

Board Meeting
January 15, 2009

ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK,
URBANA

Action: Approve the Establishment of the Bachelor of Social Work in the School of Social Work, 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 School of Social Work to establish a Bachelor of Social Work degree (BSW).

The proposed undergraduate program in social work prepares graduates for generalist social work practice with vulnerable individuals, groups, families, and communities. The purpose of undergraduate social work education is to provide a comprehensive educational experience for students that is grounded in a liberal arts tradition and prepares graduates for excellence in three potential trajectories upon completion of the degree including: professional social work practice; entry into master's degree programs in social work with advanced standing status (entry with foundational competencies met and an overall shorter time-to-degree); and graduate or professional education in such fields as human resources, law, education, non-profit management, religious studies, health professions, and government/public service. The School will

seek accreditation for the BSW program from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

Within the State, severe county-wide shortages for mental health professionals, particularly in rural counties and downstate Illinois, suggest that employment in this area will continue to be needed. This trend is consistent with national mental-health employment needs in rural areas. Projections are that need for mental health and substances abuse social workers will grow by as much as 30 percent through 2016. The National Behavioral Health Study has suggested critical shortages within mental health and substance abuse fields, particularly in the areas of children and youth and their families. Additionally, a deficit within the area of geriatrics is acute.

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.