

**COC Academic Senate – Effective Fall 2020**  
**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
<b>Accounting</b>	Master's in accountancy or business administration with accounting concentration <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in business with accounting emphasis or business administration with accounting emphasis or economics with an accounting emphasis <b>AND</b> 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)
<b>Anthropology</b>	Master's in anthropology or archaeology <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in either of the above <b>AND</b> Master's in sociology, biological sciences, forensic sciences, genetics or paleontology <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020)
<b>Art</b>	Master's in fine arts, art, or art history <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in any of the above <b>AND</b> Master's in humanities <b>OR</b> 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)

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<b>Art History</b>	Master's in art history, history of art and architecture or visual culture/visual studies <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in art history and master's in history <b>OR</b> Master's in art with a recorded emphasis or concentration in art history <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) No (2015) Yes (12/2018) Yes (2020)
<b>Astronomy</b>	See Physics/ Astronomy	No	Yes (2014) No (2015) No (2020)
<b>Biological Science</b>	Master's in any biological science <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in any biological science <b>AND</b> Master's in biochemistry, biophysics, or marine science <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	No (2014) Yes (6/2016) No (8/2016) No (2020)
<b>Business</b>	Master's in business, business management, business administration, accountancy, finance, marketing or business education <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in any of the above <b>AND</b> Master's in economics, personnel management, public administration, or JD or LL.B. degree <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in economics with a business emphasis <b>AND</b> Master's in personnel management, public administration, or JD or LL.B. degree <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	No (2014) No (2020)
<b>Chemistry</b>	Master's in chemistry <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in chemistry or biochemistry <b>AND</b> Master's in biochemistry, chemical engineering, chemical physics, physics, molecular biology or geochemistry <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2020)
<b>Child Development/ Early Childhood Education</b>	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	No	Yes (2014) No (2015) Yes (2020)

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	<b>OR</b> Bachelor's in any of the above <b>AND</b> 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 <b>OR</b> the equivalent.		
<b>Communication Studies</b>	Master's in speech, speech broadcasting, telecommunications, rhetoric, communication, communication studies, speech communication or organizational communication <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in any of the above <b>AND</b> Master's in drama/ theater arts, mass communication or English <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2015) No (2020)
<b>Computer Science</b>	Master's in computer science or computer engineering <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in either of the above <b>AND</b> Master's in mathematics, cybernetics, business administration, accounting or engineering <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in engineering <b>AND</b> Master's in cybernetics, engineering, mathematics, or business administration <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in mathematics <b>AND</b> Master's in cybernetics, engineering, mathematics, or business administration <b>OR</b> Bachelor's degree in any of the above <b>AND</b> A master's degree in information science, computer information systems, or information systems <b>OR</b> the equivalent. <i>(NOTE: Courses in the use of computer programs for application to a particular discipline may be classified for minimum qualifications purposes, under the discipline of the application.)</i>	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2020)

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<b>Counseling</b>	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, <b>OR</b> 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)
<b>Dance</b>	Master's in dance, physical education with a dance emphasis, or theater with dance emphasis, <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in any of the above <b>AND</b> Master's in physical education, any life science, physiology, theater arts, kinesiology, humanities, performing arts or music <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	No (2014) Yes (2020)
<b>Drama/Theater Arts</b>	Master's or Master of Fine Arts in drama/theater arts/performance <b>OR</b> Bachelor's or Bachelor of Fine Arts in drama/theater arts/performance <b>AND</b> Master's in comparative literature, English, communication studies, speech, literature or humanities <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020)
<b>Economics</b>	Master's in economics <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in economics <b>AND</b> Master's in business, business administration, business management, business education, finance or political science <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	No (2014) No (2020)
<b>Engineering</b>	Master's in any field of engineering <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in any of the above <b>AND</b> Master's in mathematics, physics, computer science, chemistry or geology <b>OR</b> 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)

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	<i>this discipline.</i>		
<b>Engineering Technology</b>	Master's in any field of engineering technology or engineering <b>OR</b> Bachelor's degree in either of the above <b>AND</b> Master's degree in physics, mathematics, computer science, biological science or chemistry, <b>OR</b> Bachelor's degree in industrial technology, engineering technology or engineering <b>AND</b> A professional engineer's license <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	Yes (2020)
<b>English</b>	Master's in English, literature, comparative literature, or composition <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in any of the above <b>AND</b> Master's in linguistics, TESL, speech, education with a specialization in reading, creative writing or journalism <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020)
<b>English as a Second Language (ESL)</b>	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 <b>OR</b> 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 <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	No (2014) Yes (2/2019) Yes (2020)
<b>Film Studies</b>	Master's degree in film, drama/theater arts or mass communication <b>OR</b> Bachelor's degree in any of the above <b>AND</b> Master's degree in media studies, English or communication <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	No (2014) No (2020)

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<b>Foreign Languages</b>	Master's in the language being taught  <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in the language being taught  <b>AND</b> Master's in another language or linguistics  <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2020)
<b>Geography</b>	Master's in geography  <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in geography  <b>AND</b> Master's in geology, history, meteorology or oceanography  <b>OR</b> the equivalent  <b>OR</b> see Interdisciplinary Studies.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2020)
<b>Earth Science</b>	Master's in geology, geophysics, earth sciences, meteorology, oceanography or paleontology  <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in geology  <b>AND</b> Master's in geography, physics, or geochemistry  <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020)
<b>Health</b>	Master's in health science, health education, biology, nursing, physical education, kinesiology, exercise science, dietetics, nutrition or public health  <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in any of the above  <b>AND</b> Master's in any biological science  <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020)
<b>History</b>	Master's in history  <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in history  <b>AND</b>	No	No (2014) No (2020)

