

Board Meeting  
March 14, 2019

RENAME AND REVISE THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LIBERAL ARTS  
AND SCIENCES, MAJOR IN INDIVIDUAL PLAN OF STUDY, COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, CHICAGO

**Action:** Rename and Revise the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences,  
Major in Individual Plan of Study, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

**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 the College of Liberal  
Arts and Sciences recommends the renaming and revision of the Bachelor of Arts in  
Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Individual Plan of Study as the Bachelor of Arts in  
Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Liberal Studies.

The Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Individual Plan  
of Study serves students whose intellectual interests and academic pursuits do not  
specifically fit one of the established majors in the college. Renaming the major shifts  
the focus from the structure and formulation of the major toward the multidisciplinary  
content of which the major is comprised. The nomenclature “liberal studies” reflects the  
core values of the college and underscores the major’s purpose, providing a flexible, yet  
academically grounded, pathway for students who wish to develop a plan of study across  
the disciplines within the liberal arts and sciences. Further, the new name is aligned with  
current trends at peer institutions and educational standards in higher education.

The revision modifies guidelines for admission to the major, establishes new application procedures, modifies major requirements, and alters responsibilities for students mentoring and advising. Students applying for the major must have a minimum GPA of 2.5/4.0; have completed at least 45 hours at the time of application; and submit a proposal explaining the intellectual rationale and goals of the major, outlining a plan of study, and including the endorsement of a faculty member who will serve as mentor. The major must be between 30 and 40 hours, include an established minor in its entirety (the foundation for building a plan of study), contain at least 18 hours of advanced coursework, and fulfill the college's writing-in-the-discipline requirement. Proposals will be evaluated by the college's associate dean and executive assistant dean for student academic affairs, who will also review and approve any revisions to the plan of study. Students must complete a total of 120 hours to earn the degree.

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.