

Placing Courses in Disciplines

1. Placing courses within disciplines is the purview of the Academic Senate [Title 5 Section 53200 (c)]
2. It is permissible to place a course within more than one discipline, and it is considered good practice to name the discipline each course is assigned to in the COR (<https://asccc.org/content/untangling-knots-%E2%80%94minimum-qualifications-faculty-service-areas-placing-courses-within>)

A. A course may be assigned, if in the judgment of the local curricular process it is appropriate, to more than one discipline with an “AND” designating that the instructor must meet minimum qualifications of **ALL** disciplines listed (English and Reading is given in ASCCC paper as an example of this; I have yet to find a clear example at SRJC)

B. A course may be assigned, if in the judgment of the local curricular process it is appropriate, to more than one discipline with an “OR” designating that the instructor must meet minimum qualifications of **ANY** discipline listed (e.g. RELS 1—Introduction to the Study of Religion—lists Religious Studies, Philosophy, Humanities; any of the three MQs might entail qualifications to teach the course)

At SRJC we have many courses with multiple disciplines listed, but no conjunctions or disjunctions are employed to distinguish a course from requiring the faculty member have MQ's in multiple disciplines, from one allowing the faculty member to have MQ's in one of two or more different disciplines listed.

- *For example, ENGL 11, Dramatic Literature, lists two disciplines, English and Drama; are both needed?*
- *DRD 360.3, “College Success 3” lists four disciplines—DSPS general, learning disabilities specialist, speech and language specialist, and deaf and hearing impaired specialist; are all required for this course or will any one of them do?*
- *CS 17.11 lists CIS (not requiring a master's) and CMPSCI (requiring a master's); presumably the course may be assigned to a faculty member that has either, but not both, of those quals. But our system does not specify.*

3. Interdisciplinary Studies

This often misunderstood discipline category doesn't help much. The Disciplines List says of it,

“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”

Then goes on to say,

“(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.)”

So “interdisciplinary studies” exists not to satisfy B above, but rather A. It exists to address the need of some courses to have faculty bring expertise from *more than one discipline*. Examples where it is appropriate are INTDIS 90 and 91.

4. What needs to be fixed

A. Inconsistency. All CORs should list one or more disciplines that correspond to the ASCCC/BOG *Disciplines List* (as opposed to an FSA or an invented category, however descriptive)

B. Clarity as to the qualifications the faculty member is supposed to have

5. What should be done (*suggestions for discussion*)

A. Add “and” or “or” to the COR where more than one discipline is listed as appropriate. The department/discipline experts would have to be consulted for every course

B. Limit the number of disciplines listed in the COR to _____.

C. Use “Interdisciplinary Studies” in the COR under _____ circumstances

D. Other(s)

Note, Preferred or Special qualifications are not given in the COR in our practice; departments have the right to establish preferred or special qualifications for a course on their own, but these must be approved by AFA.