

Prep Resources: How to Improve Prep in this Area

Standard 7: Secondary Content in the Sciences

KEY STANDARD — Graduate Secondary Programs

Follow these steps to improve your preparation program and your score:

- ☐ **1st:** For **admission** to general science certification routes, which allows teachers to teach all biology, chemistry, earth science and physics courses, require teacher candidates to have completed 15 semester credit hours (SCHs) of undergraduate content coursework in each of two subject areas (30 SCHs total) or a total of 50 SCHs across all of the sciences.
- ☐ **2nd:** For **admission** to physical science certification routes, which allow instruction in chemistry and physics, require teacher candidates to have completed 15 SCHs of undergraduate content coursework in both chemistry and physics (30 SCHs total).
- ☐ **3rd:** For **admission** to single-subject certification routes, require 30 SCHs of undergraduate content coursework in the area of certification.

A Common Reason programs do not meet the Secondary Content in the Sciences Standard

Graduate programs fail to require or specify undergraduate content area coverage for prospective high school teacher candidates.

Transcript review forms and admissions requirements often fail to specify the science content that graduate teacher preparation programs expect applicants to know before enrolling. Without specification, it is unlikely that programs will systematically determine whether all candidates will be adequately prepared to teach the subjects for which they will be certified.

Solution

Establish a transcript review process that ensures incoming teacher candidates have adequate content preparation.

The requirement of 15 SCHs of graduate-level content coursework in the sciences can also satisfy this standard for all certification routes. For the general science and physical science routes, those courses must cover at least two different subjects.

When graduate programs do not specify publicly which certification routes are available, NCTQ assumes that all routes are offered.

Leaderboard

A few programs that meet this standard:

Coming fall 2016

Follow the links below to learn more

Exemplary Programs & Findings

COMING FALL 2016

Methodology & Rationale

COMING SOON

Resources

nctq.org/teacherPrep/review2014/resources/index.jsp