

## REVISION TO THE DISCIPLINES LISTS 5.4

### *FIRST READING*

*Presentation:* Morgan Lynn, Executive Vice Chancellor  
Jane Patton, President, Academic Senate

### **Issue**

This item presents a revision to the disciplines list that is used to implement the minimum qualifications for employment of faculty and administrators.

### **Background**

The California Community Colleges replaced its former credentialing system with a system of minimum qualifications in 1990.

For instructors of credit courses, the minimum qualifications are as follows:

- Possession of a master's degree in the discipline or a bachelor's degree in the discipline and a master's degree in a reasonably related discipline.
- For faculty assigned to teach courses in disciplines where the master's degree is not generally expected or available, but where a related bachelor's or associate degree is generally expected or available, possession of either (a) a bachelor's degree in the discipline directly related to the faculty member's teaching assignment or equivalent foreign degree plus two years of professional experience directly related to the faculty member's assignment, or (b) an associate degree in the discipline directly related to the faculty member's teaching assignment or equivalent foreign degree plus six years of professional experience directly related to the faculty member's assignment.
- For disciplines in which a master's is not generally expected or available, possession of any bachelor's degree and two years of professional experience, or any associate degree and six years of professional experience.

To define which degrees are "reasonably related," and to place disciplines into master's degree and non-master's degree categories, the Board of Governors is required, by *Education Code*

§87357, to adopt lists of disciplines, relying primarily upon the advice and judgment of the Academic Senate.

The Board adopted the original disciplines list in July 1989, and adopted amendments in 1990, 1991, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2002, 2005, and 2007.

The Academic Senate undertook a review process during 2008-09 to determine what changes, if any, were needed to bring the disciplines list up to date. Local academic senates, colleges and districts, students, other interested parties, and Chancellor's Office staff were solicited for recommendations to change the disciplines list. A total of eight (8) proposed changes were received and considered by the Academic Senate's Executive Committee. The Senate held hearings during its plenary sessions to give proponents of the suggested changes an opportunity to defend their proposals and for opposition to be heard. Subsequent to the hearings, the Executive Committee's recommendations were presented to the full Academic Senate for consideration.

Proposed changes to four disciplines and the addition of two new disciplines were approved by the Senate. Those recommendations that failed to be forwarded by the full Senate lacked support.

## **Analysis**

The proposed revision to the disciplines lists was adopted by the full Academic Senate in April 2009. The Consultation Council reviewed the item on July 16, 2009, and raised no issues with the proposed change. A general timeline based on even and odd years of the review process is provided in the *Attachment, Disciplines List Two-Year Review Timeline*.

The proposed revisions are identified below:

### **Agriculture**

Master's in agriculture, agriculture science, education with a specialization in agriculture, or other agricultural area (including: agricultural business, agricultural engineering, agricultural mechanics, agronomy, animal science, enology, environmental (ornamental) horticulture, equine science, forestry, natural resources, plant science, pomology, soil science, viticulture or other agriculture science) ~~OR Bachelor's in any of the above AND Master's in agriculture business, natural resources, animal science, plant science, soil science, forestry, pomology, agricultural engineering, environmental horticulture, agronomy, viticulture or enology~~ OR The equivalent.

### **Humanities**

Master's in humanities OR The equivalent ~~See Interdisciplinary Studies.~~

### **Instructional Design/Technology**

Master's in instructional design/technology or educational technology OR The equivalent

**Political Science**

Master's in political science, government, ~~public administration~~, or international relations, **OR** Bachelor's in any of the above AND Master's in economics, history, public administration, social science, sociology, any ethnic studies, JD, or LL.B , OR The equivalent.

The proposed new additions to the Disciplines List are identified below:

**Biotechnology (non-master's list)**

Bachelor's degree in the Biological Sciences or Chemistry or Biochemistry and Engineering, and two years of full-time related work experience.

**Speech Language Pathology (master's list)**

Master's in Speech Pathology, Speech Language Pathology, Speech Language and Hearing Sciences, Communicative Disorders, Communicative Disorders and Sciences, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Education with a concentration in Speech Pathology, OR The equivalent.

Human resources staff, faculty, and other college officials use the disciplines list extensively as a guide when making determinations of fitness and qualification of applicants for employment in faculty positions in the districts. Districts will continue to enjoy a significant degree of flexibility, provided agreement exists between the local board and academic senate, in how they place courses into disciplines for minimum qualification purposes, and in their use of "equivalency" hiring.

**Recommended Action**

This item is presented for the Board of Governors to review prior to taking action at a subsequent meeting.

Staff: *LeBaron Woodyard, Dean  
Academic Affairs*



# **ATTACHMENT 1**

## **Disciplines List Two-Year Review Timeline**

**(Based on Even and Odd Years)**

### **Spring of Even Year**

Hearing on new proposals at Plenary Session; implementation of prior cycle approvals begins

### **Fall of Even Year**

Final hearing on new proposals occurs at Plenary Session

### **Spring of Odd Year**

Vote on final proposals takes place at Plenary Session

### **Fall of Odd Year**

Board of Governors considers the recommended additions or modifications