

Board Meeting  
July 21, 2016

ESTABLISH A MAJOR IN BIOENGINEERING FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER  
OF ENGINEERING, COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND THE GRADUATE  
COLLEGE, URBANA

**Action:** Establish a Major in Bioengineering for the Degree of Master of Engineering, College of Engineering and the Graduate College

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Interim Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Interim Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Engineering and the Graduate College to establish a Major in Bioengineering for the degree of Master of Engineering.

The proposed self-supporting program is different from the existing, research-oriented Master of Science (M.S.) in Bioengineering in that it will be a terminal professional degree, no thesis required, and is not intended as a pathway to the doctoral program.

As the global healthcare system transforms, driven largely by an aging population, there is greater need for technological advances in medicine and bioengineering that will provide better healthcare at a lower cost. Skilled employees for jobs that require advanced quantitative knowledge and an understanding of “big picture”

business issues of the healthcare industry are in demand. Hiring managers are also looking for engineers who show leadership potential, since it is common for engineers to work in team projects that require effective communication skills, the ability to resolve conflict within a team structure, and project management skills. The Master of Engineering with a major in Bioengineering is designed to bridge this skills gap by developing students with advanced technical know-how, a better understanding of the healthcare industry, and more business acumen through courses and projects which will expose them to real-world industry issues.

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. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.