

Board Meeting
July 13, 2006

ESTABLISH THE M.S. AND Ph.D. DEGREES IN ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION AND
CONSERVATION BIOLOGY, URBANA

Action: Approve Establishment of the M.S. and Ph.D. Degrees in Ecology,
Evolution and Conservation Biology, Urbana

Funding: No Funding Required

The Chancellor at Urbana with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends for approval a proposal from the Graduate College, the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, and the College Liberal Arts and Sciences, to establish the M.S. and Ph.D. in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology.

Increased awareness of the significance of environmental issues continues to strengthen the demand in both public and private sectors for students with advanced degrees in ecology, evolution and conservation biology. The Urbana campus has a long tradition of excellence in graduate training in ecology and related fields, and many of the major contributors to ecological research during the twentieth century have served on the faculty or have received graduate degrees from Urbana.

Currently, graduate training in ecology, evolution and conservation biology is provided as a concentration within the biology degree and within other degree programs across campus. The proposed graduate degrees take maximum advantage of

the breadth of faculty expertise and student interest recognizing that there is a seamless progression from ecology and evolution to contemporary issues in conservation biology. In addition to developing a high degree of proficiency in modern analytical and quantitative methods, students will become thoroughly conversant with modes of inquiry and the content of these disciplines. Training will prepare students for careers in academia, government, and the private sector.

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 in 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.