

## 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/or 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: GEOSCIENCE  
Subject Matter Departmental Review

Andre Lehre

826-3165

AKL1@humboldt.edu

All persons applying for admission into the Secondary Education Program must be assessed for competency in their chosen content areas. The Geology Department has an assessment process that is attached. In anticipation of questions that you may have while or after reading the attached application procedures, we offer you the following information.

### Measure 1: Assessment of Geoscience Background

#### Option A: CTC-Approved WAIVER

To help the Geoscience Assessment Committee assess your formal background in the sciences, the committee needs formal information. To aid the committee, there is an attached form for documenting your formal background in the sciences and mathematics. Please use your university transcripts to complete the form and include it in the information sent to HSU's Single Subjects Teaching Program. Your academic record and letters of recommendation from faculty will serve as the main source of information upon which requests for oral interviews will be based.

Note: You must possess the minimum overall grade point average of 2.67 or higher or minimum 2.75 in the last 60 semester units. No grades lower than a C are accepted in the required courses for the waiver program (no C minus, D plus, D, or F).

#### Option B: CTC Approved EXAM

Pass the CSET – Subtest I: General Science; Subtest II: General Science \*\*; Subtest III: Earth and Planetary Science. (See CSET Bulletin for breakdown of General Science subtests.) You must also show evidence of having completed approximately the same amount of laboratory semester hours in natural science as a graduate from HSU with a major in geology and option in secondary science teaching.

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

### Oral

#### Measure 2: Oral Interview and Examination

After evaluation of Measure 1, candidates may be invited for an interview with two to three faculty members from the Geology Department and one or two high school science teachers and/or university supervisors of science student teachers. In addition to asking questions from the areas of general science and geology appropriate to the level of instruction which you will be expected to teach in high school, the committee will want the candidate to make a presentation, as described below.

Use one portion of the following information for constructing a lesson on plate tectonics appropriate for a high school Geoscience class. Consider looking at the California Science Framework of the California State Department of Education as a reference for appropriateness. We do not expect that you will necessarily be a polished presenter. We desire to have you exemplify potential for becoming a good science educator. Consider using visual aids and any other aid that you believe would enhance your presentation. The presentation should take about 20 minutes. If you are requested to come to HSU for an interview, then please inform us of what equipment that you will need to present.

Lesson Topics:

Plate tectonics has been called the major unifying principle in the geological sciences. As such, it must have important effects in many of the disciplines that make up the earth sciences.

Briefly describe the history of the development of plate tectonics theory.

Discuss at least four major aspects of the earth sciences that have been revolutionized by the plate tectonics concept, and the nature of the evidence in each that supports plate tectonics theory.

Critics of plate tectonics theory claim that there is no evidence supporting a viable driving mechanism for plate motion. What evidence would you use against this criticism?



