

Teacher Salary Supplement Program (TSSP)

TSSP Substantially Equivalent Degrees

The [Utah legislative code 53F-2-504](#) Teacher Salary Supplement Program. Occasionally, a degree or degree major posted in CACTUS will show as “Other – See Transcript” because the specific title for the degree or major is not one of the pre-existing options in the CACTUS database. Due to the degree major not meeting the TSSP program pre-screening protocol, the system will automatically reflect “deny” as not qualifying in the application. However, if you feel that your degree is either not posted correctly, OR the degree may be considered as “substantially equivalent”, **review the following information to determine the next option:**

Option 1:

If your degree is not recorded or recorded incorrectly in CACTUS, please go to [Educator Records](#), click the *Transcripts tab*, to follow the instructions to submit OFFICIAL digital transcripts to USBE Licensing. Then, send an email to the Program Specialist at tssp@schools.utah.gov requesting to record or correct the degree. Please include in the message your CACTUS number and name of the university.

Option 2:

Determine if you should submit an appeal. Title 53F, Chapter 2, Part 5, Section 504 is the legislative code for TSSP effective July 1, 2020, that states:

(e) *"Qualifying educational background" means:*

(i) *for a teacher who is assigned a secondary school level **mathematics** course:*

(A) *a bachelor's degree major, master's degree, or doctoral degree in mathematics; or*

(B) *a bachelor's degree major, master's degree, or doctoral degree that has course requirements that are substantially equivalent to the course requirements for a bachelor's degree major, master's degree, or doctoral degree in mathematics;*

(ii) *for a teacher who is assigned a grade **7 or 8 integrated science course, chemistry course, or physics** course:*

(A) *a bachelor's degree major, master's degree, or doctoral degree in a field of science*; or*

(B) *a bachelor's degree major, master's degree, or doctoral degree that has course requirements that are substantially equivalent to the course requirements of those required for a bachelor's degree major, master's degree, or doctoral degree in a field of science;*

(iii) *for a teacher who is assigned a **computer science** course:*

(A) *a bachelor's degree major, master's degree, or doctoral degree in a field of computer science; or*

(B) *a bachelor's degree major, master's degree, or doctoral degree that has course requirements that are substantially equivalent to the course requirements of those required for a bachelor's degree major, master's degree, or doctoral degree in a field of computer science; or*

(iv) *for a teacher who is assigned to teach **special education**, a bachelor's degree major, master's degree, or doctoral degree in special education.*

(f) *"Qualifying professional background" means:*

(i) *the teacher has held the same supplement- approved assignment **in Utah public schools for at least 10 years**, or*

(ii) *the teacher has a professional **deaf education** license issued by the state board.*

An example of other equivalencies that commonly occur with degrees such as engineering, with a minor in

mathematics or one of the other qualifying sciences. Please note that **coursework completed outside of a degree** or in conjunction with another degree or endorsement does **not** qualify as “substantially equivalent” degree. The Utah legislature and the Attorney General’s Office requires strict adherence regarding this qualification.

The review of your transcript for consideration as a “substantially equivalent” degree is completed by submitting a [TSSP Appeal Application](#), click the *TSSP tab*.

A “Qualifying Professional” background must be reflected in CACTUS and is not required to be consecutive years of experience. For the year to qualify as a year of experience, the educator must have had a current Utah license, an assignment in a Utah public school in a TSSP-qualified subject area with a valid endorsement for the subject. Educators missing any years of experience, assignments, and/or endorsements must complete an **appeal** application and submit the appropriate documentation to the TSSP Appeal committee **before the May 31st** deadline.

* Per Legislation, a “Field of science” means:

- (i) *integrated science;*
- (ii) *chemistry;*
- (iii) *physics;*
- (iv) *physical science; or*
- (v) *general science.*