Board Meeting

 July 17, 2025

PRESIDENT’S REPORT ON ACTIONS OF THE SENATE

Establish the Concentration in Health Behavior and Promotion in the Master of Public Health in Public Health, College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College to establish the concentration in Health Behavior and Promotion in the Master of Public Health in Public Health (MPH). This concentration equips MPH students with essential skills to address public health challenges through behavior change and prevention strategies. With the increasing prevalence of chronic diseases and health disparities, professionals trained in health promotion can design, implement, and evaluate interventions that encourage health behaviors and improve overall community well-being. The curricular content of the health behavior and promotion concentration provides expertise in understanding the social, cultural, and psychological factors influencing health decisions, providing graduates with the knowledge and skills to make a significant impact on public health. Additionally, it equips professionals to assume leadership roles in healthcare organizations, policy development, and research, contributing to more effective, evidence-based health initiatives.

Establish the Concentration in Physical Activity and Health in the Master of Public Health in Public Health, College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College to establish the concentration in Physical Activity and Health in the Master of Public Health in Public Health (MPH). The Physical Activity and Health concentration will prepare MPH students for a relatively new but rapidly growing field within public health. While the benefits of physical activity on health outcomes were first highlighted in epidemiological studies as early as the 1950s, it is only in the past few decades that this area has gained significant momentum. Through the curricular content of this concentration, students will gain in-depth knowledge and understanding of five key areas of physical activity: surveillance, correlates and determinants, health outcomes, interventions, and policy. Graduates will be prepared to tackle the global challenges associated with levels of physical activity below the public health recommendations. With a significant proportion of the global population not meeting recommended physical activity levels, the situation is now recognized as a pandemic, responsible for over five million deaths worldwide. Tackling this global challenge requires the use of rigorous public health methods and approaches, which will be part of the curriculum for students pursuing the physical activity and health concentration in the MPH.

Establish the Concentration in Inclusive Leadership and Learning in Organizations in the Bachelor of Science in Learning and Education Studies, College of Education, Urbana

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Education to establish the concentration in Inclusive Leadership and Learning in Organizations in the Bachelor of Science in Learning and Education Studies. The establishment of this concentration is part of a larger revision to the Bachelor of Science in Learning and Education Studies (BS in LES). This larger revision streamlines the areas of study within the BS in LES, with proposals to eliminate the concentrations in Educational Equality and Cultural Understanding and Workplace Training and Development included as companion report items. Added in place is the proposed new concentration in Inclusive Leadership and Learning in Organizations. This concentration will maintain the learning outcomes from the two being eliminated. The two concentrations being eliminated have had historically low enrollment, thus making it advantageous to sustain one concentration versus two. Students currently enrolled in the Educational Equality and Cultural Understanding or the Workplace Training and Development concentrations will be able to finish their degree in this concentration or may switch to this proposed concentration, Inclusive Leadership and Learning in Organizations. This concentration’s curriculum addresses the growing demand for graduates equipped to advance organizational change, lead in the workplace, and navigate barriers across populations. Graduates from this program will be prepared to pursue graduate education or work in education, government, non-profit, business, and public policy sectors. Specific career opportunities include, but are not limited to, employment specialist, admissions counselor, manager, education policy analyst, training and development coordinator, public engagement coordinator, or human resources specialist.

Establish the Minor in Hip Hop Culture and the Arts, College of Fine and Applied Arts, Urbana

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Fine and Applied Arts to establish the undergraduate minor in Hip Hop Culture and the Arts. In this interdisciplinary program, students will explore fundamental content in Hip Hop history, generate original creative work, engage with critical cultural consideration, develop introductory skills with relevant digital media, and participate in youth programming in the Champaign-Urbana community. Experience with the content of this minor will prepare students to bring a Hip Hop mindset and skillset to any other degree program or career they may pursue.

