

Board Meeting
January 18, 2018

ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF ANIMAL SCIENCES IN ANIMAL SCIENCES,
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL
SCIENCES AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, URBANA

Action: Establish the Master of Animal Sciences in Animal Sciences, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Graduate College

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 Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Graduate College to establish the Master of Animal Sciences in Animal Sciences.

Addressing needs expressed by students, faculty, and industry, the proposed Master of Animal Sciences (MAS) in Animal Sciences program provides an option for students with a bachelor's degree to pursue a non-thesis master's option. The MAS is complimentary to the existing Master of Science (MS) in Animal Sciences. The MS requires successful completion, defense, and deposit of a research thesis. Instead of a thesis, the MAS includes prescribed coursework and development of a research studies project to ensure that students understand scientific method and are able to apply this understanding.

The proposed MAS allows the Department of Animal Sciences to remain competitive among peer disciplinary programs, many of which already offer master's degrees with non-thesis options. The MAS answers demand for a non-thesis, masters-level degree in Animal Sciences. Much of this demand comes from national and global biotechnology and agriculture industry. Demand also comes from students with a bachelor's degree who would not benefit from thesis research but want to broaden their knowledge, skills, and career opportunities. The College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences is a global leader in agricultural and biotechnology research, and a non-thesis master's program grants the opportunity to reach out and aid communities at a global scale. Graduates of the MAS program will benefit from broader and higher-ranking career opportunities than individuals that hold a bachelor's degree, including career opportunities in food security and safety and in care and well-being of companion and competition animals and wildlife species.

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.