

AP 7211 FACULTY SERVICE AREAS, MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS, AND EQUIVALENCIES**References:**

ACCJC Accreditation Standard III.A.2-4;
Education Code Sections 87001, 87003, 87359, and 87743.2;
Title 5 Sections 53400 et seq.

Faculty Service Areas

Faculty service areas shall be established after negotiation and consultation as required by law with the appropriate faculty representatives.

Minimum Qualifications

Faculty shall meet minimum qualifications established by the Board of Governors, or shall possess qualifications that are at least equivalent to the minimum qualifications set out in the regulations of the Board of Governors.

Equivalencies

Equivalency Committee – An Academic Senate Equivalency Committee shall be established to fulfill the requirement of Education Code Section 87359, which states that the equivalency process "shall include reasonable procedures to ensure that the Board of Trustees relies primarily upon the advice and judgment of the Academic Senate to determine that each individual employed under the authority granted by the regulations possesses qualifications that are at least equivalent to the applicable minimum qualifications. ..." In order to ensure that the Board of Trustees relies primarily on the advice and judgment of the Academic Senate, the Academic Senate Equivalency Committee shall:

- Be available as a resource regarding equivalency determinations.
- Recommend all equivalency determinations.
- Further clarify the criteria to be used for determining equivalency.
- Ensure that careful records are kept of all equivalency determinations.
- Periodically review this procedure and recommend necessary changes to the Academic Senate and Board of Trustees.
- In general, ensure that the equivalency process works well and meets the requirements of the law.

Determination of Equivalencies – The following procedure is to be used to determine when an applicant for a faculty position or pool, although lacking the exact degree or experience specified in the Disciplines List of the Board of Governors that establishes the minimum qualifications for hire, nonetheless does possess qualifications that are at least equivalent to those required by the Disciplines List. The procedure is intended to ensure a fair and objective process for determining when an applicant has the equivalent qualifications. It is not intended to grant waivers for lack of the required qualifications.

All faculty position or pool announcements will state the required qualifications as specified by the Disciplines List, including the possibility of meeting the equivalent of the required degree or experience.

District applications for faculty positions or pools will ask applicants to state whether they meet the minimum qualifications of the Disciplines List or whether they believe they meet the equivalent. Those claiming equivalency will then be asked to state their reasons and to present evidence. It will be the responsibility of the applicant to supply all evidence and documentation for the claim of equivalency at the time of application.

Human Resources will initially screen all applicants. Those applicants who require an equivalency determination will be forwarded to the Academic Senate's Equivalency Committee or designee. The Academic Senate Equivalency Committee or designees shall submit its recommendation and evaluation concerning equivalency and non-equivalency to Human Resources. Only applicants who are found to meet equivalency may be selected for an interview.

The Academic Senate Equivalency Committee will review the decisions of the screening, asking the following questions:

- Was the decision made in accord with this procedure?
- Specifically, did the Equivalency Committee follow the criteria for evidence of equivalency stated in this procedure?
- Are the Committee's decisions consistent with similar decisions made by earlier committees in this discipline or similar disciplines?

For the purposes of this procedure, an emergency or special circumstance is defined as a situation in which the full hiring process cannot be carried out in a timely manner. Such situations may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Vacancies that occur shortly before the beginning of a session in which there is not sufficient time for the full equivalency process to take place.
- Additional sections of a class added shortly before the beginning of a session or after the session begins.
- An unforeseen opportunity, occurring shortly before the beginning of a session, to staff sections in locations, venues, or subject matter specialties for courses which previously have been difficult to schedule (certain off-campus sites, contract education, short courses, etc.).

The Academic Senate Equivalency Committee shall employ the following procedures in *emergencies or special circumstances*:

- In case a candidate to be offered an adjunct or temporary assignment is also an equivalency claimant, the Equivalency Committee shall determine the equivalency status prior to the interview.
- The Academic Senate Equivalency Committee or designees shall submit its recommendation and evaluation concerning equivalency and non-equivalency to Human Resources. Only candidates who are found to meet equivalency may be interviewed.

The District may elect to award equivalency for faculty teaching in vocational disciplines that do not require the master's degree.

- Semester units/experience: 120 semester units AND two years of experience in the discipline; or 60 semester units AND six years of experience in the discipline. NOTE: All semester or equivalent units must all be earned from a regionally accredited postsecondary educational institution.
- Related occupational experience: May be substituted by teaching experience in the discipline or related discipline on a year-for-year basis.
- Recency: An individual employed to teach a vocational discipline shall demonstrate a competency in the current technology of that discipline.
- Rare exceptions: In the rare case that an individual does not specifically meet the equivalency provisions as stated in the above sections, and the department chair, the full-time faculty in that discipline (if applicable), supervising instructional administrator and Vice President of Student Learning and Success agree that the person is otherwise qualified to teach in that discipline, that individual's qualifications may be recommended to the Academic Senate Equivalency Committee chair as deemed "equivalent" for that discipline.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Human Services

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