Credential Info Night

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

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JBEB 160
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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

- **Application Support**
  - Selecting and approaching recommenders to write letters
  - Individual meeting about your application process (schedule with Marla, mahessel@ucsc.edu)
  - CSET/CBEST Study Materials

- **Financial Support**
  - Reimbursement for test fees (contact Marla)
  - Reimbursement for Certificate of Clearance (contact Marla)
  - Noyce Scholarships for UCSC program (more info TBA)
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
  – 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
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 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
- [http://www.calteach.ucsc.edu/](http://www.calteach.ucsc.edu/)