

Board Meeting
July 22, 2010

ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN RELIGION, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, URBANA

Action: Establish the Master of Arts Degree in Religion, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor at Urbana with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College to establish the Master of Arts Degree in Religion.

The proposed program will enable students to study historical, ethical, political, and philosophical dimensions of religion, and to learn in some detail how scholars have dealt, and now deal, with central issues in the field. The program will permit students to work with specialists in the major religious traditions and in academic fields that pertain to the academic study of those traditions, acquiring in the process knowledge of the range of methodologies deployed in the academic study of religion. Students will acquire the necessary intellectual sophistication, historical background, and linguistic competence to pursue advanced degrees in the field.

The degree requirements include at least 32 hours of graduate credit, with at least 12 hours at the 500-level. Students will establish a primary field of study based on

significant areas of scholarship represented by faculty expertise within the department.

Students must pass the masters examination and may elect to complete a thesis.

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.