

Board Meeting
January 21, 2016

ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN LIBERAL ARTS AND
SCIENCES IN INTEGRATED HEALTH STUDIES, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
AND SCIENCES, CHICAGO

Action: Establish the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Integrated Health Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago

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 Liberal Arts and Sciences, and support of the College of Applied Health Sciences, recommends the establishment of the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences (BSLAS) in Integrated Health Studies.

The BSLAS in Integrated Health Studies is a collaboration that draws upon the research and educational expertise in the health sciences of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Applied Health Sciences. The field is evolving in a holistic manner and the program reflects this change. The degree was developed to address two important educational needs in Illinois: (1) the need for well-educated graduates who are prepared to enter health-related careers, and (2) graduates who are competitive for admission into professional health programs and graduate programs in the health sciences. The objective of the degree is to explore the many diverse factors

that influence health, and the degree is unique in that embedded in the rigorous training in the sciences is a humanities/social science perspective. Students will graduate with a broad understanding of human structure and function in health across the lifespan; how human health and disease are impacted by culture, the environment, society, and personal behavior; and an appreciation for health issues that are unique to the urban environment and to the global society.

In addition to meeting General Education and college requirements, students pursuing the degree will complete 14-hours of prerequisite coursework in chemistry and economics, and 40- to 54-hours in the major. The major is comprised of: (1) core courses in integrated health science; biology; psychology; and ethics, law and professionalism in health sciences; (2) one course from each of four content areas (applied health, health economics, humanities/social sciences, and natural sciences); and (3) coursework in one of two required concentrations: Health and Science, or Behavioral Health. As 120 total hours are required to earn the degree, students may use electives in two ways. Electives can be used to accommodate the prerequisite course requirements for professional programs in a variety of in-demand health careers such as medicine, dentistry, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and pharmacy. They may also be used to pursue a minor, and the Chicago campus offers many that will complement studies in integrated health studies – for example, the minors in disability and human development; instructional design and training; public policy; urban studies; and numerous languages, ethnic and cultural studies.

The BSLAS in Integrated Health Studies will be administered by the Department of Biological Sciences. Additional support will be provided by the Department of Psychology given the engagement of those faculty with the program's area of concentration in behavioral health. The program has a projected enrollment of 150 students in the first year, and 600 once fully implemented.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respect 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.