

COC Academic Senate – Effective Fall 2025
Acceptance of Equivalencies for Disciplines Requiring a Master's Degree

Equivalency to disciplines requiring a Master's Degree must include the 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 Master's degree in a requested discipline lies with the applicant.

Equivalency to Disciplines Requiring a Master's Degree:

An official transcript documenting successful completion of any Master's degree from an accredited institution of higher learning **AND** official transcripts documenting successful completion of 24 semester units in the discipline at the upper division and graduate level, a minimum of which must be 12 graduate level semester units.

DISCIPLINE	*MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS (*As described in the Minimum Qualifications 2018 Handbook)	REQUIRE HIGHER QUALS?	ACCEPT EQUIVALENCY
Accounting	Master's in accountancy or business administration with accounting concentration OR Bachelor's in business with accounting emphasis or business administration with accounting emphasis or economics with an accounting emphasis AND Master's in business, business administration, business education, economics, taxation, finance or the equivalent. (NOTE: A bachelor's degree in accountancy or business administration with accounting concentration, with a CPA license is an alternative qualification for this discipline.)	No	No (2014) No (2020) No (2025)
Anthropology	Master's in anthropology or archaeology OR Bachelor's in either of the above AND Master's in sociology, biological sciences, forensic sciences, genetics or paleontology OR the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020) Yes (2025)
Art	Master's in fine arts, art, or art history OR Bachelor's in any of the above AND Master's in humanities OR the equivalent. (NOTE: "Master's in fine arts" as used here refers to any master's degree in the subject matter of fine arts, which is defined to include visual studio arts such as drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, ceramics, textiles, and metal and jewelry art; and also art education and art therapy. It does not refer to the "Master of Fine Arts" (MFA) degree when that degree is based on specialization in performing arts or dance, film, video, photography, creative writing or other nonplastic arts.)	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020) Yes (2025)

COC Academic Senate – Effective Fall 2025
Acceptance of Equivalencies for Disciplines Requiring a Master's Degree

DISCIPLINE	*MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS (*As described in the Minimum Qualifications 2018 Handbook)	REQUIRE HIGHER QUALS?	ACCEPT EQUIVALENCY
Art History	Master's in art history, history of art and architecture or visual culture/visual studies OR Bachelor's in art history and master's in history OR Master's in art with a recorded emphasis or concentration in art history OR the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) No (2015) Yes (12/2018) Yes (2020) Yes (2025)
Astronomy	See Physics/ Astronomy	No	Yes (2014) No (2015) No (2020) Yes (2025)
Biological Science	Master's in any biological science OR Bachelor's in any biological science AND Master's in biochemistry, biophysics, or marine science OR the equivalent.	No	No (2014) Yes (6/2016) No (8/2016) No (2020) No (2025)
Business	Master's in business, business management, business administration, accountancy, finance, marketing or business education OR Bachelor's in any of the above AND Master's in economics, personnel management, public administration, or JD or LL.B. degree OR Bachelor's in economics with a business emphasis AND Master's in personnel management, public administration, or JD or LL.B. degree OR the equivalent.	No	No (2014) No (2020) No (2025)
Chemistry	Master's in chemistry OR Bachelor's in chemistry or biochemistry AND Master's in biochemistry, chemical engineering, chemical physics, physics, molecular biology or geochemistry OR the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2020) Yes (2025)

COC Academic Senate – Effective Fall 2025
Acceptance of Equivalencies for Disciplines Requiring a Master's Degree

DISCIPLINE	*MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS (*As described in the Minimum Qualifications 2018 Handbook)	REQUIRE HIGHER QUALS?	ACCEPT EQUIVALENCY
Child Development/ Early Childhood Education	Master's in child development, early childhood education, human development, home economics/ family and consumer studies with a specialization in child development/early childhood education or educational psychology with a specialization in child development/early childhood education OR Bachelor's in any of the above AND Master's in social work, educational supervision, elementary education, special education, psychology, bilingual/bicultural education, life management/home economics, family life studies or family and consumer studies OR the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) No (2015) Yes (2020) Yes (2025)
Communication Studies	Master's in speech, speech broadcasting, telecommunications, rhetoric, communication, communication studies, speech communication or organizational communication OR Bachelor's in any of the above AND Master's in drama/ theater arts, mass communication or English OR the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2015) No (2020) No (2025)
Computer Science	Master's in computer science or computer engineering OR Bachelor's in either of the above AND Master's in mathematics, cybernetics, business administration, accounting or engineering OR Bachelor's in engineering AND Master's in cybernetics, engineering, mathematics, or business administration OR Bachelor's in mathematics AND Master's in cybernetics, engineering, mathematics, or business administration OR Bachelor's degree in any of the above AND A master's degree in information science, computer information systems, or information systems OR the equivalent. <i>(NOTE: Courses in the use of computer programs for application to a particular discipline may be classified for mi. Qualifications.</i>	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2020) Yes (2025)

