Credential Info Night

While you are waiting …
Sign in, take food and a handout!

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JEBB 160
October 24, 2017
Agenda

- Support from Cal Teach
- Types of Programs
- Selecting Schools for Applications
- Financing a Credential
- Application Process
- Assembling a Strong Application
- Application Components
+ **Note: Support from Cal Teach**

- Selecting and approaching recommenders to write letters
- Individual meeting about your application process (schedule with Marla, mahessel@ucsc.edu)
- Reimbursement for test fees (contact Marla)
- Reimbursement for Certificate of Clearance (contact Marla)
- Noyce Scholarships for UCSC program
  - Meet the Districts – TBD; attendance (or documented conflict) required
    - Applications due January 15
    - Interviews in winter quarter
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?
- Program variables
  - Strengths/nature of program
  - Program timeline
  - Price
  - Location
- Application requirements
  - Application timeline
  - Entrance requirements
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
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
  - Technology
Application Process

• Deadlines & application fees vary (fee waivers available)

• Application components
  – Testing Requirements:
    • Basic Educational Skills
    • Subject Matter Competence
  – 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)
  – Letters of recommendation
  – Resume or CV
  – Writing: Statement of Purpose, etc.
    – Additional writing test/sample may be required
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 or subject matter waiver
- 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: CBEST or previous scores from SAT, ACT, or AP exams (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?
Presentation Materials will be available to you!

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