

Revision of Disciplines List

MQs for Humanities

Academic Senate of the Santa Rosa Junior College

Old: Master's in humanities OR the equivalent.

Revised: Master's in humanities

OR

Bachelor's in humanities

AND

Master's in history, philosophy, religious studies, art, art history, or music

OR the equivalent.

Rationale: “Humanities” is an ambivalent term in academia, referring both to a) a specific discipline in the DL, b) a subject area for courses in the CCC system (“Introduction to the Humanities,” “World Humanities,” etc.), and c) the designation of a large curricular division, as distinct from the physical, biological, social and behavior sciences, that includes disciplines that have their own place in the DL such as history, philosophy, religion, various arts and literatures, etc. Humanities as a discipline, distinct from its constituent disciplines, exists to provide curriculum and instruction that bring the various humanities—philosophy, art, literature, history, religion, etc.--together in one course to provide students with a vision and exposition of a particular cultural area through exposure to many different humanities disciplines as an integrated whole.

Master's degrees called “Humanities” exist in California and elsewhere, but they are comparably rarer than master's degrees in constituent humanities disciplines. Furthermore, degrees in humanities vary widely in content and what they take “humanities” to mean. Master's degrees in humanities sometimes differ considerably from how humanities is understood in our courses, programs and departments. Most of our applicants for “humanities” jobs need to go through an equivalency process because, although abundantly qualified, have degrees in one or more constituent discipline but not one called “humanities.” And by the same token, many applicants who meet minimum qualifications as written hold degrees from institutions whose understanding of humanities is quite different from the curricula in question.

A broader definition of the MQs for humanities, then, would, a) be more consonant with the nature of the discipline as we define it; b) reduce the number of potentially desirable (and diverse) applicants who are screened out because of the existing MQs; and c) reduce the already very large work load of equivalency committees.