

# CREDENTIAL PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY?

The complete outline of requirements to apply can be found here at [the Kremen School of Education website](#). Please take time to review all the information regarding the application process as well as what you can expect as a Credential student.

There are a few things, however, that must be completed before we can consider your application. Those items are listed below. Once you have completed all these requirements and parts of the application, an Interview with the Academic Subject Area Coordinator (Dr. Nicola Olsen) must be completed.

1) Subject Matter Competency (SMC) must be established. A BA in Theater Education meets this requirement. For all other majors including other theatre concentrations, you must take and pass the CSET for theatre to gain Subject Matter Competency. (You may have heard that a BA in theatre is sufficient for SMC but that is not entirely true.) At Fresno State, we require SMC is met either through completion of a Theatre Education degree, or through the CSET.

\*The CSET is only offered a few times a year so plan accordingly. [Follow this link to the theatre CSET website](#).

2) Basic Skills Competency is required of anyone entering a credential program. There are options for satisfying this requirement. Take the CBEST (all three parts), complete coursework in the areas of reading, writing, and math with a B or better (there is a list of approved courses that could be used). The last option is to do a combination of the first two options. The CBEST is offered fairly frequently but you should plan in such a way that you get results back before the Credential Application deadline.

3) Certificate of Clearance- Every applicant must be fingerprinted through a LiveScan location. Then, you need to open an account on the CCTC website and request a new Certificate of Clearance be generated. This will begin a background search for any criminal activity.

\*This can take up to 8 weeks so plan accordingly.

In addition to the above, there are two prerequisite courses that must be completed before applying: EHD 50 and CI 149.

EHD 50 is a course in which you complete observation hours (45 in total) in public schools. If you have done work with school-aged students in the schools, there may be an option to have the course waived but you must provide documentation. Information about this option is found at the link I included above.

CI 149 is offered every semester and in the summer and must be taken at Fresno State. There is no substitute for this course. If you are not currently enrolled at Fresno State, you can complete this course through [open university](#).

### **HOW DO I APPLY?**

To enter the Theatre Credential program, you must apply both to CSU Fresno and to the Department of Teacher Education/Credential Program. For CalStateApply, be prepared to submit electronic copies of transcripts for every single college course you ever took for credit (including community college courses taken during High School.) For the credential program, your undergraduate degree transcript will be sufficient.

[Find your application forms for CSU Fresno and the Credential Program.](#)

### **WHAT IS THE COURSE OF STUDY?**

The Theater Credential Program begins in the Fall only with a full-time load of courses in methods, pedagogy, and student teaching in a local school. Spring Semester is similar to Fall Semester in terms of structure with more classes and final student teaching.

### **WHAT IS THE TYPICAL SCHEDULE OF CLASSES?**

This is an in-person credential program though some classes may be offered online. Courses are taken in the afternoons Monday-Friday from 4-9 pm on the Fresno State Campus and the student teaching portion will occur during the school day approximately 7am-4pm. [This link connects you to the full curriculum website which includes details about each course.](#)

### **WHAT ARE FIELDWORK REQUIREMENTS? WILL I BE PAID FOR STUDENT TEACHING?**

There are two ways to complete fieldwork requirements, as a student teacher or an intern.

The first is as an unpaid "Student Teacher." During fall and spring semesters a student teacher spends a minimum of 600 hours working with an experienced classroom teacher. Generally, 4 hours a day for 4 days a week in Fall; 6 hours a day for 5 days a week in Spring.

The second is as a paid intern. If you are hired by a school district as an intern teacher, you may fulfill your credential requirements this way. There is an extra fee to complete the credential as an intern. And you will be in the classroom teaching all day everyday as well as meeting with parents, staff, administration, and other faculty. The course load after the school day is the same for both.

### **WHAT IS THE COST?**

The total cost for the 2-semester program as a student teacher is approximately \$10,000. Financial aid is available to those who qualify. Grants, scholarships, residency programs are other funding options.

### **I HAVE A TEACHING CREDENTIAL. WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO EARN THIS NEW CREDENTIAL?**

If you wish to add a Theatre Credential, you simply need to

- 1) complete one methods course (during Fall semester through Open University)
- 2) pass the CSET test in theatre

### **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I COMPLETE THE CREDENTIAL PROGRAM?**

By the end of your credential year, you must pass the Fresno Assessment of Student Teachers (FAST) assessment in theatre. Those who pass, and who complete their credential program satisfactorily will receive a preliminary credential from Fresno State. Once you start your first teaching job, you begin Induction, which is a 2-3 year process to get your Clear (permanent) Credential.

### **DOES MY CREDENTIAL WORK IN OTHER STATES?**

Credentials are issued by individual states, so every state determines reciprocity. California has some of the most stringent credentialing, so it is often the easiest state from which to transfer a credential. Reciprocity is generally possible for Oregon, Washington, Nevada and Arizona.