

Board Meeting  
June 9, 2011

ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN ENVIRONMENTAL  
STUDIES, COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND ADMINISTRATION,  
SPRINGFIELD

**Action:** Establish the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Environmental Studies,  
College of Public Affairs and Administration

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Interim Vice President, University of Illinois, and Interim Chancellor,  
University of Illinois at Springfield with the advice of the Springfield Senate  
recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Public Affairs and  
Administration to establish the Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies.

The establishment of the Environmental Studies (ENS) Bachelor of Arts  
Degree Program will further develop a growing area of study at the Springfield campus,  
which currently offers both graduate degrees and a minor in ENS. This degree will  
provide students with the skills to engage in the many processes that are necessary to  
confront the challenges citizens, businesses, governments, and non-governmental  
organizations face in light of rapidly changing modern global environmental issues.

Environmental concerns are of growing importance in both the private and  
public sectors, requiring the attention of a variety of stakeholders. This program will  
offer a multi-disciplinary curriculum with interdisciplinary learning goals, incorporating

natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities to ensure that graduates will gain a holistic understanding of complex environmental concerns and ethical implications while providing analytical tools for understanding and engaging in concerns related to the natural and social world.

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.