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**Title:** Revision to the Disciplines List

**Date:** July 16, 2009

**Contact:** Jane Patton, President, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

## Background

The California Community Colleges replaced its former credentialing system with a system of Minimum Qualifications in 1990. The document listing the minimum qualifications is called the Disciplines List. Discipline faculty recommend changes or additions to the list, and the Academic Senate facilitates hearings and voting on the changes. The Academic Senate consults with the Chancellor's Office on the changes and additions, and a recommendation is forwarded to the Board of Governors.

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 System 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 Committee 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. Six (6) resolutions relating to the disciplines lists were approved. The two (2) failed proposals may be seen in Attachment I.

## **Proposal**

The proposed revision to the Disciplines Lists was adopted by the full Academic Senate in April 2009. A complete timeline of the review process is provided in Attachment II.

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**

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 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 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 that agreement exists between the local board and academic senate, in how courses are placed into disciplines for minimum qualification purposes, and in the use of granting equivalency to the minimum qualifications when hiring or when assigning faculty to classes.

The next version of the Disciplines List will include a new format making it more user - friendly for all stakeholders. It will include an updated introductory section, an alphabetized list of all the disciplines, a section where similar disciplines have been grouped, and a section that identifies those disciplines with specific Title 5 definitions.

### **Recommended Action**

That the Consultation Council recommends approval of the revisions and additions to the Disciplines List to the Board of Governors.

**Failed Proposals to Change the Disciplines List**

**Mathematics (change to existing minimum qualifications)**

Master's in mathematics, applied mathematics *or statistics* OR Bachelor's in *mathematics or applied mathematics* AND Master's in ~~statistics~~, physics, or mathematics education OR The equivalent

**Statistics (new minimum qualifications)**

*Master's in statistics OR Bachelor's in statistics or applied mathematics AND Master's in mathematics or applied mathematics OR The equivalent.*

**Disciplines List Two-Year Review Timeline**

**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