

**January 2008**

## **SUBJECT CONTENT REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHING IN A NSW PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL**

### **Teacher Accreditation**

You are eligible for accreditation to teach in a primary or secondary school in New South Wales as a new scheme teacher after completing one of the following qualifications at a recognised higher education institution\*:

- an undergraduate degree, then a graduate entry teacher education program (such as a master of teaching, graduate diploma in education); or
- an undergraduate double degree program (such as a bachelor of commerce/bachelor of teaching); or
- an integrated undergraduate program (such as a bachelor of education degree) which includes both subject content studies and teacher education.

If you have completed an undergraduate degree such as a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science, you are eligible to become an accredited teacher by completing a recognised\* graduate entry teacher education qualification such as a graduate diploma in education, a graduate entry bachelor of teaching or a master of teaching.

\*Click [here](#) for the Current Initial Teacher Education programs offered by NSW and ACT Universities and other approved Higher Education Institutions in NSW regarding available teacher education programs.

The undergraduate subject content studies in your degree should be aligned to the subject(s) you wish to teach. For primary teaching you need to have a range of undergraduate subject content studies across the primary curriculum areas. For secondary teaching your undergraduate subject content studies must match the subject(s) in which you wish to train to teach.

### **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR ACCREDITATION TO TEACH IN A NSW PRIMARY SCHOOL**

#### **Prerequisites for admission**

Prior to entering an undergraduate teacher education program, you must have achieved a Higher School Certificate minimum Band 4 in English Advanced, Standard English or English as a Second Language, and Band 4 in General Mathematics, or completion of Mathematics or Extension Mathematics to an equivalent standard.

Where you do not meet these entry requirements, a tertiary institution may offer concurrent study or appropriate bridging units and/or require satisfactory performance in approved tests in literacy and numeracy before graduation.

## Subject content studies

Undergraduate subject content studies are required in addition to a teaching qualification. For primary teaching this means you need to have a range of studies across curriculum areas in your degree.

For accreditation as a primary teacher your degree should contain

- one full academic year of study (2 units) in four of the following key learning areas; or
- two full academic years of study (4 units) in one key learning area AND one full academic year of study (2 units) in two other key learning areas listed below.

This is the entry requirement for a graduate entry teacher education program (such as master of teaching, graduate diploma in education). The teaching qualification includes Years K-6 teaching methodology and professional experience in primary schools.

## Minimum subject content requirements for primary teaching

Key Learning Area	Related areas of academic study may include
English	English with a strong core component of study of English literature, communications, creative writing, language studies (English), linguistics (may be counted for one KLA), literature studies, media studies (ie the theoretical study of media or where the product is a literary text).
Mathematics	Pure or applied mathematics, statistics (one unit only may be counted provided it was studied as a stand-alone unit), other studies of mathematics that are relevant to the central concepts, modes of enquiry and structure of the content/discipline(s).
Science and technology	Agriculture, architecture (2 units only may be counted), biology, bio-technology, chemistry, computing studies, design - interior, industrial, graphic, fashion, product, landscape (2 units only may be counted), engineering (chemical, mechanical, civil, electrical, environmental), food technology, geology, materials science, media production, medicine, nursing, physics, psychology (may only be counted for one KLA).
Human society and its environment	Aboriginal studies, anthropology, archaeology, Asian or Pacific studies, business studies, cultural studies, economic history, economics, environmental/land use studies, futures studies, geography, government & citizenship, history, industrial relations, languages, including Aboriginal languages, linguistics (may only be counted for one KLA), legal studies, psychology (may only be counted for one KLA), political science, sociology, studies of religion.
Creative and practical arts	Dance including practical experience in choreography and performance in several dance styles and dance history/theory, drama including experiential involvement in making and performing drama, music including performing (singing, playing and moving), listening and

	organising sound (composing) within a wide range of repertoire, visual arts including art making and art history/theory.
Personal development, health and physical education	Physical education studies, family studies, health studies, health promotion, human movement studies, nutrition education, sports science.

## MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR ACCREDITATION TO TEACH IN A NSW SECONDARY SCHOOL

### Prerequisites for admission

Prior to entering an undergraduate teacher education program, you must have achieved a Higher School Certificate minimum Band 4 in Standard English or English as a Second Language or English Advanced.

