

Board Meeting  
May 22, 2008

ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION  
WITH A CONCENTRATION IN PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE MASTERS, COLLEGE  
OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES AND  
THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, URBANA

**Action:** Approve the Establishment of the Master of Science in Agricultural Production with a Concentration in Professional Science Masters, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor at Urbana with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Graduate College to establish the M.S. in Agricultural Production with a concentration in Professional Science Masters.

The program seeks to provide students with critical knowledge of the agricultural industry governing the production of food, feed, fiber, and other goods by the systematic growing of animals, crops, and other life forms. Beyond the various scientific disciplines providing ever-changing technology to the evolving agricultural industry, governmental policy, international law, environmental awareness, and economic theory are among a host of external pressures that shape the agricultural industry. Demanding a

premium in the workforce due to their interdisciplinary training, graduates will go on to manage production facilities, develop new processes and methodologies, and create novel policy and strategy for the agricultural industry by taking advantage of the business skills developed in this unique program.

Paired with the “Professional Science Masters” (PSM) concentration, the degree is designed to enable students to pursue advanced training in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics, while simultaneously developing workplace skills highly valued by employers. In addition to the rigorous scientific training in the area of agricultural production, the PSM concentration provides students with relevant professional experience in business and related topics through coursework and an internship.

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.