



January 10, 2021

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Assistant Vice Chancellor, Educator Preparation and Public School Programs  
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Dear Dr. Grenot-Scheyer and the Members of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing:

The undersigned Department Chairs of various California State University Departments of Kinesiology write to oppose the CTC's proposed adoption of regulations regarding new options for meeting the Subject Matter Competence Requirement which was discussed at your most recent Commission on Teacher Credentialing meeting (December 8-10, 2021). Of particular concern is the proposed clause which identifies a change to 'acceptable majors'. Importantly, we implore you to exclude Kinesiology majors as a substitute for the Physical Education Subject Matter Competence (SMC) Requirement.

As written, this proposal could be interpreted that someone with any Kinesiology degree will automatically be subject matter competent. This would be an extreme disservice to the teaching profession and would support deploying ill prepared physical education teacher candidates in California K-12 schools. In this letter we present two specific and compelling points of evidence which stand in opposition to the proposed regulation that general Kinesiology degrees can be used to meet the SMC requirement for the physical education single subject teacher credential:

***1. The Physical Education Teacher Education (PETE) program of study is differentiated from other degree options in Kinesiology***

- Kinesiology represents a *discipline* and its professions (Physical Education Teacher Education, Exercise Science, Allied Health Professions, etc.) are subsumed within it. Kinesiology is an umbrella term describing a discipline with human movement as its focus of attention. The *discipline* addresses physiological, anatomical, biomechanical, and neuropsychological principles and mechanisms of human movement. While each of the professions (or sub-disciplines) have related but distinctly different content, Physical Education Teacher Education degree programs contain both human movement forms and pedagogical aspects for teaching. Kinesiology and Exercise Science degree programs *do not include any scholarly study associated with any aspect of teaching students with and without disabilities in public schools*.
- Only Physical Education Teacher Education is a degree program which specifically prepares students to be highly effective physical education teachers in K-12 schools.

***2. PETE teacher candidates are specifically prepared to address Physical Education Model Content Standards.***

PETE subject matter undergraduate degree programs specifically address all seven physical education requirement subject matter domains. Kinesiology majors enrolled in Exercise Science, Allied Health Professions, etc., do not address these domains.

- **Domain 1. Professional Foundations:** Candidates demonstrate an understanding of the philosophical, historical, and legal/ethical foundations of physical education. Whereas PETE undergraduate majors would specifically address this content in their coursework,



- Kinesiology majors enrolled in Exercise Science, Allied Health Professions, etc. would not.
- **Domain 2. Growth, Motor Development, and Motor Learning.** Whereas Kinesiology majors in Exercise Science, Allied Health Professions may take some coursework related to this domain, only PETE majors are required to take coursework on foundational knowledge of physical growth, motor development, and motor learning that ensures that they can apply this information to provide effective physical education for all students including students with disabilities.
  - **Domain 3: The Science of Human Movement.** This domain could be addressed by all Kinesiology majors, however, the application of this knowledge for students with disabilities would be dependent upon them taking an adapted physical education or adapted physical activity course, which is typically not required for most Kinesiology majors in Exercise Science, Allied Health Professions etc.,
  - **Domain 4: The Sociology and Psychology of Human Movement.** Whereas some Kinesiology undergraduates may take coursework related to this domain this would be dependent upon their undergraduate degree. PETE and Sport Psychology based degrees would address this domain, Exercise Science and other Allied Health Professions would not. The largest proportion of KINE undergraduates are in Exercise Science.
  - **Domain 5. Movement Concepts and Forms:** Only PETE majors would be required to demonstrate an understanding all the movement concepts and forms indicated in this domain. Specifically, individual, dual, and team sports courses in addition to nontraditional activities and games courses are typically only taken by PETE undergraduates.
  - **Domain 6. Assessment and Evaluation Principles.** Evaluating the effectiveness of physical education strategies and activities would not be addressed by Kinesiology majors in Exercise Science and/or Allied Health Professions. PETE majors directly address these concepts throughout their undergraduate preparation and typically take a physical education specific assessment course.
  - **Domain 7. Integration of Concepts:** Only PETE majors would address this domain. Kinesiology majors in Exercise Science and/or Allied Health Professions would not address the interrelationship between physical education and other subjects in their undergraduate preparation.

In closing, we acknowledge the important work on the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing and specifically the need to reduce barriers for individuals to become teachers. We believe this proposed change in SMC requirements, however, will make it significantly more challenging to keep teachers in the profession if they are underprepared, which they would be in this new SMC scenario. For the reasons outlined in this letter, we stand in opposition to the proposed new options for meeting the subject matter competence requirement. We implore the CTC to maintain the current requirement of a degree which specializes in Physical Education Teacher Education as opposed to generalizing SMC to any Kinesiology degree.

Respectfully submitted,

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