COC Academic Senate – Effective Fall 2025
Acceptance of Equivalencies for Disciplines Requiring a Master's Degree

DISCIPLINE	*MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS (*As described in the Minimum Qualifications 2018 Handbook)	REQUIRE HIGHER QUALS?	ACCEPT EQUIVALENCY
Counseling	Master's in counseling, rehabilitation counseling, clinical psychology, counseling psychology, guidance counseling, educational counseling, social work, career development, marriage and family therapy or marriage, family and child counseling, OR the equivalent. <i>(NOTE: A bachelor's degree in one of the listed degrees and a license as a Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) is an alternative qualification for this discipline.)</i>	No	No (2014) No (2015) No (2020) No (2025)
Dance	Master's in dance, physical education with a dance emphasis, or theater with dance emphasis, OR Bachelor's in any of the above AND Master's in physical education, any life science, physiology, theater arts, kinesiology, humanities, performing arts or music OR the equivalent.	No	No (2014) Yes (2020) Yes (2025)
Drama/Theater Arts	Master's or Master of Fine Arts in drama/theater arts/performance OR Bachelor's or Bachelor of Fine Arts in drama/theater arts/performance AND Master's in comparative literature, English, communication studies, speech, literature or humanities OR the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020) No (2025)
Economics	Master's in economics OR Bachelor's in economics AND Master's in business, business administration, business management, business education, finance or political science OR the equivalent.	No	No (2014) No (2020) No (2025)
Engineering	Master's in any field of engineering OR Bachelor's in any of the above AND Master's in mathematics, physics, computer science, chemistry or geology OR the equivalent. <i>(NOTE: A bachelor's in any field of engineering with a professional engineer's license is an alternative qualification for</i>	No	No (2014) No (2020) No (2025)

COC Academic Senate – Effective Fall 2025
Acceptance of Equivalencies for Disciplines Requiring a Master's Degree

DISCIPLINE	*MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS (*As described in the Minimum Qualifications 2018 Handbook)	REQUIRE HIGHER QUALS?	ACCEPT EQUIVALENCY
	<i>this discipline.</i>		
Engineering Technology	Master's in any field of engineering technology or engineering OR Bachelor's degree in either of the above AND Master's degree in physics, mathematics, computer science, biological science or chemistry, OR Bachelor's degree in industrial technology, engineering technology or engineering AND A professional engineer's license OR the equivalent.	No	Yes (2020) Yes (2025)
English	Master's in English, literature, comparative literature, or composition OR Bachelor's in any of the above AND Master's in linguistics, TESL, speech, education with a specialization in reading, creative writing or journalism OR the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020) Yes (2025)
English as a Second Language (ESL)	Master's in TESL, TESOL, applied linguistics with a TESL emphasis, linguistics with a TESL emphasis, English with a TESL emphasis or education with a TESL emphasis OR Bachelor's in TESL, TESOL, English with a TESL certificate, linguistics with a TESL certificate, applied linguistics with a TESL certificate, or any foreign language with a TESL certificate AND master's in linguistics, applied linguistics, English, composition, bilingual/bicultural studies, reading, speech or any foreign language OR the equivalent.	No	No (2014) Yes (2/2019) Yes (2020) No (2025)
Ethnic Studies	Master's in African American Studies, Black Studies, Africana Studies, Latino Studies, La Raza Studies, Chicana/o Studies, Asian American Studies, Native American Studies, or American Indian Studies OR Master's in Ethnic Studies OR the equivalent	No	No (2025) Yes (2025)

