

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

Your Secondary Education (SED) application will be assessed by a committee of professors in your chosen subject area. They will conduct Subject Matter Departmental Review (SMDR), which may include an interview, presentation, and writing sample (depending upon your specific subject area). The SMDR committee will rank and select applicants for a SED departmental interview. **Only those applicants who pass Subject Matter Departmental Review will be considered for admission.** The SED coordinator will notify applicants of the SMDR results and schedule SED program interviews.

Department: ENGLISH
Subject Matter Departmental Review

Dr. Nikola Hobbel

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Both the Chancellor's Office of the CSU and the Commission on Teacher Credentialing require candidates applying to a post-baccalaureate program leading to a California teaching credential to pass a series of competency assessments. The English Department follows the assessment procedures described below.

1. Assessment of Transcript

Candidates must possess an overall GPA as established by the CSU Chancellor's Office; those whose grade point average falls below 2.7 will be informed of the appeals process. Candidates not satisfying course requirements as determined by a credential advisor will be directed to course work to alleviate any deficiencies. In order to be eligible for entry to the SED English program, candidates must qualify by **either** completing (1) CCTC-approved Subject Matter Major (English Education) **or** (2) earning a passing score on the CCTC-approved exams (the CSET in English).

Students who do not hold a degree from an approved program must pass the CSET exams: Subtest I: Literature and Textual Analysis, Composition and Rhetoric; Subtest II: Language, Linguistics, and Literacy; Subtest III: Composition and Rhetoric, Literature and Textual Analysis; Subtest IV: Communications, Speech, Media, and Creative Performance. Most non-English majors (including those passing the CSET exams) are highly encouraged to take English 344/Literature for Young Adults, an advanced composition course for majors, and a speech course. Before making an appointment with an advisor, candidates should obtain an advising sheet from the English or Education Department and review their own transcripts; if the candidate is able to find equivalencies, then an appointment with an approved advisor can officially determine no deficiencies exist.

All required exams must be passed before beginning the SED program in August.

2. Assessment of Subject Matter Competency: Portfolio

All candidates will submit a portfolio including **two copies each** of:

1. an introductory letter addressed to the assessment committee;
2. a resume or curriculum vita,
3. the Subject Matter Competency Essay (described on the following page), and
4. **two writing samples** from previous coursework, each addressing **one of the following areas of study**: literature, linguistics, creative writing, media studies, cultural studies, rhetoric, language acquisition or composition.

Portfolios should be submitted by February 1, 2009 to:

Dr. Nikola Hobbel
Subject Matter Competency
English Department
Humboldt State University
Arcata, CA 95521

There will be no make-up day for those who miss the competency assessment deadline.

The English Department will notify students who do or do not pass the assessment by the middle of April at which time all portfolios will have been read by a panel of graders and the interviews will have been completed.

The California State University System defines and describes quality assessment programs for subject matter competency in English as including the following features:

1. Quantitative as well as qualitative measures should be used. HSU is responding to a need for quantitative measures through transcript analysis.
2. Qualitative observations and appraisals should be based on systematic and explicit criteria. HSU English Department faculty will read a writing sample submitted by the applicant (see attached essay prompt). The writing sample will be assessed by two English content area experts: a local secondary teacher of English and an English/Language Arts Professor at HSU. The writing sample will be assessed on the following criteria: 1) Development of thesis and synthesis of ideas from provided articles, 2) Effective rhetorical style & use of evidence, 3) Understanding of educational issues 4) Grammar & Mechanics/APA/MLA.
3. Writing Sample Instructions: Read all three articles from the Phi Delta Kappan. Drawing on at least two of the three, develop a 3-5 page, typed essay that indicates your own perspective on the themes outlined in the articles. Consider what these themes have to do with your potential career as a secondary teacher of English. Draw on your own readings, observations, and experiences to enhance your analysis. Choose MLA or APA as a reference style.