Establish the Concentration in Consumer-Centric Innovation and Design in the Master of Science in Technology Management, Gies College of Business and the Graduate College, Urbana

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the Gies College of Business and the Graduate College to establish the concentration in Consumer-Centric Innovation and Design in the Master of Science in Technology Management. The proposed concentration bridges the gap between technological innovation and consumer needs, creating a unique value proposition for businesses. This concentration equips students with tools and methodologies to understand consumer behaviors, preferences, and pain points, which are critical for designing technology-driven products and solutions that resonate with users. By integrating principles of design thinking, user experience, and human-centered design, this concentration complements the strategic and operational aspects of technology management. It enables students to develop innovative solutions that are not only technically feasible but also desirable and viable in the market. Additionally, this focus prepares graduates for leadership roles in project management, innovation strategy, and digital transformation, where aligning technology with consumer demand drives competitive advantage.

Rename and Revise the Minor in Heritage Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College to revise the graduate minor in Heritage Studies. Part of this revision includes renaming the minor “Heritage Studies and Preservation.” This name more accurately reflects employment and disciplinary nomenclature that includes both historic preservation and heritage studies. The coursework that comprises the minor is also revised to include new course offerings and remove offerings that are no longer available.

Eliminate the Concentration in Educational Equality and Cultural Understanding in the Bachelor of Science in Learning and Education Studies, College of Education, Urbana

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Education to eliminate the concentration in Educational Equality and Cultural Understanding in the Bachelor of Science in Learning and Education Studies. The elimination of this concentration is part of a larger revision to the Bachelor of Science in Learning and Education Studies (BS in LES). This larger revision streamlines the areas of study within the BS in LES, eliminating the concentrations in Educational Equality and Cultural Understanding and Workplace Training and Development and adding in their place one new concentration in Inclusive Leadership and Learning in Organizations. The new concentration will maintain the learning outcomes from the two being eliminated. The two concentrations being eliminated have had historically low enrollment, thus making it advantageous to sustain one concentration versus two. Students currently enrolled in the educational equality and cultural understanding concentration will be able to finish their degree in this concentration or may switch to the new concentration, inclusive leadership and learning in organizations, the establishment of which is included as a companion report item.

Eliminate the Concentration in Workplace Training and Development in the Bachelor of Science in Learning and Education Studies, College of Education, Urbana

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has approved a proposal from the College of Education to eliminate the concentration in Workplace Training and Development in the Bachelor of Science in Learning and Education Studies. The elimination of this concentration is part of a larger revision to the Bachelor of Science in Learning and Education Studies (BS in LES). This larger revision streamlines the areas of study within the BS in LES, eliminating the concentrations in Educational Equality and Cultural Understanding and Workplace Training and Development and adding in their place one new concentration in Inclusive Leadership and Learning in Organizations. The new concentration will maintain the learning outcomes from the two being eliminated. The two concentrations being eliminated have had historically low enrollment, thus making it advantageous to sustain one concentration versus two. Students currently enrolled in the workplace training and development concentration will be able to finish their degree in this concentration or may switch to the new concentration, inclusive leadership and learning in organizations, the establishment of which is included as a companion report item.

Establish the Joint Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management/Master of Science in Health Informatics, College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College, Chicago

The University of Illinois Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College, has approved theestablishment of the Joint Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management (BSHIM)/Master of Science in Health Informatics (MSHI).

The proposed joint degree program is intended for undergraduate health information management students with outstanding academic performance who desire to pursue graduate studies in health informatics and seek advanced placement in the workplace. The BSHIM is earned when the student has completed at least 123 credit hours and fulfilled all degree requirements, and the MSHI will be awarded upon completion of the master’s program requirements (38 credit hours), with 9 credit hours of shared coursework between the two degrees. This timing will allow students to sit for the Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) exam and obtain their RHIA designation immediately upon completion of the BSHIM.

Students may submit to their advisor their intent to apply to the joint degree program when they begin core health information management courses. They formally apply during their senior year. To be eligible, students are required to have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.40/4.00 upon application and throughout the remainder of their senior year.

Establish the Joint Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering/Master of Science in Industrial Engineering, College of Engineering and the Graduate College, Chicago

The University of Illinois Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the College of Engineering and the Graduate College, has approved theestablishment of the Joint Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering/Master of Science in Industrial Engineering.

