

Board Meeting
January 19, 2006

ESTABLISH MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MEDICAL BIOTECHNOLOGY,
UIC COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AT ROCKFORD, CHICAGO

Action: Approve the Establishment of the Master of Science in Medical Biotechnology at the UIC College of Medicine at Rockford

Funding: No Funding Required

The Chancellor at Chicago with the advice of the Chicago Senate, the Graduate College, and the College of Medicine, recommends the establishment of a new graduate degree program, the Master of Science in Medical Biotechnology at the UIC College of Medicine at Rockford.

Biotechnology, in its most basic sense, is the use of biological processes and technology to solve problems and make useful products. Over the last 40 years, our increasing knowledge of biology and biochemistry has allowed us to start using the building blocks of life--cells--to solve problems and make products. The solutions and products produced by the biotechnology industry find many different applications, ranging from healthcare to consumer products to industrial applications.

Growth of the biotechnology industry throughout the last decade has created a demand for graduates from biotechnology programs, but there are very few educational institutions offering advanced degrees in biotechnology in Illinois and the neighboring state of Wisconsin.

The UIC College of Medicine at Rockford is well-qualified and well-positioned to serve the educational and training needs of the biotechnology industry in the local and regional area. With a particular emphasis on medical applications, the College proposes the establishment of the Master of Science in Medical Biotechnology with the aim of preparing students for new or advanced careers in medically focused biotechnology industries and for providing a resource to the region for stimulation of growth of the biotechnology industry.

Students admitted to the program will be required to complete a minimum of 32 semester hours consisting of core and elective courses and a research activity (thesis or project).

Creation of the program will not require any new State funds. The Dean at Rockford has committed campus resources to support the program. Existing faculty at Rockford and doctorally trained adjuncts will deliver the instruction.

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, pending further review by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.