Where you do not meet these entry requirements, a tertiary institution may offer concurrent study or appropriate bridging units and/or require satisfactory performance in an approved test in literacy before graduation.

### Subject content studies

Undergraduate subject content studies are required in addition to a teaching qualification.

For secondary teaching, where teachers specialise in certain subject(s), undergraduate studies should match the subject(s) in which you wish to teach (for example first subject English and second subject History). These undergraduate studies are required in addition to a teaching qualification including Years 7-12 teaching methodology and professional experience in the subject/area(s)\*.

#### First subject/area

You are required to undertake three years (6 units or a major) of undergraduate (and appropriate postgraduate) studies in one subject with at least 4 of these units at level (year) 2 or above, and at least one teaching method unit and professional experience in that area.

#### Second subject/area

If you wish to be qualified to teach a second subject you are required to undertake at least two years (4 units) of undergraduate (and appropriate postgraduate) studies with at least 2 units at level 2 or above, and at least one teaching method unit and professional experience in that area.

All undergraduate teacher education programs in NSW are approved on this basis. Appropriate study (based on the Institute's requirements) is determined by the teacher education institution.

### Minimum subject content requirements for secondary teaching

These undergraduate studies are also prerequisites for admission to a graduate entry secondary teacher education program (such as master of teaching, graduate diploma in education).

Subject/ Teaching Area	Relevant areas of academic study for first teaching subject
English	A major (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at

	<p>level 2 or above) in English with at least 3 units of a strong core of textual studies including literature. Other units may include studies in communications, creative writing, linguistics, media studies.</p>
<b>Mathematics</b>	<p>A major (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) in pure or applied mathematics (must include algebra and calculus). One unit only of statistics may be counted provided it is studied as a stand-alone unit.</p>
<b>Science</b>	<p>Biology - major in science (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) of four units in biology and two units in one of chemistry or physics.</p> <p>Chemistry - major in science (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) of four units in chemistry and two units in one of physics or biology or earth and environmental science.</p> <p>Earth and environmental science - major in science (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) of one unit in biology and one unit in geology or environmental science and two units in chemistry or physics and two other science units.</p> <p>Physics - major in science (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) of four units in physics and two units in one of biology or chemistry or earth and environmental science.</p>
<b>Human Society &amp; Its Environment (HSIE)</b>	<p>Aboriginal studies - major (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) in Aboriginal studies in areas such as contact and Aboriginal history, anthropology, Aboriginal literature, Aboriginal language and linguistics.</p> <p>Ancient history - major (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) in history in areas such as ancient history, archaeology.</p> <p>Business studies/commerce - major (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) in business related studies including at least one unit of finance or accounting and one unit of business management and remaining units drawn from: business law (Australian/ English), economics, human resource management, industrial relations, marketing.</p> <p>Economics - major (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) in economics.</p> <p>Geography – major (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) in geography.</p> <p>Legal studies - major (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) in social sciences including legal studies.</p> <p>Modern history - major (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) in history in areas such as Australian history, contact and Aboriginal history, early modern history, historiography, modern history.</p> <p>Society &amp; culture - major (three years of degree level study with at</p>