Earned separately, the degrees require 164 credit hours over six years (128 + 36). In the joint program, the degrees will share two courses (8 credit hours) across the undergraduate and graduate degrees. This functionally leads to a 6-credit-hour reduction in the total credit hours needed to complete both degrees (due to accreditation factors), for a total of 158 credit hours over five years. In establishing the joint degrees, the department will retain some of its best students, and students will be able to earn both degrees a year earlier.

Students will be able to apply for the joint degree in their third year after having taken core engineering courses and having demonstrated outstanding academic performance. They will receive the undergraduate degree immediately upon completion of the BS requirements.

Establish the Joint Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering/Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering and the Graduate College, Chicago

The University of Illinois Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the College of Engineering and the Graduate College, has approved theestablishment of the Joint Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering/Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

Earned separately, the degrees require 164 credit hours over six years (128 + 36). In the joint program, the degrees will share two courses (8 credit hours) across the undergraduate and graduate degrees. This functionally leads to a 6-credit-hour reduction in the total credit hours needed to complete both degrees (due to accreditation factors), for a total of 158 credit hours over five years. In establishing the joint degrees, the department will retain some of its best students, and students will be able to earn both degrees a year earlier.

Students will be able to apply for the joint degree in their third year after having taken core engineering courses and having demonstrated outstanding academic performance. They will receive the undergraduate degree immediately upon completion of the BS requirements.

Establish the Joint Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering/Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering and the Graduate College, Chicago

The University of Illinois Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the College of Engineering and the Graduate College, has approved theestablishment of the Joint Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering/Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

Earned separately, the degrees require 164 credit hours over six years (128 + 36). In the joint program, the degrees will share two courses (8 credit hours) across the undergraduate and graduate degrees. This functionally leads to a 6-credit-hour reduction in the total credit hours needed to complete both degrees (due to accreditation factors), for a total of 158 credit hours over five years. In establishing the joint degrees, the department will retain some of its best students, and students will be able to earn both degrees a year earlier.

Students will be able to apply for the joint degree in their third year after having taken core engineering courses and having demonstrated outstanding academic performance. They will receive the undergraduate degree immediately upon completion of the BS requirements.

Establish the Joint Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering/Master of Science in Industrial Engineering, College of Engineering and the Graduate College, Chicago

The University of Illinois Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the College of Engineering and the Graduate College, has approved theestablishment of the Joint Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering / Master of Science in Industrial Engineering.

Earned separately, the degrees require 164 credit hours over six years (128 + 36). In the joint program, the degrees will share two courses (8 credit hours) across the undergraduate and graduate degrees. This functionally leads to a 6-credit-hour reduction in the total credit hours needed to complete both degrees (due to accreditation factors), for a total of 158 credit hours over five years. In establishing the joint degrees, the department will retain some of its best students, and students will be able to earn both degrees a year earlier.

Students will be able to apply for the joint degree in their third year after having taken core engineering courses and having demonstrated outstanding academic performance. They will receive the undergraduate degree immediately upon completion of the BS requirements.

Establish the Joint Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering/Master of Energy Engineering, College of Engineering and the Graduate College, Chicago

The University of Illinois Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the College of Engineering and the Graduate College, has approved theestablishment of the Joint Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering/Master of Energy Engineering.

Earned separately, the degrees require 160 credit hours over six years (128 + 32). In the joint program, the degrees will share two courses (8 credit hours) across the undergraduate and graduate degrees. This functionally leads to a 6-credit-hour reduction in the total credit hours needed to complete both degrees (due to accreditation factors), for a total of 154 credit hours over five years. In establishing the joint degrees, the department will retain some of its best students, and students will be able to earn both degrees a year earlier.

Students will be able to apply for the joint degree in their third year after having taken core engineering courses and having demonstrated outstanding academic performance. They will receive the undergraduate degree immediately upon completion of the BS requirements.

Revise the Master of Science in Biostatistics, Generalist Program, School of Public Health and the Graduate College, Chicago

The University of Illinois Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the School of Public Health and the Graduate College, has approved the revisionof the Master of Science in Biostatistics, Generalist Program.