COC Academic Senate – Effective Fall 2025
Acceptance of Equivalencies for Disciplines Requiring a Master’s Degree

DISCIPLINE	*MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS (*As described in the Minimum Qualifications 2018 Handbook)	REQUIRE HIGHER QUALS?	ACCEPT EQUIVALENCY
Film Studies	Master’s degree in film, drama/theater arts or mass communication OR Bachelor’s degree in any of the above AND Master’s degree in media studies, English or communication OR the equivalent.	No	No (2014) No (2020) Yes (2025)
Foreign Languages	Master’s in the language being taught OR Bachelor’s in the language being taught AND Master’s in another language or linguistics OR the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2020) Yes (2025)
Geography	Master’s in geography OR Bachelor’s in geography AND Master’s in geology, history, meteorology or oceanography OR the equivalent OR see Interdisciplinary Studies.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2020) Yes (2025)
Earth Science	Master’s in geology, geophysics, earth sciences, meteorology, oceanography or paleontology OR Bachelor’s in geology AND Master’s in geography, physics, or geochemistry OR the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020) Yes (2025)

COC Academic Senate – Effective Fall 2025
Acceptance of Equivalencies for Disciplines Requiring a Master's Degree

DISCIPLINE	*MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS (*As described in the Minimum Qualifications 2018 Handbook)	REQUIRE HIGHER QUALS?	ACCEPT EQUIVALENCY
Health	Master's in health science, health education, biology, nursing, physical education, kinesiology, exercise science, dietetics, nutrition or public health OR Bachelor's in any of the above AND Master's in any biological science OR the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes(2015) Yes (2020) Yes (2025)
History	Master's in history OR Bachelor's in history AND Master's in political science, humanities, geography, area studies, women's studies, social science or ethnic studies OR the equivalent.	No	No (2014) No (2020) No (2025)
Humanities	Master's in humanities OR the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2020) Yes (2025)
Interdisciplinary	Master's in the interdisciplinary area OR Master's in one of the disciplines included in the interdisciplinary area and upper division or graduate course work in at least one other constituent discipline. <i>(NOTE: The Interdisciplinary Studies discipline is provided to allow for those cases where it is locally determined that a course must be taught by someone with qualifications that exceed a single discipline. The constituent disciplines can include any disciplines found in the Master's List.)</i>	No	No
Kinesiology	Master's degree in kinesiology, physical education, exercise science, education with an emphasis in physical education, kinesiology, physiology of exercise or adaptive physical education OR Bachelor's degree in any of the above AND Master's degree in any life science, dance, physiology, health education, recreation administration or physical therapy OR the equivalent.	No	No (2014) Yes(2015) Yes (2020) No (2025)

COC Academic Senate – Effective Fall 2025
Acceptance of Equivalencies for Disciplines Requiring a Master's Degree

DISCIPLINE	*MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS (*As described in the Minimum Qualifications 2018 Handbook)	REQUIRE HIGHER QUALS?	ACCEPT EQUIVALENCY
Learning Assistance or Learning Skills Coordinators or Instructors, and Tutoring Coordinators	Any master's degree level discipline in which learning assistance or tutoring is provided at the college where the coordinator is employed; OR A master's degree in education, educational psychology, or instructional psychology, or other master's degree with emphasis in adult learning theory. (NOTE: Minimum qualifications do not apply to tutoring or learning assistance for which no apportionment is claimed.)	No	No (2014) No (2020) No (2025)
Library Science	Master's in library science, library and information science, OR the equivalent.	No	No (2014) No (2015) No (2020) No (2025)
Linguistics	Master's in linguistics or applied linguistics OR Bachelor's in linguistics AND Master's in TESOL, anthropology, psychology, sociology, English or any foreign language OR the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2020) Yes (2025)
Management	Master's in business administration, business management, business education, marketing, public administration, or finance OR Bachelor's in any of the above AND Master's in economics, accountancy, taxation or law OR the equivalent.	No	No (2020) No (2025)
Marketing	Master's in business administration, business management, business education, marketing, advertising or finance OR Bachelor's in any of the above AND Master's in economics, accountancy, taxation or law OR the equivalent.	No	No (2014) No (2020) No (2025)

COC Academic Senate – Effective Fall 2025
Acceptance of Equivalencies for Disciplines Requiring a Master’s Degree

