

Approved by the Board of Trustees
July 23, 2020

Board Meeting
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RENAME THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOENGINEERING, MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOENGINEERING, AND DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN BIOENGINEERING, COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, CHICAGO

Action: Rename the Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering, Master of Science in Bioengineering, and Doctor of Philosophy in Bioengineering, College of Engineering and the Graduate College

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, College of Engineering, and the Graduate College recommends the renaming of the Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering, Master of Science in Bioengineering, and Doctor of Philosophy in Bioengineering.

The degrees would be renamed the B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering. The terms *bioengineering* and *biomedical engineering* are synonymous per the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Educational Statistics, which is responsible for the classification of instructional programs. Further, accreditation standards for Bachelor of Science programs in bioengineering and biomedical engineering are identical. A survey of ABET-accredited programs shows the name biomedical engineering is more commonly used than bioengineering (86 versus 28).

Despite their identical meaning with respect to government and educational review standards, feedback from alumni, industry employers, and prospective students indicate a perceived difference and preference for the use of biomedical engineering. Renaming the degrees has the possibility of removing a disadvantage for graduates seeking employment in industry. The degree requirements are not impacted by the change in degree names.

This item is being submitted simultaneously with an item to rename the departmental home of these degrees to also reflect the change in term from bioengineering to biomedical engineering.

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 Executive Vice President and 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.