	<p>least 4 units at level 2 or above) in social sciences in areas such as Aboriginal studies, anthropology, archaeology, Asian or Pacific studies, civics, cultural studies, government, history, media studies, philosophy, politics, psychology (only one unit may be counted), religion studies, social communication, sociology (at least one unit preferred).</p> <p>Studies of religion - major (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) in social sciences in areas such as studies in religion (preferably comparative religions) and culture.</p>
<p><b>Physical Education, Health &amp; Personal Development (PDHPE)</b></p>	<p>A major (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) in personal development and/or health studies (with a socio-cultural perspective) and/or physical education with at least three units of study in health education including mental health, sexual health, relationships, drug education, child protection education, gender studies and risk taking behaviour</p> <p>AND</p> <p>at least three units of study in physical education including contemporary physical activities, dance, gymnastics, games and sport. Vocationally oriented courses, coaching certificates, umpiring/refereeing accreditation in sports and physical activities are not recognised as equivalent.</p>
<p><b>Technological &amp; Applied Studies (TAS)</b></p>	<p>Agricultural technology - major (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) in agriculture in an area such as agricultural science, agricultural technology or horticulture including studies of plants and animals, animal care, agricultural enterprises, chemical safety.</p> <p>Computing technology information systems – major (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) in computing or computing technology including at least two units that develop skills in information and communications technologies and information systems eg database design including relational databases and communication systems/networking.</p> <p>Computing technology software design – major (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) in computing or computing technology including at least two units that develop skills in the design and development of software eg programming in a computer-based language and system analysis, design, development and testing.</p> <p>Design &amp; technology – major (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) in design or design related study in areas such as architecture, fashion design, graphic design, industrial design, interior design, landscape design, product design, including two units of practical application in designing and producing in one or more of the following technology related areas such as agriculture, computing, engineering, food technology, industrial technology (wood, metals, plastics), graphics/ multimedia.</p> <p>Engineering studies - major (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) in engineering or engineering studies including studies of the application of engineering principles and methods, management and problem-solving in engineering contexts, and responsibilities of engineers in society.</p>

	<p>Food technology - major (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) in food technology including theoretical studies and practical applications in food industry (such as Australian), food manufacture, food product development, contemporary food issues and food marketplace.</p> <p>Graphics and multimedia technology - major (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) in graphic design or multimedia design including computer-aided design (CAD) and theoretical studies and practical applications in at least three of the following areas: architecture and architectural drawing (such as Australian), cabinet drawing, computer animation, engineering drawing, furniture drawing, landscape drawing, product and technical illustration.</p> <p>Industrial technology - major (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) in industrial design, industrial technology or technics areas or engineering including studies in areas such as wood, metals, plastics, electronics, technical drawing and engineering studies.**</p> <p>Textiles technology - major (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) in textile studies in areas such as textile technology or fashion design and including theoretical studies and practical applications in areas such as design, properties and performance of textiles and textile, clothing, footwear and allied industries (such as Australian).</p>
<b>Languages</b>	A major (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) in a language. Where the language is an Aboriginal language there may be specific cultural requirements.
<b>Dance</b>	A major (three academic years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) in dance including all of the following: history and analysis of dance, performance, with a technique base in modern/contemporary dance and ballet, applied anatomy and kinesiology, and composition/ choreography. Dance studies must be developed as a discrete discipline. Vocationally oriented courses are not recognised as equivalent.
<b>Drama</b>	A major (three academic years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) in drama including all of the following: performance, production, theory, and preferably Australian drama. Drama studies must be developed as a discrete discipline. Vocationally oriented courses are not recognised as equivalent.
<b>Music</b>	Major (three academic years of degree level study with at least 4 units at level 2 or above) in music including all of the following: musicological study (music history and analysis) in a range of musical styles, periods and genres with a strong component of contemporary and western art music, compositional techniques, music performance studies (a minimum of two years of music performance studies) and preferably Australian music. The study of music and music practice must be developed as a discrete discipline. Vocationally oriented courses are not recognised as equivalent.
<b>Visual Arts</b>	A major (three years of degree level study with at least 4 units at

level 2 or above) including all of the following: practical studies in 2 and 3 and/or 4 dimensional art forms, art theory/history (a minimum of one year), and studio art making practice (a minimum of one year). The study of visual arts must be developed as a discrete discipline. Vocationally oriented courses are not recognised as equivalent.

Source: NSW Institute of Teachers [Supplementary Documentation Graduate Teacher Standards 1.1.1-1.1.3 Subject Content Requirements](#) (September 2007).

**Additional note**

\*Note that graduate secondary teachers can be appointed to teach in NSW schools in one or two teaching/subject areas for which they have studied at university and may be required to teach to higher school certificate level. For this reason it is essential that potential graduate teachers undertake professional experience (practicum) and teaching methodology (for Years 7-12) units in each subject/teaching area studied (generally two subject areas).

\*\*Additional study may be undertaken as follows: Industrial technology automotives - at least two units of automotive studies, Industrial technology building and construction - at least two units of study in building and construction, Industrial technology electronics - at least two units of study in electronics, Industrial technology multimedia - at least two units of study in multimedia.

