

Board Meeting
January 15, 2009

ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH, COLLEGE OF APPLIED
HEALTH SCIENCES, URBANA

Action: Approve the Establishment of the Bachelor of Science in Health, College of Applied Health Sciences, Urbana

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor at Urbana with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Applied Health Sciences to establish a Bachelor of Science in Health.

The proposed undergraduate degree program is interdisciplinary in nature, focusing on applied health and societal issues across a range of traditional fields. The program of study addresses a major need in Illinois and across the nation for graduates prepared to enter a range of applied health fields and/or to pursue graduate study in health-related fields. The degree is structured in such a way as to serve as an ideal pre-professional undergraduate program for a range of biomedical and health-related careers including medicine, dentistry, physical therapy, occupational therapy, public health, etc. The significant number of free electives (24 to 28 hours) will enable students to design a program that will meet the entry requirements for post-graduate study in a range of

biomedical and health-related graduate programs, as well as the flexibility to pursue individual interests in their undergraduate studies.

The demand for professionals ready to work in applied health-related fields vastly exceeds the supply of current graduates, both in Illinois and across the nation. Societal demographics will continue to contribute to this need in the coming years, as the population ages and as the burden of chronic disease increases for all age groups. In addition, health-related difficulties associated with a range of societal trends and conditions, such as inactivity, obesity, and diabetes, create increased professional opportunities in areas such as health behavior change, wellness promotion and disability prevention more relevant than ever before. Graduates of this program will have opportunities in these areas.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and Federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.