

Board Meeting  
June 9, 2011

ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PUBLIC HEALTH,  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, CHICAGO

**Action:** Establish of the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health,  
School of Public Health

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Vice President, University of Illinois, and Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago with the advice of the Chicago Senate and the School of Public Health, recommends the establishment of the Bachelor of Arts in Public Health.

The mission of the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Public Health is to engage and enlighten students about matters related to the health of societies locally, nationally, and globally, and to systematically examine biological, environmental, cultural, behavioral, historical, economic, and political factors that mitigate health. The degree is being proposed in response to three important needs or trends. First, inequities in the health of the public are still pervasive. Second, the public health workforce (a very broadly inclusive group of practitioners and/or academics) needs revitalization and expansion. Third, an undergraduate major in public health has been identified nationally as one of the top five majors that students entering college wish to pursue.

The School is focusing on recruitment streams and relationships that will bring culturally and ethnically diverse students who want to serve and empower their

communities toward better health. The School is initially partnering with the Humboldt Park Community of Wellness and Wright College to enhance the academic preparation of Latino/Latina students exploring health careers. Still other initiatives and opportunities to recruit underrepresented populations are envisioned as the program is implemented.

The proposed Bachelor of Arts is predicated on principles of liberal education with the intention of graduating students who will become part of an educated citizenry regardless of the roles they assume in life. Students will be admitted at the junior level after having completed two years of college including three pre-requisite public health courses, either at the Chicago campus or at other institutions. The program requires 60 credit hours of study, including 11 core public health courses. The core courses have been developed to incorporate six repetitive curricular themes: *Health as a Moral Endeavor, Health Equity, Life Course Perspective, One Health [human-animal-environment], Cultural Relevance, and Local/Global Impact*. For some undergraduate students, the baccalaureate degree in public health will be an end point while, for others, it will provide the academic basis for the pursuit of a professional graduate degree. Thus, students will pursue either a professional or academic track. Culminating the program, all students will complete a baccalaureate project.

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.