DISCIPLINE	*MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS (*As described in the Minimum Qualifications 2018 Handbook)	REQUIRE HIGHER QUALS?	ACCEPT EQUIVALENCY
Mass Communications	Master’s in radio, television, film, mass communication or journalism OR Bachelor’s in any of the above AND Master’s in drama/theater arts, communication, communication studies, business, telecommunications or English OR the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020) Yes (2025)
Mathematics	Master’s in mathematics or applied mathematics OR Bachelor’s in either of the above AND Master’s in statistics, physics or mathematics education OR the equivalent.	No	No (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020) No (2025)
Music	Master’s in music OR Bachelor’s in music AND Master’s in humanities OR the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2020) Yes (2025)
Nursing	Master’s in nursing OR Bachelor’s in nursing AND Master’s in health education or health science OR the equivalent OR the minimum qualifications as set by the Board of Registered Nursing, whichever is higher.	Master’s in Nursing as set by the BRN)	Yes (2014) No (2014) No (2020) No (2025)

COC Academic Senate – Effective Fall 2025
Acceptance of Equivalencies for Disciplines Requiring a Master’s Degree

DISCIPLINE	*MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS (*As described in the Minimum Qualifications 2018 Handbook)	REQUIRE HIGHER QUALS?	ACCEPT EQUIVALENCY
Nutritional Science/Dietetics	Master’s in nutrition, dietetics or dietetics and food administration OR Bachelor’s in any of the above AND Master’s in chemistry, public health or family and consumer studies/home economics OR the equivalent. <i>(NOTE: A bachelor’s in nutrition, dietetics, or dietetics and food administration, and certification as a registered dietitian, is an alternative qualification for this discipline.)</i>	No (2014) Yes (2015) Registered Dietitian with the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the American Dietetic Association	No (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020) Yes (2025)
Philosophy	Master’s in philosophy OR Bachelor’s in philosophy AND Master’s in humanities or religious studies, OR the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2020) No (2025)
Photography	Master’s in photography, fine arts, or art OR Bachelor’s in any of the above AND Master’s in art history or humanities OR the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2020) No (2025)

COC Academic Senate – Effective Fall 2025
Acceptance of Equivalencies for Disciplines Requiring a Master's Degree

Physical Education	Master's in physical education, exercise science, education with an emphasis in physical education, kinesiology, physiology of exercise or adaptive physical education OR Bachelor's in any of the above AND Master's in any life science, dance, physiology, health education, recreation administration or physical therapy OR the equivalent.	No	No (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020) No (2025)
Physical Sciences	See Interdisciplinary Studies	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2015) No (2020) Yes (2025)
Physics/Astronomy	Master's in physics, astronomy or astrophysics OR Bachelor's in physics or astronomy AND Master's in engineering, mathematics, meteorology or geophysics OR the equivalent.	No	No (2014) No (2020) No (2025)
Political Science	Master's in political science, government, 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.	No	No (2014) No (2020) No (2025)
Psychology	Master's in psychology OR Bachelor's in psychology AND	No	No (2014) No (2015) No (2020) No (2025)

COC Academic Senate – Effective Fall 2025
Acceptance of Equivalencies for Disciplines Requiring a Master’s Degree

DISCIPLINE	*MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS (*As described in the Minimum Qualifications 2018 Handbook)	REQUIRE HIGHER QUALS?	ACCEPT EQUIVALENCY
	Master’s in counseling, sociology, statistics, neuroscience or social work OR the equivalent.		
Recreation Administration	Master’s in recreation administration or physical education OR Bachelor’s in either of the above AND Master’s in dance, gerontology or public administration OR the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020) Yes (2025)
Sociology	Master’s in sociology OR Bachelor’s in sociology AND Master’s in anthropology, any ethnic studies, social work or psychology OR the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020) No (2025)
Theater Arts	See Drama/Theater Arts.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020) No (2025)

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](#)

Revised EAlonso/March 2015
Revised AOrtega/June 2016
Revised REikey/LWangen September 2016
Revised REikey/December 2016
Revised AOrtega/August 2017
Revised AOrtega/December 2018
Revised AOrtega/February 2019
Revised AOrtega/September 2020
Revised Akaminsky/September 2025

Approved by the Academic Senate September 25, 2025