

Board Meeting
April 11, 2006

ESTABLISH PH.D. IN COMMUNICATION,
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, CHICAGO

Action: Approve the Establishment of the Ph.D. in Communication, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Chicago

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor at Chicago with the advice of the Chicago Senate and the Graduate College, recommends the establishment of a new degree program, the Ph.D. in Communication.

The Chicago area has seen an increase in high-tech industries, with businesses created in, re-engineered for, or relocated to the area ranging from traditional telecommunications giants to start-ups and venture capital firms. They seek Ph.D. holders with the research skills to analyze communication in new and existing markets.

The mission of the Ph.D. program in Communication is to produce scholars and researchers who will be critical consumers and producers of research about the technology of communication, whether in academic or applied settings, and who will serve the state of Illinois and the nation by contributing to the growth of knowledge and understanding of communication technology in research settings for industry, policy, and the academy.

The Ph.D. in Communication will require successful completion of 96 semester credit hours beyond the baccalaureate, 64 hours from the master's degree. Students must develop expertise in one or more specialized subfields of communication. Students are expected to accomplish three learning outcomes: broad knowledge of the communication discipline, sufficient to teach general undergraduate courses covering the key theories, problems, and methods used to study communication technology in society; depth of understanding sufficient to teach advanced undergraduate and introductory graduate courses in communication and to contribute to discussion of its issues; specialization sufficiently rigorous for the student to contribute insights into problems that matter in the specialty, to demonstrate expertise in research, and to lecture among generalists in a university setting and present results for other specialists in scholarly congresses. Students will be required to pass a preliminary examination no later than three calendar years after admission or upon completion of 40 semester hours (whichever comes first) and a dissertation.

The department expects to reallocate existing resources into the new Ph.D. program, phased in over two years, with most changes occurring in the first year. The resources include faculty teaching and advising effort and assistantship support.

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, pending further review by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.