

Board Meeting
January 18, 2018

ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES
IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
AND SCIENCES, URBANA

Action: Establish the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in
Computer Science and Economics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to establish the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Computer Science and Economics.

The “CS +X” model originally included four College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) majors: Anthropology, Astronomy, Chemistry, and Linguistics. This model was approved by the Board of Trustees on May 31, 2012, and by the Illinois Board of Higher Education on February 5, 2013. The current proposal builds on the model, adding Economics to the list of LAS disciplines to pair with Computer Science.

Combining economics and computer science provides students with enhanced quantitative analysis and programming skills. There is an increased need for more sophisticated skills to examine large administrative datasets (“Big Data”). The

proposed Bachelor of Science **in Liberal Arts and Sciences** in Computer Science and Economics will produce students who are able to write their own code and develop their own software for analyzing these datasets. Graduates will have a strong background for numerous careers and graduate programs as demand grows for employees with strong quantitative analysis and computing skills.

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 Executive Vice President and 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.