

Approved by the Board of Trustees  
July 13, 2017

Board Meeting  
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ELIMINATE THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL  
ARTS AND SCIENCES, SPRINGFIELD

**Action:** Eliminate the Master of Science in Biology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Springfield, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Springfield Senate recommends the elimination of the Master of Science in Biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Department faculty voted to eliminate the degree. The program has seen low enrollments for several years despite efforts to attract new students. Faculty also noted the high cost of graduate-level research in Biology. Students currently enrolled in the program will be allowed to complete the degree within allowable time limits. Since admission to the program has been suspended for several years, students currently in the program are only lacking the closure component. The elimination of the graduate degree program will allow the department to focus on teaching and research at the undergraduate level, including providing curricular support for newly implemented undergraduate programs in pre-Nursing, Biochemistry, and Exercise Science.

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.