

Board Meeting  
March 15, 2017

ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND CROP SCIENCES, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, URBANA

**Action:** Establish the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Crop Sciences, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences to establish the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Crop Sciences.

The Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Crop Sciences (B.S. in Computer Science and Crop Sciences) is a collaborative program for undergraduate students who plan to pursue careers in the field of agriculture that have a technology and data handling and management focus. The B.S. in Computer Science and Crop Sciences will prepare students for advanced study at the graduate level as well as for immediate entry into the workforce.

Following the precedent of successful interdisciplinary programs established with the “CS and X” Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences

degrees approved by the Board of Trustees on May 31, 2012, the B.S. in Computer Science and Crop Sciences provides students who are interested in computer applications in a disciplinary field outside of computer science an opportunity to pair their interests. The agricultural industry is looking for students who have skills in precision agriculture, bioinformatics, web programming, and data analysis. Through cooperation between the Department of Computer Science and the Department of Crop Sciences, which already has several faculty members who conduct bioinformatics research, the B.S. in Computer Science and Crop Sciences responds to student interest and industry demand.

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.