

REORGANIZE, RENAME, AND REVISE THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN
URBAN AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, COLLEGE OF URBAN PLANNING AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS, CHICAGO

Action: Reorganize, Rename, and Revise the Bachelor of Arts in Urban and Public Affairs, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Chicago Senate and the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, recommends the reorganization, renaming, and revision of the Bachelor of Arts in Urban and Public Affairs as the Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies.

Currently undergraduate students can pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Urban and Public Affairs (UPA), a degree established in 2007 as a collaborative program between the two departments of the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, the department of Public Administration and the department of Urban Planning and Policy. A non-departmental unit administers this program, and students must have junior standing in order to be admitted. The UPA program has graduated approximately 140 students, and is the 18th largest (out of 88) of Urban Studies/Affairs programs in the United States.

After a period of extensive review and assessment, the college has determined that a number of changes should be implemented to clarify the nature of the

program and make the degree more accessible to prospective students. Changing the name of the degree to *urban studies* has greater recognition. A renamed Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies better conveys the focus of the program and is more traditional among the program's national peers. The degree will be administered solely by the Department of Urban Planning and Policy. Moving the degree into an academic department will reduce the duplication of administrative services, make the degree part of a cohort of undergraduate and graduate programs focused on urban issues, and give undergraduate students more direct and immediate access to faculty, advising, and other resources. The degree will no longer require junior standing and students can apply to the program as freshmen or transfer students. This will allow students with clear interests in urban studies to immediately get the benefit of advising and faculty mentoring.

The renamed and revised degree will require 120 credit hours comprised of 60 hours of general education and elective coursework, 36 hours of required courses within the department and college, and 24 hours in urban-related coursework from across the campus (e.g., Art History, Geography, Latin American and Latino Studies, Political Science, Economics, Public Administration).

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.