

COC Academic Senate – Effective Fall 2025
Acceptance of Equivalencies for Disciplines NOT Requiring a Master’s Degree

DISCIPLINE	*MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS (*As described in the Minimum Qualifications 2023 Handbook)	ACCEPTED EQUIVALENCIES
All disciplines except MLT and Administration of Justice	Any bachelor’s degree or higher and two years of professional experience, OR any associate degree and six years of professional experience.	Equivalencies 1 & 2 for the Bachelor’s AND Equivalencies 1& 2 for the Associate’s
Administration of Justice (Police science, corrections, law enforcement) (2025)	Any bachelor’s degree or higher and two years of professional experience, OR any associate degree and six years of professional experience.	No Equivalencies
MLT	Any bachelor’s degree or higher and two years of professional experience, OR any associate degree and six years of professional experience.	No Equivalencies

**Professional experience is required when the applicant possesses a master’s degree.*

EQUIVALENCY TO A BACHELOR’S DEGREE

In order to establish the equivalent of a Bachelor’s degree in a requested discipline, applicants must show possession of at least the equivalent in level of achievement, breadth, and depth of understanding. The responsibility for supplying documentation to verify equivalency to a Bachelor’s degree lies with the applicant. Documentation of equivalency must meet the requirements of one of the following two options:

Equivalency Option 1:

The applicant must submit an official transcript documenting successful completion of 120 semester units of college coursework at an accredited institution of higher learning. The transcript must include successful completion of 60 semester units of lower division and 60 semester units of upper division coursework. Also, the transcript must include successful completion of 36 semester units of general education courses as described in *Academic Procedures 7121 Minimum Qualifications and Equivalencies* and 24 discipline-specific semester units in courses for any one discipline-specific major. Credits on a CLEP, IB, or AP exam, credits by exam, and credits on a military transcript are acceptable.

Equivalency Option 2:

The applicant must submit an official transcript documenting successful completion of a combination of a minimum of 80 semester units of college coursework at an accredited institution of higher learning including the general education course units, as described in

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Academic Procedures 7121 Minimum Qualifications and Equivalencies, required for the Bachelor’s degree and documented and verifiable evidence of 640 hours of significant professionally sanctioned discipline-specific training through certification courses, approved apprenticeships, and licensing programs in the requested discipline. Examples of approved training programs include but are not limited to those provided by labor unions, state and national certification boards, and governmental agencies. Credits on a CLEP, IB, or AP exam, credits by exam, and credits on a military transcript are acceptable.

EQUIVALENCY TO AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE

In order to establish the equivalent of an Associate degree in a discipline, applicants must show possession of at least the equivalent in level of achievement, breadth, and depth of understanding. The responsibility for supplying documentation to verify equivalency to an Associate degree in a requested discipline lies with the applicant/candidate. Documentation of equivalency must meet the requirements of one of the following options:

Equivalency Option 1:

The applicant must submit an official transcript documenting successful completion of 60 units of college coursework at an accredited institution of higher learning. The transcript must include 15 units of general education courses as described in *Academic Procedures 7121 Minimum Qualifications and Equivalencies*. Also, the transcript must include 18 units of discipline-specific units for any one discipline-specific major. Credits on a CLEP, IB, or AP exam, credits by exam, and credits on a military transcript are acceptable.

Equivalency Option 2:

The applicant must submit an official transcript documenting successful completion of a minimum of 40 units of college coursework at an accredited institution of higher learning including a minimum of 18 general education course units as described in *Academic Procedures 7121 Minimum Qualifications and Equivalencies* and required for the Associate degree and documented and verifiable evidence of 320 hours of significant professionally sanctioned discipline-specific training through certification courses, approved apprenticeships, and licensing programs in the requested discipline. Examples of approved training programs include but are not limited to those provided by labor unions, state and national certification boards, and governmental agencies. Credits on a CLEP, IB, or AP exam, credits by exam, and credits on a military transcript are acceptable.

SOURCES:

- [Minimum Qualifications for Faculty and Administrators in California Community Colleges](#)
- [Disciplines List Archives](#)
- [COC Academic Senate Minimum Qualifications & Equivalencies Committee Procedures – Administrative Procedures 7121](#)