant that were provided by the TRP. It was especially helpful because she took the time to cover strategies for answering the questions that went beyond just knowing the content."

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"The TRP free science CSET workshops [with Dr. Grant] were so helpful! She communicated everything in an accessible way and the sessions were so valuable to my studies. I would have loved to have had more sessions with her!"

"I would say the single best resource I used to pass this test was online videos. It is by no means a fast way to study, but someone serious about really learning the content is likely to find online videos helpful."

TRP Directors' Note: Some participants recommend this site: <https://www.youtube.com/user/crashcoursekids>

"Honestly, the materials that were provided [by the TRP] helped me out more than anything I found on my own. I studied the test prep book and tested myself with the flash cards. I drew a lot in the margins of the book and color coded my highlighting (like vocabulary words in a certain color and important main ideas in another) so as to be able to refer back to the book quickly."

TRP Directors' Note: For access to these materials, start by submitting your Statement of Interest form (link is located on the lower right side of our webpage), then complete the form at the TRP Study Materials link, also on our website.

"I found that sometimes just watching a short Youtube video was useful as I came across things that I did not understand in the CSET prep book, since some of these concepts are rooted in visuals that the book lacks."

TRP Directors' Note: Some participants recommend this site: <https://www.youtube.com/user/crashcoursekids>

"My best advice is don't delay taking the test! Study, of course, then take it! If you wait too long you may run out of time to take it again if you need to and may no longer qualify for the scholarships! I didn't pass the first time but I learned what I needed to work on. I took it the second time, passed, and got the scholarships!"

TRP Directors' Note: Scholarships can only be awarded to current students, not former students. Please see the scholarship link on our website (ed.fullerton.edu/trp). The direct link to the scholarship information is here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-qJRKdws6t_6AOcksCFh1zxtgxwLC5Yhq7HNaCbJafU/edit?usp=sharing

"I would definitely recommend that people take advantage of the resources provided by TRP (especially the study sessions and book). Also, because it helps me more when I look at things visually, I found this [YouTube FLGS playlist](#). The Amoeba Sisters and Crash Course were a couple of really helpful content creators. When studying, I looked up pictures and videos a lot so I could hold on to the concepts. I personally thought the written response questions were the easiest because I could freely share my knowledge using multiple methods.

"The studying strategy I used really comes from a book that I read (Making it Stick). I would test myself using a practice test, see which concepts I didn't understand, study those, then retest a couple days later. Using multiple practice tests from different sources was very helpful because I wasn't just memorizing answers.

"One note of encouragement is that when I first started studying, I think my practice test score was something atrocious, like 10%. Even though I love science and thought I had a lot of background knowledge, I obviously had some gaps. But after just a few weeks of dedicated studying, I was able to pass. So, I believe that anyone can do it!"

"I mainly just used the free study materials that I picked up from you [TRP]. I used the Mometrix CSET Foundational-Level General Science Exam Flashcard Study System [provided by TRP]. It was really helpful!"