

Program of Alternative Certification for Educators (PACE) Major Equivalency Statement

This form must be received directly from the individual who completed it. Return completed form to:

South Carolina Department of Education
Division of Educator Quality and Leadership
Office of Educator Certification
3700 Forest Drive, Suite 500
Columbia, South Carolina 29204
Phone: 803-734-5858 Fax: 803-734-4967
www.scpaace.org

PACE is South Carolina's alternative route to teacher certification. One of the admission requirements for PACE is that the individual must have a degree in the content area he/she intends to teach*. If an individual does not have the degree in the desired teaching content area posted on his/her transcripts, the State Department of Education will accept a major equivalency in the content area he/she intends to teach. This is often the best option for individuals with a degree in a related area. For example, since the State Department of Education is not an accredited higher education institution, our personnel would not be qualified to evaluate whether an individual with an engineering degree is automatically qualified to teach mathematics.

PACE applicants who have degrees in related areas are asked to have this form completed by the chair of the department at a regionally accredited, four-year institution that offers a bachelor's degree in the specific content area they are applying to teach. Using the example above, if an individual with an engineering degree was applying to PACE in mathematics, this form would be completed by the chair of the mathematics department at a regionally accredited, four-year institution that offers a bachelor's degree in mathematics.

Most areas of PACE require a major in the exact content area an individual intends to teach. So, for an individual with a major in a mathematics related subject such as engineering, this form would be used to show a major equivalency in mathematics. An individual with a major in an art related subject would use this form to show a major equivalency in art. Therefore, this form would be used to verify that an individual has a major equivalency in the specific content area he or she intends to teach.

Two areas of PACE participation require a combination of a major equivalency and additional courses. For these two areas (listed below), this form would be used to show a major equivalency in the specific area. The State Department of Education would then evaluate the transcripts for additional hours as appropriate.

Secondary Science	To qualify for secondary science, an individual must have a major in biology, chemistry, or physics. Biology majors must also have 6-8 additional hours in both chemistry and physics. Physics majors must also have 6-8 additional hours in both chemistry and biology. Chemistry majors must also have 6-8 additional hours in both biology and physics. This form could be completed reflecting a major equivalency in biology, chemistry, or physics. The State Department of Education will evaluate for the additional hours as appropriate.
Secondary Social Studies	To qualify for secondary social studies, an individual must have a major in a social studies content area. This form could be completed reflecting a major equivalency in history, economics, government, geography, sociology, or psychology. In addition to a major in one of these areas, the State Department of Education will evaluate for additional coursework as listed below. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • six hours of United States history • six hours of European history • twelve hours from economics, government, geography, and sociology (no more than six hours from one of these areas) • six additional hours from either economics, geography, government, history, psychology, sociology

*Participants seeking admission to PACE in middle level areas should request an initial transcript review by the State Department of Education rather than by a college or university. This form is not required for individuals who have the degree in the content area they intend to teach. Higher education institutions are not required to complete this form if they do not feel the individual meets the specified criteria.

