



Nebraska Department of Education Commissioner Approved Criteria for Demonstrated Competency in a Teacher Endorsement Area – Rule 24

In accordance with Nebraska Department of Education regulation, 92NAC24 section 004.10A, an approved educator preparation program may reduce the total required credit hours for any teaching endorsement by up to 50% if the educator preparation program determines the candidate demonstrated competency in the endorsement area pursuant to criteria approved by the Commissioner. The following criteria shall guide the determination of such competency.

I. Criteria for Demonstrated Competency for Endorsements (Rule 24)

Candidates may demonstrate competency through one or more of the following, either independently or in combination:

- Content Knowledge and Proficiency
 - Content Examinations: Scores demonstrating proficiency on nationally recognized subject-specific content examinations
- Relevant Professional Experience
 - Work Experience: A minimum of two years of recent documented work experience directly related to the endorsement area.
- Professional Learning and Specialized Credentials
 - Professional Development: Completion of recent documented high-quality professional development aligned to endorsement requirements. A minimum of fifteen (15) contact hours of professional development is equivalent to 1 semester hour of credit.
 - Industry or Educational Certifications: Possession of current relevant state, national, or industry certifications aligned with endorsement competencies
- Academic Background
 - Coursework: completion of relevant college-level coursework
 - A degree in the endorsement area or a closely related field from an accredited institution

II. Endorsements Not Eligible

These criteria apply to all teaching endorsements except the following:

- Speech-Language Pathologist
- School Psychologist

III. Evidence and Documentation Requirements

Each educator preparation program must:

- Maintain comprehensive documentation for each candidate for whom credit hour reductions are granted, clearly outlining:
 - Documentation of the evidence considered
 - The basis of the competency determination
 - How the evidence aligns with the requirements for the endorsement
- Maintain review and approval documentation by qualified faculty/certification officer

IV. Program Accountability and Review

- Oversight: The Nebraska Department of Education may conduct site reviews or request records to verify appropriate implementation.
- Continuous Improvement: Programs are recommended to evaluate the effectiveness of their competency-based credit reductions and make data-informed improvements as part of their continuous program improvement process.

By establishing these criteria, the Commissioner ensures that credit reductions are granted only when candidates have met the high standards expected of Nebraska educators, while also honoring prior learning, professional contributions, and alternative pathways into the teaching profession.