

Approved by the Board of Trustees
March 11, 2021

Board Meeting
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ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SECONDARY ENGLISH
EDUCATION, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES,
SPRINGFIELD

Action: Establish the Bachelor of Arts in Secondary English Education, College of Education and Human Services

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Interim Chancellor, University of Illinois Springfield, and Vice President, University of Illinois System with the advice of the Springfield Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Education and Human Services to establish the Bachelor of Arts in Secondary English Education.

Currently at UIS, students pursuing a career in teaching high school English must major in English and obtain a minor in Secondary Education in order to obtain Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) licensure. Feedback from ISBE, Illinois legislators, and potential and current students has indicated a preference for secondary teachers to graduate with an education degree rather than with an education minor. In addition, secondary schools in Illinois prefer to hire graduates with an education major. The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Secondary English Education will allow students interested in teaching English in secondary schools the option of an education major instead of an education minor.

The proposed degree program will be offered in a mostly online format with few face-to-face sessions required, providing flexibility that is expected to be of interest to students locally and statewide. Because the education degree requires students to take fewer courses than obtaining the secondary education minor as a supplement to the traditional English degree, students will complete their coursework at a faster pace. An expedited path to graduation not only benefits students financially, it is also expected to address the high demand for teachers in Illinois high schools, where there are currently extreme shortages of qualified English teachers. Because the program is designed to meet current ISBE licensure standards, upon graduation, students will be fully-licensed to teach high school English in the State of Illinois.

Both required and elective courses for the major will be taught by existing faculty. Because UIS has both the facilities and faculty to support this new degree program, no additional funding is required or requested.

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 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.