

**Home Economics Careers and Technology  
California Department of Education**

**CREDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS TO TEACH  
A CONSUMER AND FAMILY STUDIES (CFS) PROGRAM  
AND  
A HOME ECONOMICS RELATED OCCUPATIONS (HERO) PROGRAM  
IN A  
HOME ECONOMICS CAREERS AND TECHNOLOGY  
CAREER PATHWAY**

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**CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
SECONDARY HOME ECONOMICS CAREERS AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION**

To be eligible to use federal Career Technical Education funding in California, **Consumer and Family Studies (CFS)** teachers and **Home Economics Related Occupations (HERO)** teachers shall meet the minimum general California State Plan requirements.

**Minimum Qualifications**

Teachers/instructors of Career Technical Education, including Consumer and Family Studies, shall have the following minimum qualifications:

1. **Professional Qualifications**

They shall hold a valid California Credential authorizing the teaching of the Career Technical Education subject assigned.

**NOTE:** **HERO** teachers may qualify to teach one or more career path clusters and meet Designated Subjects Credential requirements as established by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

2. **Occupational Proficiency**

Career Technical Education Teachers shall have occupational proficiency in the Career Technical Education subject assigned commensurate with the grade or difficulty of level of instruction. Evidence of occupational proficiency will be based on at least two years of recent work experience, calculated either consecutively or cumulatively, which is directly related to the occupation to be taught, or upon evidence of equivalent proficiency. (Not applicable to teachers of Consumer and Family Studies.)

## CONSUMER AND FAMILY STUDIES (CFS) PROGRAM CREDENTIALS

Individuals may qualify to be instructors in a Consumer and Family Studies program by completing professional preparation requirements, including a major or minor (or the equivalent to a minor) in home economics education, under the direction of an institution of higher learning with an accredited home economics teacher education program.

It is expected the teacher will have successfully completed student teaching, appropriate education courses, and any additional requirements established by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

**NOTE:** A credential authorizing the teaching of Home Economics is considered a single subject Career Technical Education credential.

It is strongly recommended that the individual obtain occupational/industry experience in one of the following HECT career pathways:

- Child Development
- Consumer Services
- Education
- Family and Human Services
- Fashion Design, Manufacturing and Merchandising
- Food Science, Dietetics and Nutrition
- Food Service and Hospitality
- Hospitality, Tourism and Recreation
- Interior Design, Furnishings and Maintenance

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## HOME ECONOMICS RELATED OCCUPATIONS (HERO) PROGRAM CREDENTIALS

Individuals may qualify to be instructors for Home Economics Related Occupations (HERO) programs in a Home Economics Careers and Technology Career Pathway in one of the following ways:

1. Possess a **Designated Subjects Credential** authorizing teaching in one or more of the following occupational clusters.
  - Child Development
  - Consumer Services
  - Education
  - Family and Human Services
  - Fashion Design, Manufacturing and Merchandising
  - Food Science, Dietetics and Nutrition
  - Food Service and Hospitality
  - Hospitality, Tourism and Recreation
  - Interior Design, Furnishings and Maintenance

2. Possess a **Single Subject, Standard Secondary, General Secondary, or Special Secondary** with a major or minor in home economics plus one of the following options:

**A. Option 1**

Two years (minimum of 3,000 hours) of paid or unpaid work experience directly related to the occupational program to be taught. The work experience may be calculated either cumulatively or consecutively. 1500 hours shall be the minimum required for each year of work experience. One year must be within the last three years.

It is recommended that HERO program instructors meeting this option complete:

- 1) workshops, courses or individualized instruction dealing specifically with the organization and skills necessary for the development and operation of occupational programs (minimum of 15 hours of instruction);  
and
- 2) subject matter content workshops or courses dealing specifically with the occupational program to be taught; documented independent study; occupational internships; or special individualized studies with a teacher of an approved Home Economics Related Occupations Program (minimum of 30 hours instruction.)

**B. Option 2**

One year (minimum of 1,000 hours) of work experience directly related to the occupational program to be taught. The work experience may be calculated either cumulatively or consecutively and **must include** 500 hours of recent work experience which is paid or unpaid.

and

- 1) workshops, course or individualized instruction dealing specifically with the organization and skills necessary for the development and operation of occupational programs (minimum of 15 hours of instruction);  
and
- 2) subject matter content workshops or courses dealing specifically with the occupational program to be taught or documented independent study; occupational internships; or special individualized studies with a teacher of an approved Home Economics Related Occupations (HERO) program (minimum of 30 hours of instruction).

