

Board Meeting  
November 13, 2008

ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES IN  
GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND  
SCIENCES, URBANA

**Action:** Approve the Establishment of the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Gender and Women's Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 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 Liberal Arts and Sciences to establish the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences (B.A.L.A.S.) in Gender and Women's Studies.

The proposed B.A.L.A.S. will allow students to examine the ways in which sex and gender have structured human societies and cultures, past and present. Gender and Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary academic program that coordinates a wide range of feminist research, teaching, and public service with emphases on intersectional approaches to the study of gender, race, class, ethnicity, and sexuality in national and transnational contexts. By centralizing gendered analysis in the curriculum, the students will explore women's and men's cultural identities and social roles in relation to race,

ethnicity, sexuality, and class in social, political, and economic life locally, nationally, and globally.

The Gender and Women's Studies major has been offered as a concentration under the Interdisciplinary Major in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences since 2003. The enrollment and graduation rates have increased steadily with approximately half of the graduates entering professional or graduate school. Students entering the workforce immediately upon graduation are likely to enter the non-profit sector.

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.