

Board Meeting
November 12, 2015

ESTABLISH A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MIDDLE GRADES EDUCATION
WITH CONCENTRATIONS IN LITERACY; MATHEMATICS; SCIENCE; AND
SOCIAL SCIENCE; COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, URBANA

Action: Establish a Bachelor of Science in Middle Grades Education with Concentrations in Literacy; Mathematics; Science; and Social Science; College of Education

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Education to establish a Bachelor of Science in Middle Grades Education with concentrations in: Literacy; Mathematics; Science; and Social Science.

Beginning February 1, 2018, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will no longer endorse middle grades teachers in the current manner. The new procedure will require a separate major in middle school education for grades five through eight. To fulfill the need for teachers to be endorsed to teach students in grades five through eight, the College of Education proposes establishment of the Middle Grades Education degree. The program allows preparation of educators specific to the needs of young adolescents in grades five through eight with exposure to appropriate curriculum and practicum experiences. The proposed Bachelor of Science in Middle Grades Education

has been designed not only to align with all ISBE standards for licensure, but also to be in accordance with the principles outlined by the National Middle School Association. It is essential that the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign provide a cutting-edge program to compete with other public institutions that are providing middle grades licensure programs.

The proposal also seeks establishment of four areas of concentration in: Literacy; Math; Social Science; and Science. These concentrations align with ISBE's areas of endorsement that are required to teach in the middle grades. Students will select one or more areas of concentration to obtain a deep knowledge of content areas. The curriculum is designed to allow the flexibility for students who wish to choose more than one concentration, which allows them to teach more than one content area, a quality sought by school districts and principals when hiring middle grades teachers.

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.