

Board Meeting  
May 31, 2012

APPROVE COMBINING FOUR BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS DEGREES INTO A  
SINGLE DEGREE,  
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND THE ARTS, CHICAGO

**Action:** Approve Combining Four Bachelor of Fine Arts Degrees Into Single a Degree, College of Architecture and the Arts

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Vice President, University of Illinois, and Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago with the advice of the Chicago Senate and the College of Architecture and the Arts, recommends the combination of the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Electronic Visualization, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Moving Image, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography, and Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Arts into a single degree--the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art, College of Architecture and the Arts.

The separation of the current School of Art and Design, resulting in the School of Art and Art History, with a Department of Art, will be accompanied by changes being made in order to meet the goals of the reorganization. The combination of the four Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees reflects the objectives of the new School of Art and Art History, and its curricular focus on the trans-disciplinary nature of conceptual art practice.

The combined Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art degree has three main objectives: to integrate Moving Image, Photography, Electronic Visualization (New Media Arts), and Studio Arts into one multi-disciplinary major; to allow students the ability to create a unique, trans-disciplinary program of study; and to develop trans-disciplinary modes of thinking and discourse.

The Department of Art focuses on contemporary art practice and theory, which increasingly requires trans-disciplinary modes of thinking and discourse. Contemporary art practice has been steadily becoming more inter-disciplinary since the 1960s. The Department of Art with its single Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art degree will give students flexibility to reach across disciplines.

The Art Foundation (first-year program) will center around contemporary art practice and will contain no design courses. After completion of the first-year program, students will be assigned to a faculty advisor to develop plans of study to assist students to reach their academic goals. The trans-disciplinary curriculum will enable students to prepare a professional portfolio upon completion of the degree.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

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 President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.