

Board Meeting
May 16, 2019

ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CIVIC ANALYTICS, COLLEGE OF
URBAN PLANNING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE,
CHICAGO

Action: Establish the Master of Science in Civic Analytics, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs and the Graduate College

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, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, and the Graduate College, recommends the establishment of the Master of Science (M.S.) in Civic Analytics.

The M.S. in Civic Analytics is designed to produce graduates who can contribute to solving public problems using principles of data science and technology. Civic data scientists are tasked with optimizing the delivery of public services, deriving useful insights from available datasets, and developing new applications for the delivery of public services.

While there are a growing number of analytics programs situated in business and computer science departments, only a tiny number of these programs are dedicated to public sector applications. The degree will be only the fourth dedicated public sector analytics degree in the U.S., and the first at a public research university.

The M.S. in Civic Analytics is arranged around several core areas that provide exposure to core competencies of public service, civic technology, data science, and research methods. The degree requires a minimum of 55 hours, including: 46 hours of required courses in public service foundations, analytics and data science, and research methods; 8 hours of electives; an internship or professional project (waived for those with extensive professional experience) and portfolio. The college anticipates 20 students will enroll in Fall 2020, and 56 will be enrolled once fully implemented.

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.