Minimum Qualifications for Faculty and Administrators (aka Disciplines List)
Current 2012 - 2014 9th Edition

After the Community College Reform Act (AB 1725) passed the legislature in 1988, California Community College Teaching Credentials were no longer issued and the hiring of faculty and administrators to teach at the California Community Colleges was based on minimum qualifications for each discipline. The disciplines and related disciplines were determined by the Statewide Academic Senate and published in the disciplines list adopted by the CCC Board of Governors. Holders of valid California community college credentials hired before 1990 retained "the right to serve under the terms of that credential, and, for that purpose, shall be deemed to possess the minimum qualifications specified for every discipline or service covered by the credential until the expiration of that credential." (EC 87355:CC 87355).

For academic disciplines, the minimum qualifications are a Master's degree in the discipline of the assignment; except in the discipline of Biotechnology which requires a Bachelor's degree in the discipline of the assignment and a Master's degree in a reasonably related discipline. For disciplines in which a Master's degree is not generally expected or available, the minimum qualifications are a Bachelor's degree in the appropriate discipline and two years of working experience, or an Associate degree and six years of experience.

Counselors and librarians are also expected to hold appropriate Master's degrees. There are special requirements for employees of Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) and Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS).

NOTE: Colleges may include additional criteria over and above the minimums when hiring, but can never hire below the minimums.

Equivalencies to the Minimum Qualifications

The law allows for local Academic Senates to establish equivalencies to the minimum qualifications listed in the Discipline List. The equivalencies must be true equivalencies that include general education knowledge as well as discipline specific knowledge. The Minimum Qualifications and Equivalencies Committee (MQE) of the Senate developed FINAL DRAFT Min.Quals and Equivalencies Cmte Procedures Sept. 2013.pdf that outline the process for establishing equivalencies to the minimum qualifications at COC. These procedures were approved by the Academic Senate September 26, 2013.

An instructor may apply to the Equivalency Committee of the Academic Senate if the applicant feels that his or her qualifications are equivalent to the statewide minimum qualifications as listed on the Disciplines List. Equivalency applicants must submit transcripts and other documentation to support the request. Equivalency may never mean fewer qualifications than the published minimum qualifications. Also note, equivalencies do not transfer from district to district.

Prior Editions of Minimum Qualifications (aka Disciplines Lists)
2010 - 2011 8th Edition
2008 - 2009 7th Edition
1989 - 1993 1st Edition

Teaching Credentials Required to Teach in a California Community College Prior to the Establishment of Minimum Qualifications

1984 Guide to Subject Matter Areas California Community College Credentials