

# Credential Info Night

Paulina Rodriguez & Gretchen Andreasen  
JBEB 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

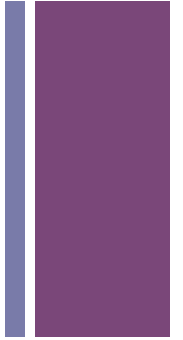
# + Application/Credentialing Process: Miscellaneous

- 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 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](mailto:lea@ucsc.edu) )
- CBEST Writing Workshop – ?
- Reimbursement for test fees (CaT1 and CaT2 – see Lea)
- Certificate of Clearance (CaT3 – see Lea)

