

Board Meeting
May 14, 2014

ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN REHABILITATION SCIENCES,
COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES, CHICAGO

Action: Establish the Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences, College of Applied Health 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 Applied Health Sciences, recommends the establishment of the Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences.

The Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Sciences is an interdisciplinary degree that draws upon the research and educational expertise of the departments within the College of Applied Health Sciences: Biomedical and Health Information Sciences, Kinesiology and Nutrition, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Disability and Human Development. Rehabilitation Sciences is a newer educational field with few programs across the country and none currently in Chicago. It focuses on human functioning in health, disease, and disability in the current social, political, and physical environment, including the healthcare environment. The degree was developed to address the growing need for rehabilitation professionals, and focuses upon four core

tenets: consumer-directed services, person-centered care, access to health and social services, and independent living.

Graduates will be prepared for advanced training and education in rehabilitation health sciences and professional health programs. The degree will also serve as sound preparation for graduate studies in healthcare and disability rights law and advocacy; healthcare management and finance; urban policy and planning; or public health. In addition, graduates will be ready to enter the rehabilitation and broader healthcare work force in entry level, pre-professional, and mid-management roles.

Students pursuing the degree can enter either as first year or transfer students. The degree requires 120 hours, including required coursework in basic concepts of rehabilitation sciences, anatomy and physiology, statistics and research methods, psychology, ethics, medical terminology, rehabilitation case management, assistive technology, social and cultural history of disability, and health informatics. To best serve the career planning needs of students, each student will develop an individualized portfolio of elective coursework, and volunteer and practicum experiences that will serve as substantive background and support to a well-developed resume for employment and/or graduate study.

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.