Credential Info Night

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JEBB 160
6:30 pm, Thursday, November 7, 2013
Types of Programs

• Traditional university-based programs
  – Credential only
    • One year
  – Combined credential/M.A.
    • One or two years, maybe summers

• Intern
  – University-based
  – District-based
  – Other programs (Oakland Teaching Fellows, TfA)
University-based programs in CA

- **University of California**
  - Often have MA option or requirement built in
  - Higher academic standards (GPA, etc.)
  - Earlier application deadlines

- **CSU**
  - Usually don’t have MA built in
  - Lower GPA requirement than UC
  - Later and more flexible application deadlines
  - Many require application to dept. AND graduate studies

- **Private Schools**
Application Process

• Deadlines

• Application components
  – Test scores: tests offered every other month, same dates this yr.
    • CBEST (note: CBE, more dates, more $)
    • CSET
  – Letters of recommendation (3-5): give at least three weeks notice
  – Pre-professional field experience: typically 30-60 hours
  – Certificate of Clearance (background check): typically fingerprinting before application deadline
  – Resume or CV
Application/Credentialing Process: Miscellaneous

- Application fees vary, UCSC: $80, Stanford: $125
- Writing test or sample (UCSC: up to 10 pages)
- Field experience (UCSC: pg. 8 of online app.)

After starting the program, before student teaching:

- U.S. Constitution test or course (Politics 20, Politics 111, Politics 120A, and History 25A for UCSC’s program)
- Technology test or course
- CPR certification
- TB status
Assembling a Strong Application

- Subject-matter competence
- Overall academic strength, including writing
- Potential as a teacher, including ability to serve typical California students
Assembling a Strong Application: Subject Matter Competence

- Courses and grades in your major
- CSET
- Letter of recommendation from professor in your major

Note: Broader preparation makes a stronger job candidate, so take more CSET subtests.
Assembling a Strong Application: Overall Academic Competence

- CBEST
- Grades and course selection in your major
- Education courses and grades
- Grades in courses involving writing
- Letter of recommendation from someone who knows your writing and other academic strengths, ideally a professor
Assembling a Strong Application: Potential as a Teacher

• Experience with children, especially in a classroom at the level you want to teach

• Recommendation from someone who knows your work with children

• Education courses, classroom experience, personal experience → knowledge of cultural and linguistic diversity in California
Application Components: Letters of Recommendation

- At least one letter should address each major area (but any individual letter may address more than one area):
  - Subject matter competence
  - Overall academic competence
  - Potential as a teacher

- Four letters are fine, if three are requested, but six is overkill
  - Not fair to your letter writers
  - Not needed for a convincing application
  - May be annoying to review committees

- Treat your letter writers with respect
  - Lead time
  - Clear instructions: what is the purpose of the letter, what do you hope it will include, how to send, deadline
Application Components: Essays

- Why do you want to teach?  
  MOTIVATION TO TEACH
  - How has your personal background affected your motivation to become a teacher?

- Why do you want to come to this program?  
  MOTIVATION FOR GRAD PROGRAM
  - What do you hope to gain from this program in particular that will help you achieve your goals?

- Why should this program’s faculty you pick you?  
  PREPARATION
  - How has your personal background prepared you for success in this program and as a teacher?
Application Components: Essays

- Demonstrate your writing ability
- Address your “fit” with the program
- Help you articulate your own goals and framework for teaching
Financing a Credential

• Sources of funding
  – Federal funding (Pell Grant, TEACH Grant)
  – State funding (Cal Grant extension)
  – Private funding (KSTF, MfA)
  – Local funding (Noyce, Bruce)

• Types of funding
  – Grants, Scholarships, Fellowships
    • No strings vs. service requirement
  – Loan forgiveness in exchange for service
  – Loans
Financing a Credential

• Qualifications for funding
  – Financial need
  – Academic qualifications and potential
  – Service
  – Combination of above

• Pursuing funding
  – Tied to location or program, or independent
    • Federal financial aid process
    • Application to specific program
Support from Cal Teach

- Noyce & Bruce Scholarships for UCSC program
  - Meet the Districts – Thursday, November 21, 6:30-7:30 pm, here; attendance (or documented conflict) required
  - Applications due January 15
  - Interviews in late January/early February
- Selecting and approaching recommenders to write letters
- Individual meeting about your application process (schedule with Lea, lea@ucsc.edu)
- CBEST Writing Workshop – ?
- Reimbursement for test fees (CaT1 and CaT2 – see Lea)
- Certificate of Clearance (CaT3 – see Lea)