

Board Meeting  
January 19, 2017

ESTABLISH THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN COMPARATIVE BIOMEDICAL  
SCIENCES, COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, URBANA

**Action:** Establish the Doctor of Philosophy in Comparative Biomedical Sciences,  
College of Veterinary Medicine

**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 Veterinary Medicine to establish the Doctor of Philosophy in Comparative Biomedical Sciences.

The College of Veterinary Medicine is restructuring its doctoral education by uniting currently existing departmental doctoral-level programs into a single program, which will be administered by a college-level steering committee rather than at the departmental level. As referenced in a companion item, this unified program in Comparative Biomedical Sciences (CBMS) will be supported by graduate courses taught by faculty in all three College of Veterinary Medicine departments. It will rely on both courses already available as well as newly developed courses which will specifically reflect the interactive nature of the restructured program. In keeping with its diversified training missions, the College of Veterinary Medicine's faculty possess a combination of basic and clinical research experience across a broad range of biomedical disciplines that constitute the academic core of this comprehensive doctoral program in CBMS. The

proposed CBMS program will complement and enhance interdisciplinary university strategic initiatives and will synergize with other programmatic training opportunities.

The proposed doctoral program will identify the fundamental links between basic, translational, and clinical research efforts to improve medical care across all species, and it will be positioned to connect with important university initiatives in the biological and biomedical sciences. The proposed name of the program, Comparative Biomedical Sciences, mirrors this vision and was selected to reflect the new capabilities afforded by the combined faculty to educate doctoral students who realize the ideas that address commonalities of disease mechanisms, prevention, and therapy between humans and other animals. The curriculum will collectively ensure the delivery of a broad-based learning experience in the fundamental disciplines that form the foundation of the biomedical sciences and will encourage the development of new courses that add value to the university's curriculum by teaching translational skills important to biomedical research.

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 Executive Vice President and 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.