Approved by the Board of Trustees

January 20, 2022

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Board Meeting

January 20, 2022

## ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS, DISABILITY AND DIVERSITY IN URBAN SOCIETY, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, CHICAGO

**Action:** Establish the Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis, Disability

and Diversity in Urban Society, College of Education and the Graduate

College

**Funding:** No new funding is required as the program will be implemented by existing

faculty and program costs will be met through tuition revenue.

The Chancellor, University of Illinois Chicago, and Vice President,

University of Illinois System with the advice of the Chicago Senate, the College of Education, and the Graduate College, recommends the establishment of the Master of Science in Applied Behavior Analysis, Disability and Diversity in Urban Society.

Applied behavior analysis (ABA) uses the principles of behaviorism to address socially relevant problems, including autism and other developmental disabilities. An increasing number of graduate programs offer degree or certificate programs in ABA, given the need for practitioners with board certification in behavior analysis (BCBA). Despite this, there are no existing master’s programs in ABA with a concentration in the application of ABA with underserved populations.

The new M.S. in Applied Behavior Analysis, Disability and Diversity in Urban Society in the Department of Special Education would seek to develop BCBAs who are equipped with the skills needed to work with underserved and high-needs populations, including (a) culturally and linguistically diverse communities, (b) urban communities, and (c) individuals with disabilities across the lifespan. Each fall semester, students will be admitted as a cohort and expected to enroll full-time in order to complete the program in four semesters, with 24 students expected in the first cohort. In full implementation, this would increase to 60 students, with 24 degrees awarded each year.

This will be a 40-credit-hour program, with 10 core courses (8 delivered in a hybrid format, and 2 online). Additionally, there are fieldwork and research experiences aligned with the coursework, with close mentorship from faculty. Students taking the optional fieldwork course in a given semester will typically complete between 160 to 480 hours of supervised fieldwork experience at a community-based site. Students who complete 25 to 30 hours of fieldwork per week each semester will graduate with enough hours (1,500) to apply for the BCBA exam immediately after graduation.

The department’s budget will be adequate to support the new degree when fully implemented. Four existing faculty will support the program through teaching, supervising, advising students, and mentoring student research. One full-time staff member, who holds board certification in behavior analysis, will be hired to support the faculty, assist in program evaluation, and establish and maintain partnerships with community-based fieldwork sites. Current facilities and library resources are adequate to support the program.

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 Interim 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.