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	Master’s in political science, humanities, geography, area studies, women’s studies, social science or ethnic studies  <b>OR</b> the equivalent.		
<b>Humanities</b>	Master’s in humanities  <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2020)
<b>Interdisciplinary</b>	Master’s in the interdisciplinary area  <b>OR</b>  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
<b>Kinesiology</b>	Master’s degree in kinesiology, physical education, exercise science, education with an emphasis in physical education, kinesiology, physiology of exercise or adaptive physical education  <b>OR</b>  Bachelor’s degree in any of the above  <b>AND</b>  Master’s degree in any life science, dance, physiology, health education, recreation administration or physical therapy  <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	No (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020)
<b>Learning Assistance or Learning Skills Coordinators or Instructors, and Tutoring Coordinators</b>	Any master’s degree level discipline in which learning assistance or tutoring is provided at the college where the coordinator is employed;  <b>OR</b>  A master’s degree in education, educational psychology, or instructional psychology, or other master’s degree with emphasis in adult learning theory.  <i>(NOTE: Minimum qualifications do not apply to tutoring or learning assistance for which no apportionment is claimed.)</i>	No	No (2014) No (2020)
<b>Library Science</b>	Master’s in library science, library and information science,  <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	No (2014) No (2015) No (2020)
<b>Linguistics</b>	Master’s in linguistics or applied linguistics  <b>OR</b>	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2020)

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	Bachelor's in linguistics  <b>AND</b> Master's in TESOL, anthropology, psychology, sociology, English or any foreign language  <b>OR</b> the equivalent.		
<b>Management</b>	Master's in business administration, business management, business education, marketing, public administration, or finance  <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in any of the above  <b>AND</b> Master's in economics, accountancy, taxation or law  <b>OR</b> the equivalent.		No (2020)
<b>Marketing</b>	Master's in business administration, business management, business education, marketing, advertising or finance  <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in any of the above  <b>AND</b> Master's in economics, accountancy, taxation or law  <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	No (2014) No (2020)
<b>Mass Communications</b>	Master's in radio, television, film, mass communication or journalism  <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in any of the above  <b>AND</b> Master's in drama/theater arts, communication, communication studies, business, telecommunications or English  <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020)
<b>Mathematics</b>	Master's in mathematics or applied mathematics  <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in either of the above  <b>AND</b> Master's in statistics, physics or mathematics education  <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	No (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020)



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<b>Music</b>	Master’s in music  <b>OR</b> Bachelor’s in music  <b>AND</b> Master’s in humanities  <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2020)
<b>Nursing</b>	Master’s in nursing  <b>OR</b> Bachelor’s in nursing  <b>AND</b> Master’s in health education or health science  <b>OR</b> the equivalent  <b>OR</b> the minimum qualifications as set by the Board of Registered Nursing, whichever is higher.	Yes (2014)  Master’s in Nursing as set by the BRN)	No (2014) No (2020)
<b>Nutritional Science/Dietetics</b>	Master’s in nutrition, dietetics or dietetics and food administration  <b>OR</b> Bachelor’s in any of the above  <b>AND</b> Master’s in chemistry, public health or family and consumer studies/home economics  <b>OR</b> 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)
<b>Philosophy</b>	Master’s in philosophy  <b>OR</b> Bachelor’s in philosophy  <b>AND</b> Master’s in humanities or religious studies,  <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2020)
<b>Photography</b>	Master’s in photography, fine arts, or art  <b>OR</b>	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2020)

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	Bachelor's in any of the above  <b>AND</b> Master's in art history or humanities  <b>OR</b> the equivalent.		
<b>Physical Education</b>	Master's in physical education, exercise science, education with an emphasis in physical education, kinesiology, physiology of exercise or adaptive physical education  <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in any of the above  <b>AND</b> Master's in any life science, dance, physiology, health education, recreation administration or physical therapy  <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	No (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020)
<b>Physical Sciences</b>	See Interdisciplinary Studies	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2015) No (2020)
<b>Physics/Astronomy</b>	Master's in physics, astronomy or astrophysics  <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in physics or astronomy  <b>AND</b> Master's in engineering, mathematics, meteorology or geophysics  <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	No (2014) No (2020)
<b>Political Science</b>	Master's in political science, government, or international relations  <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in any of the above  <b>AND</b> Master's in economics, history, public administration, social science, sociology, any ethnic studies, JD or LL.B.  <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	No (2014) No (2020)
<b>Psychology</b>	Master's in psychology  <b>OR</b> Bachelor's in psychology  <b>AND</b>	No	No (2014) No (2015) No (2020)

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	Master’s in counseling, sociology, statistics, neuroscience or social work  <b>OR</b> the equivalent.		
<b>Recreation Administration</b>	Master’s in recreation administration or physical education  <b>OR</b> Bachelor’s in either of the above  <b>AND</b> Master’s in dance, gerontology or public administration  <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020)
<b>Sociology</b>	Master’s in sociology  <b>OR</b> Bachelor’s in sociology  <b>AND</b> Master’s in anthropology, any ethnic studies, social work or psychology  <b>OR</b> the equivalent.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020)
<b>Theater Arts</b>	See Drama/Theater Arts.	No	Yes (2014) Yes (2015) Yes (2020)

**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  
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