



TO: Higher Education Committee

FROM: William P. Murphy 

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment of Sections 52.21 and 80-3.7 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to the Content Core Requirement in Registered Teacher Preparation Programs and the Individual Evaluation Pathway to Certification for Candidates Who Are Seeking an Additional Science Certificate

DATE: February 3, 2022

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Should the Board of Regents adopt the proposed amendment of sections 52.21 and 80-3.7 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education relating to the content core requirement in registered teacher preparation programs and the individual evaluation pathway to certification for candidates who are seeking an additional science certificate?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Review of policy.

Proposed Handling

The proposed amendment is submitted to the Higher Education Committee for discussion at its February 2022 meeting. A copy of the proposed amendment is attached (Attachment A).

Procedural History

A Notice of Proposed Rule Making will be published in the State Register on March 2, 2022 for a 60-day public comment period. Supporting materials are available upon request from the Secretary to the Board of Regents.

Background Information

The Department collects data on statewide teacher shortage areas and reports the shortage areas annually to the U.S. Department of Education. One of the persistent statewide shortage areas is the sciences, which include biology, chemistry, earth science, and physics. School districts have also expressed difficulty in finding science teachers at the local level, especially smaller school districts that need science teachers to teach multiple science disciplines.

Most registered teacher preparation programs require candidates to complete coursework in a content core, which is a major or its equivalent of at least 30 semester hours in the subject area(s) of the certificate sought consistent with the current requirements of 8 NYCRR 52.21. For example, candidates who are simultaneously preparing for two or more classroom teaching certificates need to complete the content core requirement in each of the subject area(s) of the certificates sought, requiring as much as 60 semester hours of content. This is expensive and requires a significant commitment of additional time.

To address the shortage of science teachers, the Department is proposing to revise the content core requirement in registered teacher preparation programs such that programs would require candidates who hold a classroom teaching certificate in a science certificate title, or are simultaneously preparing for two or more classroom teaching certificates in different science certificate titles, to complete 18 semester hours for the content core in the subject area(s) of the additional science certificate(s). By reducing the number of semester hours in the second content core, candidates may be more interested in seeking an additional science certificate in a different discipline and be able to complete the requirements for an additional science certificate during their program.

For similar reasons, the Department proposes to revise the content core requirement for candidates pursuing teacher certification outside of a registered teacher preparation program via the individual evaluation pathway (8 NYCRR 80-3.7). In this pathway, candidates who hold a science certificate and seek an additional science certificate in a different discipline would also only be required to complete 18 semester hours for the content core in the subject area of the additional science certificate.

The proposed amendment also includes technical revisions to internal citations to align the proposed amendment with another proposed amendment that was discussed at the December 2021 Board of Regents meeting. Specifically, the reference to clause (b)(2)(ii)(b) would be amended to (b)(2)(ii)(a) in section 52.21 of the Commissioner's regulations, and subparagraph (a)(2)(vi) is amended to read (a)(2)(iii) in section 80-3.7 of the Commissioner's regulations.

Related Regents Items

December 2021: [Proposed Amendment to Sections 52.21 and 80-3.7 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to the General Education Core in the Liberal Arts and Sciences Requirement for Registered Teacher Preparation Programs and the Individual Evaluation Pathway to Teacher Certification](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1221hed2.pdf)
(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/1221hed2.pdf>)

Recommendation

Not applicable.

Timetable for Implementation

Following the 60-day public comment period required under the State Administrative Procedure Act, it is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented to the Board of Regents for adoption at its June 2022 meeting. If adopted at the June meeting, the proposed amendment will become effective on June 29, 2022.

AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Pursuant to sections 14, 101, 207, 208, 305, 308, 3001, 3004 and 3009 of the Education Law.

1. Subclause (1) of clause (a) of subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of section 52.21 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education shall be amended to read as follows:

(1) specialist option - a major or the equivalent in English, a language other than English, biology, chemistry, earth science, physics, mathematics, or social studies; provided that the content core in social studies shall include study in economics, government, and at least a total of 21 semester hours of study in the history and geography of the United States and the world. Provided, however, that:

(i) for candidates who hold a classroom teaching certificate in a science certificate title, and are seeking a classroom teaching certificate in a different science certificate title(s), the program shall only require 18 semester hours of study for the content core in the subject area(s) of the additional science certificate title(s); and

(ii) for candidates who are simultaneously preparing for two or more classroom teaching certificates in different science certificate titles, the program shall require a major or the equivalent for the content core in one of the subject areas of the science certificate title and only 18 semester hours of study for the content core in the subject area(s) of the additional science certificate title(s); or

(2) ...

2. Clause (a) of subparagraph (iv) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of section 52.21 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education shall be amended to read as follows:

(a) Content core. In addition to meeting the general requirements for the content core prescribed in clause ~~[(2)(ii)(b)](2)(ii)(a)~~ of this subdivision, the content core shall be a major or its equivalent in one of the liberal arts and sciences that provides a knowledge base for assisting students in grades 7 through 12 in meeting the State learning standards for students, as applicable to one of the following subjects and prescribed in Part 100 of this Title: English, a language other than English, biology, chemistry, earth science, physics, mathematics, or social studies, provided that the content core in social studies shall include study in economics, government, and at least a total of 21 semester hours of study in the history and geography of the United States and the world. Provided, however, that:

(i) for candidates who hold a classroom teaching certificate in a science certificate title, and are seeking a classroom teaching certificate in a different science certificate title(s), the program shall only require 18 semester hours of study for the content core in the subject area(s) of the additional science certificate title(s); and

(ii) for candidates who are simultaneously preparing for two or more classroom teaching certificates in different science certificate titles, the program shall require a major or the equivalent for the content core in one of the subject areas of the science certificate title and only 18 semester hours of study for the content core in the subject area(s) of the additional science certificate title(s).

3. Subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of section 80-3.7 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education shall be amended to read as follows:

[(iv)] (iii) Content core. The candidate shall complete 30 semester hours of coursework in the subject area of the certificate title, which may include no more than six of the 30 semester hours in a cognate, meaning a related field as determined by the department; provided, however that a candidate seeking an initial certificate in computer science shall only be required to complete 12 semester hours of coursework in the subject area of the certificate title; provided further, however, that a candidate who holds a classroom teaching certificate in a science certificate title, and is seeking a certificate in a different science certificate title(s), shall only be required to complete 18 semester hours of coursework in the subject area(s) of the additional science certificate title(s).