



Professional Aptitude Interviews (PAI) Information Packet for Summer 2020

February 21st and February 28th (Note: You will be assigned to ONE date)

Purpose of the PAI

- The PAI is an interview process with Cal Poly faculty, staff, local administrators, and your peers.
- The PAI provides an opportunity to demonstrate your interest in teaching, content knowledge, relevant experience, ability to work with others, and commitment to social justice education.
- The PAI will also be an opportunity for you to learn about the credential program at Cal Poly and have your questions answered.
- You should not view the PAI as a competition between applicants. It is intended to determine suitability for our program and the ability to complete it.

What to Complete Prior to the PAI: Prior to your scheduled PAI, you should have completed and/or submitted the following (the ✓ items should have been completed as part of the application process):

- ✓ Applied to the single subject credential program on Cal State Apply (with a \$55 online fee) prior to the application deadline (Fall: 2/1) AND have supplied the Cal State Apply system with ALL relevant documents.
- ✓ Submitted official transcripts to Admissions from any university other than Cal Poly.
- ✓ Submitted proof of passing the Basic Skills Requirement (CBEST or equivalent) by uploading the score report to Cal State Apply by February 1. The final deadline for the CBEST scores is May 1.
- ✓ Submitted proof of passing all subtests of the CSET for your discipline (or the completion of a subject matter waiver program) by uploading the score report or waiver letter to Cal State Apply by February 1. The final deadline for subject matter competence is May 1.
- ✓ Submitted your Certificate of Clearance by uploading it to Cal State Apply by February 1.
- ❑ If applicable, complete the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 FAFSA (financial aid application) <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa> or the CA Dream Act application <https://dream.csac.ca.gov/>.
- ❑ Complete Placement Preferences and SSTEP Prerequisite Status forms (see email for forms).
- ❑ Complete Letter of Intent (described in email) and email to your advisor by **February 17**. Contact your advisor for questions about this step.
- ❑ Carefully read Chapter 1 of Sonia Nieto's *Why We Teach* (PDF provided in email).

What to Bring to the PAI: Please **dress professionally** and bring the following materials with you:

- Copy of Chapter 1 from Sonia Nieto's *Why We Teach* and any supporting materials you would like (i.e., notes)
- Pen and paper
- Copy of completed Placement Preferences & SSTEP Prerequisite Status forms

Description of the PAI Event

The PAI event will consist of a 30-40-minute group interview and for the remainder of the 2-hour time block, applicants will collaborate in a Socratic Seminar with the assistance and supervision of the interviewers.

Preparing for the Interview

Interview questions will address the applicant's commitment to and expectations about public education and learning. Be prepared to speak about how you understand the role of public education, how to help all students learn, and the significance of your content area. You are not in competition with the other interviewees.

Preparing for the Socratic Seminar

Read the attached text, *Why We Teach* by Sonia Nieto (Ch. 1), closely with the expectation that you will discuss the main ideas and themes. Bring a copy of the text with your notes and annotations. Also, bring two discussion questions for your peers.

Socratic Seminar Discussion Norms:

- As a speaker, be thoughtful. Consider the impact of your words.
- As a speaker, speak enough. Be mindful of how much you are or are not speaking.
- As a listener, be an active listener. Be present and focus on what is being said, consider taking notes.
- As a listener, assume positive intent. If you disagree with a comment, ask for clarification. Disagree with the comment, not the person.