UC Santa Cruz Cal Teach Credential Info Night

While you are waiting …
Say hello in the chat, mix a drink(!), get a snack!

Gretchen Andreasen & Iris Weaver
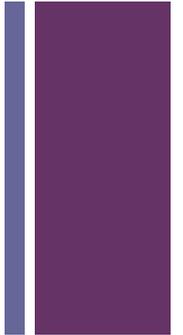Zoom
October 21, 2020 5:15-7 pm

Agenda

- Support from Cal Teach

- Types of Programs

- Selecting Schools

- Financing a Credential

- Application Process

- Assembling a Strong Application

  - Application Components

FOR DOCUMENTS CITED IN THE PRESENTATION, SEE
https://calteach.ucsc.edu/internships-opportunities/credential-preparation/credential-resources.html
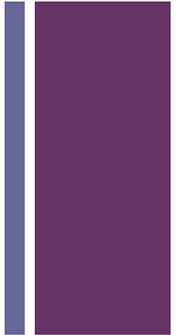FOR INDIVIDUAL LINKS DURING PRESENTATION, SEE CHAT!

+ Support from Cal Teach

- Application Support for any prospective math or science teacher
  - Selecting and approaching recommenders to write letters
  - Individual meeting about your application process (schedule with Iris, irisweaver@ucsc.edu)
  - CSET/CBEST Study Materials

- Financial Support for Participants
  - Reimbursement for test fees (contact Iris)
  - Reimbursement for Certificate of Clearance (contact Iris)
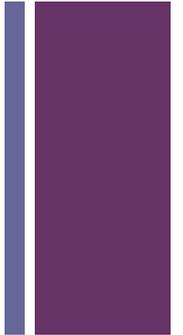 - Noyce Scholarships for UCSC program

+ 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 (there are exceptions)
  - Lower GPA requirement than UC
  - Later and more flexible application deadlines
  - Typically require application to dept. AND graduate studies

- Private Schools
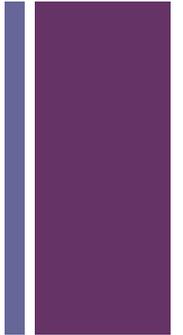 - Mills, Stanford, Santa Clara, USC, others
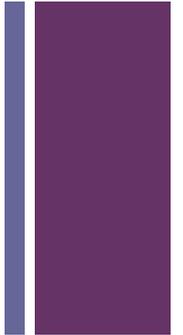
Selecting Schools for Applications

- 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 attached 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
  - Personal attributes
  - Combination of above

- Pursuing funding
  - Tied to location or program, or independent
    - Federal financial aid process
    - Application to specific programs sometimes automatically puts you in pool for potential scholarships, grants, fellowships, etc.
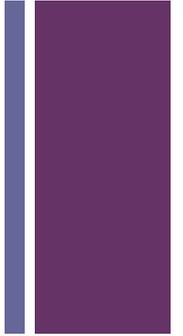
+ Application Process

- Deadlines & application fees vary (fee waivers often 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 (fingerprint/background check through CTC)
  - Letters of recommendation
  - Resume or CV
  - Writing: Statement of Purpose, etc.
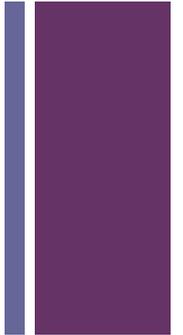
Application Components/Requirements

- Timing

Application materials may be required:

- Prior to application
- Prior to admission
- Prior to student teaching
- Prior to completion of program

CBEST/CSET

- Testing Requirements:
  - Basic Educational Skills
    - CBEST Exam
    - Equivalency: 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)
  - Subject Matter Competence
    - Math or Science CSET
      - Math CSET - 3 Subtests
        - Equivalency: Math Subject Matter Waiver @ UCSC
      - Science CSET - 2 Subtests AT LEAST

- Timing
  - IDEAL: Start taking these exams (or confirming equivalency) BEFORE you start applying to programs.

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
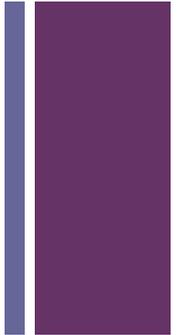
+ Assembling a Strong Application: Overall Academic Strength

- Basic educational skills qualification

- 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
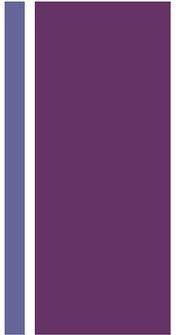
Assembling a Strong Application: Potential as a Teacher

- 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
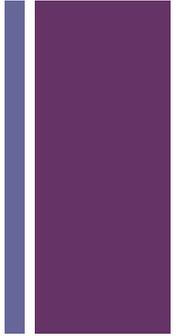
Assembling a Strong Application: Overall Program "Fit"

- 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?
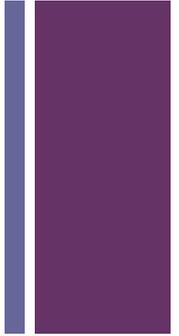
BREAK!

Use the restroom, make a quick snack, stretch, do what you need to do and we will reconvene in 5 minutes! :)
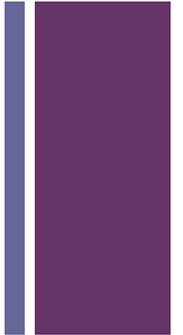
Application Components:
Letters of Recommendation

- 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 (see guidelines handout)
  - Lead time
  - Clear instructions: what is the purpose of the letter, what do you hope it will include, how to send, deadline
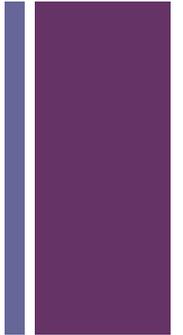 - Four letters are fine, if three are requested, but six is overkill!

Application Components:
Essays

- Demonstrate your writing ability

- Address your "fit" with the program

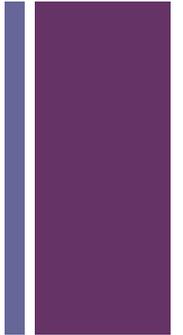- Help YOU articulate your own goals and perspective on teaching

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 are available to you!

- Credential Programs informational handout

- CBEST + CSET practice tests + information

- Funding Opportunities document

- Letter of Rec Guidelines

- Powerpoint slides

- http://www.calteach.ucsc.edu/