**C. Option 3**

Satisfactory completion of a legally registered apprenticeship program and/or license or permit directly related to the occupational program to be taught (Business licenses or permits are not applicable.);

and

workshops, courses or individualized instruction dealing specifically with the organization and skills necessary for the development and operation of occupational programs (minimum of 30 hours of instruction).

## **ASSESSMENT AND VERIFICATION OF WORK EXPERIENCE FOR OCCUPATIONAL PROFICIENCY FOR HERO PROGRAMS**

### **Assessment of Work Experience**

The options for satisfying the work experience requirements are listed below.

1. Work experience (paid or unpaid) directly related to the career pathway program to be taught (1 hour = 1 hour experience);
2. Career Technical Education teaching experience in the specific career pathway program to be taught (1 hour = 1 hour experience);
3. College and university level coursework directly related to the career pathway program to be taught (1 unit = 62.5 hours experience);
4. Non-college postsecondary coursework, workshops and/or seminars that provide upgrading or development of skills directly related to the occupational program to be taught (1 hour = 1 hour experience);
5. Occupational internship offered by an educational agency in cooperation with an employer to provide a planned industry experience directly related to the career pathway program to be taught (1 hour = 1 hour experience).

Questions regarding work experience and/or occupational proficiency will be assessed on an individual basis by Home Economics Careers and Technology Regional Supervisors, California Department of Education.

Additional work experience or course work may be recommended if previous experience is lacking in the specifics necessary to teach a course even though the minimum years of experience and/or course work has been accomplished.

### **Verification of Work Experience**

Evidence of work experience and/or occupational proficiency for program instructors should be on file in the Local Educational Agency (LEA).

1. Work Experience
  - A. Letter(s) from employers verifying paid or unpaid work experience must:
    - 1) be official letters written on company letterhead stationery;
    - 2) describe the duties performed;
    - 3) contain inclusive dates of employment (month and year employment began and terminated);
    - 4) state if employment was full time (40 hours per week) or if on a part-time basis, indicate how many hours per week were worked.
  - B. Letter of verification for self-employment must:
    - 1) explain the nature of the self-employment;
    - 2) describe the duties performed; contain inclusive dates of self-employment (month and year self-employment began and terminated);

- 3) state how many hours per week were worked;
  - 4) be signed: "I certify under penalty of perjury that the contents of this letter are true and correct to the best of my knowledge,"
  - 5) be supported by letters from one or more of the following:
    - letter(s) from current or former customers
    - letter(s) from former suppliers who sold work-related merchandise to the self-employed
    - letter(s) from business colleagues who had knowledge of the work experience
    - business licenses and/or permits
2. Career Technical Education Teaching Experience:
- A. Letter(s) verifying career-technical education teaching experience must:
    - 1) be official letters written on LEA stationery;
    - 2) identify the occupational program taught;
    - 3) contain inclusive dates of teaching experience in the career pathway program (month and year teaching experience began and terminated);
    - 4) state hours per week occupational program was taught.
3. College Level Coursework:
- A. Official copies of college or university transcripts
4. Non-College Postsecondary Coursework, Workshops and/or Seminars:
- A. Completion of coursework, workshops and/or seminars may be verified by one of more of the following:
    - 1) certificate(s) of completion;
    - 2) letter(s) written on official letterhead stationery of the agency conducting the inservice activity and identifying the content and the hours of attendance;
    - 3) receipt(s) of payment for attendance along with a copy of the inservice agenda, program and/or content.
5. Occupational/Industry Internship (Includes Apprenticeships)
- A. Letter(s) verifying occupational/ industry internships or apprenticeships must:
    - 1) be official letters written on LEA and/or company letterhead stationery;
    - 2) describe the occupational/ industry experience provided;
    - 3) contain inclusive dates and hours of occupational/ industry internship.
  - B. Official copies of one or more of the following:
    - 1) certificates of completion;
    - 2) license(s);
    - 3) college or university transcripts.