

Board Meeting  
November 12, 2009

ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF ARTS IN THE TEACHING OF SPANISH,  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, CHICAGO

**Action:** Approve the Establishment of the Master of Arts in the Teaching of Spanish, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor at Chicago with the advice of the Chicago Senate, the Graduate College, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences recommends the establishment of the Master of Arts in the Teaching of Spanish (MAT).

As schools in the greater Chicago area become more diverse, the need for well-trained and highly qualified teachers of Spanish is notable. The mission of the proposed MAT is to raise the level of professional training for primary and secondary school educators so that they can better prepare students for the challenges and opportunities in the urban and global context of Chicago.

The proposed program is intended for teachers who already have State certification and are currently teaching in local K through 12 classrooms, as well as recently certified teachers who wish to continue their post-baccalaureate studies after graduation. Graduates of the program will acquire expertise in the fundamentals of

literary and linguistic studies, second language teaching, heritage learners, literacy strategies for second language and heritage learners, teaching methodology, and assessment methods.

The proposed program is composed of 36 credit hours beyond the baccalaureate degree. Students are required to take four core courses which offer the foundation for advanced study in literary and cultural studies and linguistics. In addition, students will select five advanced 400- and 500-level courses in the Department of Spanish, French, Italian, and Portuguese; the Latin American and Latino Studies Program; and the College of Education. This coursework will build upon their knowledge base as certified teachers of Spanish in the State of Illinois. The MAT also has an optional concentration in the Teaching of Spanish to Heritage Speakers which will allow teachers who come into contact with high numbers of bilingual/heritage speakers to better prepare for their teaching practice. All students will be required to take a comprehensive examination upon completion of their coursework.

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.