

Board Meeting
July 23, 2015

ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTEGRATED DESIGN AND ARTS,
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN, AND THE ARTS, CHICAGO

Action: Establish the Bachelor of Arts in Integrated Design and Arts, College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts

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 College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts recommends the establishment of the Bachelor of Arts in Integrated Design and Arts.

The College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts is comprised of four schools: Architecture; Art and Art History; Design; and, Theatre and Music. Most of the College's thirteen existing undergraduate programs are studio-focused and highly disciplinary in nature, and their coursework takes three to four carefully-sequenced years to complete. As a result, these programs tend to benefit students best, particularly incoming freshmen, who already know exactly which discipline they wish to pursue or transfer students willing to devote more than four years to their undergraduate studies. The College has limited opportunities for undergraduates who develop an interest in design and the arts later in their college tenure.

The B.A. in Integrated Design and the Arts is a no- or low-studio, humanities-focused degree option. It provides a multidisciplinary study in design and arts as a means to develop critical and creative skills, and cultural, visual, and digital knowledge. The degree's origins lie in the relatively recent emergence of "design thinking," which posits that design (considered broadly) is a new liberal art for the 21st century due to its capacity not only to develop critical thinking through analysis and critique of existing conditions, but also to project creative alternatives. The degree is designed to provide a broad background in design and the arts, alongside a customizable program of study based on students' individual interests. By engaging students in areas of study across all four schools, the new program provides broad access to existing faculty expertise and courses that were previously largely restricted to disciplinary majors.

The degree provides students with the knowledge and skills to pursue work and careers in design and arts businesses and organizations, including design researcher, knowledge manager, project manager, and marketing associate. It also provides students who wish to pursue advanced study with the intellectual background to apply for graduate programs in a range of design and arts fields, including architecture, graphic or industrial design, arts management and promotion, and museum and exhibition studies.

Students pursuing the degree can enter either as first year or transfer students. The degree requires 120-credit hours. This is comprised of 24-hours of core coursework, including a two-course senior capstone, and 26-hours of elective courses in art, architecture, art history, design, music, and theatre.

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.