Approved by the Board of Trustees

July 11, 2024

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Board Meeting

July 11, 2024

ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN GLOBAL STUDIES, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, URBANA

**Action:** Establish the Master of Science in Global Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College

**Funding:** No new funding required

The chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and vice president, University of Illinois System, with the advice of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate, recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College to establish the Master of Science in Global Studies.

The proposed MS in Global Studies will combine theoretical and professional skills coursework with professional training. In this way, the program expects to provide a unique opportunity for students to prepare for careers in the private as well as public sectors, including national and global governing institutions, non-governmental organizations, and international business. By combining the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign’s strengths in international and area studies with fields such as data sciences and global health, the MS in Global Studies will enable graduates to engage in focused interdisciplinary studies to address global issues with the contextual and cultural knowledge required to better inform and improve decision making.

Over the past decade, global studies has emerged on campuses around the world as a field that focuses interdisciplinary research and teaching on issues that affect the world’s diverse populations at local, national, regional, and global levels. Governments, businesses, non-governmental organizations, trade groups, academic institutions, and not-for-profit organizations in the United States and worldwide have increasing needs for individuals with specialized training that will enable them to navigate, engage, and help to resolve some of the important issues challenging societies today. This program will help fulfill the demand for individuals with the interdisciplinary skills required to analyze global issues and work within the global arena.

Based on enrollment projections, existing faculty and course offerings are sufficient to serve the proposed program. Admissions, financial aid, and advising will be administered by a program coordinator. These duties initially will be integrated into the Center for Global Studies’ current, fully funded outreach coordinator position. When tuition revenue and workload demand become sufficient to justify a new position, the program coordinator role will be established and funded by tuition revenue. No new or additional facilities, significant improvements to existing facilities, or additional resources from the University Library are needed.

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 of Illinois System recommends approval. This action is subject to further review by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.