Adding a Single Subject Teaching Credential in Science

Multiple Subject Teaching Credential holders may obtain a Single Subject Teaching Credential in Foundational-Level General Science (FLGS), Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geosciences, or Physics by...

- Passing the appropriate CSET subtests (go to www.cset.nesinc.com to determine the appropriate subtests and learn about test content), and
- Successfully completing an appropriate 3-unit single subject methods course, such as EDSC542S: Advanced Methods of Teaching Science

The Single Subject Teaching Credential authorizes holders to teach the specific subject in departmentalized classes such as those in most middle schools and high schools.

Alternatively, Multiple Subject Teaching Credential holders who completed a 32-semester-unit course of study or have a bachelor’s degree in the subject area may apply to California’s Commission on Teacher Credentialing for an Introductory Subject Matter Authorization, allowing them to teach up to grade 9 subject matter. To apply, go to www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/applications.html.

Teacher Recruitment Project

The Teacher Recruitment Project is dedicated to increasing the number of qualified mathematics and science teachers at all levels. Financial support may be available to Multiple Subject Credential candidates and holders who obtain an additional credential in mathematics or one of the sciences.

Contact Information
For more information and to apply for funding, go to the TRP website: http://ed.fullerton.edu/TRP/Index.html.

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Multiple Subject Credential ... and Beyond!

Meet Ina
Middle School Science Teacher

Ina instills the wonder of science in her students.
Interested in Adding a Single Subject Teaching Credential in Science?

That's what Ina Wu did. Even though it wasn't part of her original plan, it was the perfect decision for her! Now, she teaches middle school science at a California Distinguished School in Orange County.

During her year in CSUF’s Multiple Subject Credential Program, Ina had a strong interest in teaching language arts. Her plan to was to teach first-grade beginning readers. After completing the program, she applied for a teaching position at several elementary schools. However, her teaching path veered in another direction! Ina learned of a job opportunity at a middle school and was encouraged to interview “just for practice.” The rest is history. As a result of that “practice” interview and her strong science background, Ina was offered a position teaching science. Now, eight years later, and with the additional teaching authorization, Ina loves middle school students and the science curriculum she teaches.

Ina’s Path to Teaching

Ina is similar to many credential students in that she was a stay-at-home mom prior to enrolling in the credential program. But, she is different from most credential candidates in that she has a medical degree and practiced medicine prior to teaching.

When her children were young, Ina took a leave of absence from medicine and volunteered in her children’s classrooms. During that time, she found herself becoming curious about teaching, wondering why teachers made the decisions they made and how they managed their classrooms so well. Ina also decided that teachers are special people! As her children grew and she considered returning to medicine, the lure of neurology rounds was overshadowed by the intrigue she continued to have with teaching. Teaching seemed to Ina like “a magical thing to do.” Today, Ina is happy making magic with her students.

“Teaching seemed like a magical thing to do!”

Teaching Science

Ina loved science when she was in school. Now, her students do too! Ina engages her students in interesting investigations and is committed to motivating them to learn. Her multiple subject background gives her a strong foundation for infusing the language arts into her science curriculum, allowing her to simultaneously support science learning and reading and writing development. She engages students in collaborative work, and she differentiates her instruction in order to appropriately challenge all students and ensure their success.

Ina’s Recommendation for Your Job Search

Ina encourages Multiple Subject Teaching Credential candidates and holders to obtain an additional credential in science and teach young adolescents. “If you like the challenge of working with young people who are really developing as individuals, middle school is for you!” says Ina. Teaching science is an exciting and rewarding career.