

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

Assembly Bill (AB) 130 (Chap. 44, Stats. 2021 signed by the Governor and became effective July 9, 2021) includes provisions of the bill for creating new options for credential candidates to meet the Basic Skills Requirements (BSR). This new option allows the Commission and Commission-approved preparation programs to verify that a candidate or applicant has demonstrated basic skills proficiency by verifying qualifying college-level coursework from a regionally accredited institution of higher education if the following conditions are met. A combination of coursework and qualifying exams are also acceptable for meeting the BSR.

All coursework must meet the following criteria:

- The candidate must have earned a grade of "B-" or better, Pass or Credit
- The coursework must have been taken at a regionally accredited college or university
- The coursework must be a minimum of 3 semester units or 4 quarter units (*updated 9/27/2021*)
- The coursework must have been taken for academic credit (earned units)
- The coursework must be degree applicable (AA degree applicable is acceptable)
- If taken at a college or university outside the United States, the courses must be English based courses and must be deemed as equivalent to coursework taken at a regionally accredited college or university in the United States. Foreign-prepared educators must obtain an evaluation of their transcripts through a Commission-approved Foreign Transcript Evaluating Agency. See [Leaflet CL-635](#) for more information.
- For Reading, applicable coursework must be in the subject of critical thinking, literature, philosophy, reading, rhetoric, or textual analysis
- For Writing, applicable coursework must be the subject of composition, English, rhetoric, written communications, or writing
- For Mathematics, applicable coursework must be in the subject of algebra, geometry, mathematics, quantitative reasoning, or statistics

The following coursework is NOT acceptable:

- Professional development or continuing education units
- In-service training or workshops
- Non-credit bearing courses
- Courses where credits do not apply toward the requirements for an Associate degree, Baccalaureate degree, or higher degree

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Review options on the next page.
2. Submit a request for [BSR verification](#) to the Credential Services Office. Email your request to credentials@sjsu.edu. See notes below for submitting transcripts and exam score reports.
3. Processing time is 5-7 work days.

TRANSCRIPTS: Credential Services staff will access your transcripts if you are a current SJSU student. You will be notified if we are unable to access your transcripts. All other student must submit official transcripts when submitting a request. Electronic transcripts should be sent to credentials@sjsu.edu.

EXAMS: Unofficial exam score reports may be submitted for the BSR review, however, official exam score reports are required at the time of filing for your credential at the end of the program unless BSR is previously approved by CTC via a different type of credential or permit.

NOTE: Approved BSR verifications are only valid towards CTC approved credential programs offered at San José State University. The BSR verification will be submitted to CTC at the end of the program when you are ready to file for your credential. CTC is the granting authority and makes the final approval of the BSR.

QUESTIONS? Contact Credential Services, credentials@sjsu.edu or 408-924-3541. We are in Sweeney Hall 445.

OPTION 1 – GENERAL EDUCATION COURSEWORK

SJSU General Education courses in areas A2, A3, B4, and Area Z may be used to satisfy the BSR. Click on links below for a list of acceptable courses offered at SJSU.

WRITING: [A2 - Written Communication](#) or Area Z – [Written Communication II \(100W\)](#)
READING: [A3 - Critical Thinking and Writing](#)
MATH: [B4 - Mathematic Concepts/Quantitative Reasoning](#)

TRANSFER STUDENTS who completed their GE courses at a California community college may refer to the [Articulation GE Breadth](#) link to determine the courses that meet areas A2, A3, and B4. Search for the institution and find GE A2, A3, and B4. Any course listed under those areas will satisfy the BSR requirement as long as a minimum grade of B- or better, Pass, or Credit is met.

ALL OTHER STUDENTS may refer to the [Articulation Transfer Evaluation System \(TES\)](#) to determine the courses that meet areas A2, A3, and B4. Search for the institution and find GE A2, GE A3, GE B4 listed in the second column for the course that meets the corresponding GE area. NOTE: Not all courses are applicable and will be verified by a credential analyst.

OPTION 2 – COURSEWORK IN YOUR MAJOR

SJSU Undergrads - Candidates who do not meet some or all of the coursework requirements in OPTION 1 may consult with their General Education Advisor to determine major courses that may satisfy the BSR requirement. Coursework must meet the criteria outlined above. Questions about acceptable coursework may be referred to the Credential Services Office.

SJSU Graduates - Candidates applying to a Credential Program who do not meet the requirements in OPTION 1 should contact a credential analyst in the Credential Services Office for guidance.

OPTION 3 – COMBINATION OF COURSEWORK AND/OR EXAMS

Candidates who do not meet requirements in OPTIONS 2 and 3 may use a combination of coursework and/or exams to satisfy the BSR. Exams below may be mixed and matched with coursework to satisfy the BSR. Coursework must meet the criteria outlined above.

Acceptable Exams

Exams	Reading	Writing	Math
CBEST	41 or higher	41 or higher	41 or higher
CSET	CSET: Multiple Subject I (101) - 220 or higher	CSET: Writing Skills (142) – 220 or higher	CSET: Multiple Subject II & III (214 & 103) - 220 or higher in both sections
ACT	*English – 22 or higher		Math – 23 or higher
AP Exams	*3 or higher <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AP English Language and Composition• AP English Literature and Composition		3 or higher <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AP Calculus AB• AP Calculus BC• Statistics
CSU Early Assessment Program EPA	*English - “College Ready” or “Exempt”		Math - “College Ready” or “Exempt”
CSU Placement Exams ELM & EPT	*English – 151 or higher		Math – 50 or higher
SAT (Taken PRIOR to 3/2016)	*Critical Reading or Verbal – 500 or higher		Math – 550 or higher
SAT (Taken AFTER 3/2016)	*Evidence-Based Reading and Writing – 560 or higher		Math – 570 or higher

*Meets both Reading and Writing Sections