

FAQ - Meeting the Basic Skills Requirement (BSR) Through Coursework or a Combination of Coursework/Exams

1. **Are community college courses acceptable for meeting the BSR?**
 - a. Yes, as long as the courses are degree applicable. Remedial, professional development, continuing education, in-service courses, and workshops are NOT acceptable.
2. **Is a 4-quarter unit course acceptable? (updated 9/27/2021)**
 - a. Yes, the course must be a minimum of quarter units. Two courses may be used to satisfy each area of the requirement to meet the minimum required units.
3. **Is a course in Rhetoric acceptable for meeting both the Writing and Reading sections?**
 - a. Yes, a course in Rhetoric is acceptable for meeting both the Writing and Reading sections.
4. **Which exams are acceptable for mixing and matching?**
 - a. The following exams are acceptable.
 - ACT
 - AP
 - CBEST
 - CSET
 - ELM/EPT
 - EAP
 - SAT
5. **Are the new options for meeting the BSR available to previous candidates?**
 - a. Yes, they are available to all candidates regardless of when candidates enrolled in a program.
6. **Is there an expiration on the coursework or exams?**
 - a. No, there is no recency on the coursework. Exams used for BSR do not expire and are valid for life.
7. **Is it acceptable to retake a course?**
 - a. Yes, it is acceptable to retake a course to meet the minimum grade requirement as long as the course meets the BSR criteria.
8. **Can CSET be used towards meeting the BSR?**
 - a. Yes. The following subtests meet the corresponding BSR subject areas.
 - Reading – CSET: Multiple Subtest I (101) – 220 or higher
 - Writing – CSET: Writing Skills (142) – 220 or higher
 - Math – CSET: Multiple Subtest II (214) & Multiple Subject III (103) – 220 or higher in both subtestsfff

- 9. Is AP credit acceptable if it is posted on transcripts?**
- Yes, as long as the transcripts specify the AP subject and show units applied.
- 10. Are “Pass” and “Credit” grades acceptable?**
- Yes, a grade of B- or above, Pass, or Credit are all acceptable.
- 11. If the BSR was approved by SJSU, am I able to use it for another credential program at another institution?**
- The BSR may only be used for credential programs offered at SJSU, however, it may not be used for a program at another institution. The recommending institution must evaluate the BSR and submit it with the candidate’s recommendation at the end of the program.
- 12. Is foreign degree coursework acceptable?**
- Yes, only if the coursework has been evaluated by a CTC approved agency AND the course was taught in English. Official Foreign Degree Evaluation is required.
- 13. How do I access my ELM, EPT, and/or ELA scores to see if they qualify?**
- Effective October 1, 2017, the English Placement Test (EPT) and Entry-Level Mathematics Exam (ELM) are discontinued. As of September 30, 2019, Educational Testing Systems (ETS) no longer provides these test results. You may contact Credential Services if you
- 14. If I don't have an undergraduate course that qualifies, can I take a course now or in the future to meet some part of the BSR if I prefer to do that over taking the CBEST?**
- Yes, however, you should have the courses preapproved ahead of time. You may contact the Credential Services Office who will consult with your program advisor to determine if the course meets the BSR criteria.
- 15. Are these new options for meeting the BSR applicable when applying to be a substitute?**
- Yes, the new options specified in AB 130 may be used to satisfy the BSR for a 30-day substitute permit. The coursework will be evaluated by the agency processing the application for the 30-substitutue permit. Currently substitute permits are processed by CTC of County Offices of Education. If you are using a combination of coursework and exams, it may only be evaluated by a credential program sponsor at this time.
- 16. Is one course acceptable towards meeting the Reading and Writing Requirement?**
- Yes, however, a letter of support is required from the institution where the course was taken. The letter must from the Registrar’s or English Department and be on the institution’s letterhead and must verify the course meets both the basic skills requirement for Reading and Writing.
- 17. Are courses that fall outside of the BSR subject areas acceptable? For example, if a research course covered quantitative analysis, is it acceptable to use towards the Math section?**
- Yes, it may be acceptable if a letter of support is provided from the institution where the course was taken. The letter must from the Registrar’s or Math Department and be on the institution’s letterhead and must verify the course meets both the basic skills requirement for Math.