Credential Info Night

While you are waiting …
Take food and a handout!

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JEBB 160
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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 (TfA)
University-based programs in CA

- University of California
  - Often have MA built in
  - Higher academic standards (GPA > 3.0, 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
  - Mills, Stanford, Santa Clara, USC, others
Selecting Schools for Applications

- Where might YOU apply?

- What do you need to find out?
  - Application timeline
  - Entrance requirements
  - Program timeline
  - Strengths/nature of program
  - Price
  - Location
Application Components/Requirements

- Timing

May be required:
- Prior to application
- Prior to admission
- Prior to student teaching
- Prior to completion of program

- Materials

- Application form
- Transcript(s)
- Essays
- Resume
- Letters of Recommendation
- Tests: CBEST, CSET, GRE?
- Pre-professional field experience
- Certificate of Clearance
- TB test
- U.S. Constitution
- CPR
- Technology
Application Process

• Deadlines

• Application components
  – Test scores:
    • CBEST (note: paper test every 2 months, $41; Computer-Based Exam, CBE, more dates, locations, $102)
    • CSET (note: CBE for ALL; $297 for three subtests)
    • Letters of recommendation (3-5): give at least three weeks’ notice
  – Pre-professional field experience: typically 30-60 hours
    • Ok to request documentation from Cal Teach
    • For UCSC should also be documented in letter of recommendation
  – Certificate of Clearance (background check through CTC): typically prefer clearance before application deadline
  – Resume or CV
  – Writing: Statement of Purpose, etc.
Application/Credentialing Process: Miscellaneous

- Application fees vary (UCSC: $90, CSU: $55)
  - Fee waiver possible

- Writing test or sample (UCSC: up to 10 pages)

- Typically, 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
- “Fit” with the program
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 Strength

- Basic educational skills qualification: SAT, ACT, AP exams, CBEST (SAT: 500 English/550 math; ACT: 22 English/23 math; AP: 3 English/3 Calculus or Statistics)

- 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
Assembling a Strong Application: Overall Program “Fit”

- Are your goals and motivations aligned with program goals?

- Are you likely to succeed in the program, academically and professionally?

- Will your presence help the program and fellow students thrive?
Application Components: Letters of Recommendation

- **Who?** Ideally,
  - One or two university professors who know your academic work
  - One or two professionals who have observed your work with children

- **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

- **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
  - Four letters are fine, if three are requested, but six is overkill!
Application Components: Essays

- Demonstrate your writing ability
- Address your “fit” with the program
- Help YOU articulate your own goals and perspective on teaching
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 should this program’s faculty pick you?
  PREPARATION
  - How has your personal and academic background prepared you for success in this program and as 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?
Financing a Credential

- Sources of funding
  - Federal funding (Pell Grant, TEACH Grant)
  - State funding (Cal Grant extension)
  - Private funding
  - Local funding (federal grants, private donors)

- Types of funding
  - Grants, Scholarships, Fellowships
    - No strings vs. service requirement
  - Loan forgiveness in exchange for service
  - Loans
  - Early career teacher support (KSTF, MfA, Cal Teach)
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 Scholarships for UCSC program
  - Meet the Districts – TBD; attendance (or documented conflict) required
    - Applications due January 31 (tentative)
    - Interviews in winter quarter
- Selecting and approaching recommenders to write letters
- Individual meeting about your application process (schedule with Brett, btbell@ucsc.edu)
- Reimbursement for test fees (contact Brett)
- Reimbursement for Certificate of Clearance (contact Brett)
- Study group facilitation (contact Brett; sign up here)
Presentation Materials will be available to you!

- Credential Programs informational handout
- CBEST + CSET practice tests + information
- Funding Opportunities document
- Power Point slides