



# Digest

Digest means an item that has been through internal review of the Chancellor's Office and the review entities. The item now has form and substance, and is officially "entered into Consultation." The Council reviews the item and provides advice to the Chancellor.

**Date:** February 19, 2009

**Title:** Disciplines List Structural Change

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## BACKGROUND

Consultation Council heard in November 2008 about structural changes to the Disciplines List as proposed by the Academic Senate. Council members reached consensus regarding the two proposed changes which were then forwarded to System Office staff to work on the specific title 5 language. New draft title 5 language has been crafted subsequent to consultation between the System Office and the Academic Senate. (See attached.)

The two proposed changes discussed with the Council in November involved structural changes to the Disciplines List outside of the regular review cycle for additions and modifications to the list. The first change involved an alternate format for publishing the two lists identified in title 5 as master's and nonmaster's lists. There is no need to draft new title 5 language to allow the System Office and the Academic Senate to create alternate formats for publishing the list, so no further action will be taken on this issue at this time.

The second change that was proposed in November requires further input and direction from the Council. The intent of the Academic Senate is to expand the nonmaster's list to include those disciplines which require a bachelor's or associate degree in a particular discipline along with the requisite years of professional experience. This expansion may be viewed as a creation of a third list of minimum qualifications. The option to require a degree in a specific discipline to be included in the third list will be in the hands of the discipline faculty, and changes or additions to the Disciplines List will continue to be made through the regular cycle of review currently used by the Academic Senate. This cycle requires the Board of Governor's adoption of the subsequent edition of the Disciplines List to be published by the System Office.

## ISSUE

The Academic Senate has the responsibility and authority to develop appropriate minimum qualifications for faculty teaching in California community colleges. Currently, the faculty have developed minimum qualifications that fit into two categories: those where a master's degree in the discipline (and occasionally related disciplines) is required and those where a bachelor's or associate degree in any discipline plus requisite years of professional experience are required. With

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emerging fields of study and career technical education areas, it is apparent to discipline faculty that the two current options are insufficient and a third is necessary. The Academic Senate is proposing that title 5 sections 53407 and 53410 be amended to allow the faculty to define through the Disciplines List minimum qualifications requiring a bachelor's or associate degree in a specific discipline, plus requisite years of professional experience.

Examples of two such disciplines, for which a third list is desirable, are nursing and biotechnology. The nursing faculty have proposed changes to the Disciplines List which would modify the existing minimum qualifications to require a bachelor's or associate degree in nursing (plus requisite experience); however, the Academic Senate has previously denied the proposal because it did not fit within the current parameters of title 5. For biotechnology, discipline faculty have proposed that minimum qualifications consist of a bachelor's degree in one of several specific disciplines and no associate degree. That proposal is in the queue of other changes and modifications to the Disciplines List coming through the regular Academic Senate cycle.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Consultation Council supports forwarding to the Board of Governors the new language for title 5 sections 53407 and 53410 as attached, allowing the Academic Senate to create a third list of minimum qualifications in the Disciplines List.

# ATTACHMENT 1

## Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges Proposed Revisions to the Title 5 Regulations: California Community Colleges Employees Minimum Qualifications

Section 53407 of article 1 of subchapter 4 of chapter 4 of division 6 of title 5 of the California Code of Regulations is amended to read:

### § 53407. Disciplines Lists.

(a) The Board of Governors hereby adopts and incorporates by reference into this provision the ~~two~~ lists published by the Chancellor's Office, entitled "Disciplines Requiring the Master's Degree", ~~and~~ "Disciplines in which the Master's Degree is not Generally Expected or Available, but which require a Bachelor's Degree" and "Disciplines in which the Master's Degree is not Generally Available" as adopted by the Board at its ~~September 2005~~ May 2009 meeting, for the following purposes:

(1) to establish a working definition of the term "discipline" as used in section 53410;

(2) to define which disciplines are "reasonably related" to one another, for purposes of section 53410;

(3) to define disciplines in which the master's degree is required, for purposes of section 53410.

~~(3)~~ (4) to define disciplines in which the master's degree is not generally expected or available, as opposed to those for which the master's degree is required, but in which a bachelor's or associate degree in the discipline directly related to the faculty member's teaching assignment is expected or available, for purposes of section 53410.

(5) to define disciplines in which the master's degree is not generally expected or available, and in which a bachelor's or associate degree in the discipline directly related to the faculty member's teaching assignment is not expected or available, for purposes of section 53410.

(b) Revisions after ~~September 2005~~ May 2009 to the ~~two~~ lists referenced in subdivision (a) shall be considered incorporated by reference into this provision when they have been adopted by the Board.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 70901, 87356 and 87357, Education Code.  
Reference: Sections 70901(b)(1)(B), 87356 and 87357, Education Code.

Section 53410 of article 1 of subchapter 4 of chapter 4 of division 6 of title 5 of the California Code of Regulations is amended to read:

**§ 53410. Minimum Qualifications for Instructors of Credit Courses, Counselors, and Librarians**

The minimum qualifications for service as a community college faculty member teaching any credit course, or as a counselor or librarian, shall be satisfied by meeting any one of the following requirements:

(a) Possession of a master's degree, or equivalent foreign degree, in the discipline of the faculty member's assignment.

(b) Possession of a master's degree, or equivalent foreign degree, in a discipline reasonably related to the faculty member's assignment and possession of a bachelor's degree, or equivalent foreign degree, in the discipline of the faculty member's assignment.

(c) For faculty assigned to teach courses in disciplines where the master's degree is not generally expected or available, ~~which are, generally, disciplines in specialized technical, trade, or industrial fields, either of the following:~~

~~—(1) Possession of a bachelor's degree, or equivalent foreign degree, plus two years of professional experience directly related to the faculty member's assignment; or~~

~~—(2) Possession of an associate degree, or equivalent foreign degree, plus six years of professional experience directly related to the faculty member's assignment.~~

but where a related bachelor's or associate degree is generally expected or available, possession of either (1) 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 teaching assignment, or (2) 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 teaching assignment.

(d) For faculty assigned to teach courses in disciplines where the master's degree is not generally expected or available, and where a related bachelor's or associate degree is not generally expected or available, possession of either (1) any bachelor's degree or equivalent foreign degree plus two years of professional experience directly related to the faculty member's teaching assignment, or (2) any associate degree or equivalent foreign degree plus six years of professional experience directly related to the faculty member's teaching assignment.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 66700, 70901 and 87356, Education Code.  
Reference: Sections 70901(b)(1)(B), 87003, and 87356, Education Code.