The MS in Biostatistics educates students in the application of biostatistical methods. The current requirements for generalist students (i.e., students not in the concentration in Health Data Science) include: two core course requirements for the School of Public Health; 10 biostatistics divisional core course requirements; and a minimum of 8 credit hours in electives.

In terms of coursework, the proposal reduces the credit hours of a course by 1 and reduces the elective requirement from 8 credit hours to 4. Additionally, the proposal removes the comprehensive examination requirement (reflecting a shift to a discovery-based paper and project report embedded within coursework). The revisions will reduce the total credit hours required to earn the degree from 47 to 42. The change in total hours will allow students to complete their studies in a shorter time frame, making it more appealing to students who are looking to enter the workforce or pursue further studies more quickly. The changes align with requirements of the program’s accreditation body, the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH).

Revise the Master of Science in Biostatistics, Concentration in Health Data Science, School of Public Health and the Graduate College, Chicago

The University of Illinois Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the School of Public Health and the Graduate College, has approved the revisionof the Master of Science in Biostatistics, Concentration in Health Data Science.

The MS in Biostatistics offers the concentration in Health Data Science, which educates students in problem formulation, computational implementation, analysis and interpretation in advanced data science and machine learning methods, and techniques in diverse data applications in the health sciences. The program currently requires 48 credit hours, which students complete through coursework only.

Proposed changes to course requirements include shifting a required course to an elective option and increasing a course in health data science investigations from 2 to 3 credit hours. Additionally, the proposal updates the catalog requirements by applying changes that have already been made to the MS in Biostatistics (generalist program). This includes replacing statistics course requirements with similar courses tailored to biostatistics and shifting a required course to an elective course option. These changes lead to a reduction in total credit hours required from 48 to 42.

Revise the Doctor of Philosophy in Disability Studies, College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College, Chicago

 The University of Illinois Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the College of Applied Health Sciences and the Graduate College, has approved the revision of the Doctor of Philosophy in Disability Studies.

The PhD in Disability Studies is being revised to strengthen its unique program identity, provide more depth and breadth in required content and methodology training, and better prepare students to be competitive on the job market through a new professional development series. These changes reflect recommendations emerging from department strategic planning, feedback from students and alumni, and the IBHE-required program review process.

The main curricular changes include increasing total program requirements by 6 credit hours (from 96 to 102), increasing total core coursework from 64 credit hours to 74, decreasing the electives requirement from 24 to 9 credit hours, and increasing the dissertation hours from 24 to 27 credit hours. Additionally, there are changes to admission policies, including a decrease in the prior master’s degree credit hours applied towards the PhD degree (from 32 to 28), and making a master’s degree a requirement for entry into the program.

Revise the Doctor of Philosophy in Germanic Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College, Chicago

The University of Illinois Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College, has approved the revision of the Doctor of Philosophy in Germanic Studies.

The Department of Germanic Studies is adding three professional development components to the PhD program requirements: two 1-credit-hour workshops, and an internship (1-4 credit hours). These changes are aimed at better preparing students for careers both in and outside academia and will provide needed professional development opportunities and experience.

Additionally, PhD students who have completed the minimum coursework requirements, but who are not as yet “all but dissertation” in status, will be required to register for a new course to prepare for their preliminary examination and dissertation prospectus. This will give students a more structured path to these milestones. Registration in GER 590 can be repeated, and students will be allowed to apply a maximum of 16 credit hours of GER 590 towards the degree.

These changes will increase the required minimum credit hours for the PhD from 104 to 107 (or from 72 to 75 beyond a master’s degree).

Revise the Master of Engineering to Establish a Concentration in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, College of Engineering, Chicago

The University of Illinois Chicago Senate, with the recommendation of the College of Engineering, has approved the revision of the Master of Engineering to establish a concentration in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.

The Master of Engineering (MEng) is a coursework-only professional degree, requiring 9 courses for a total of 36 credit hours. The degree currently allows students to focus on artificial intelligence and machine learning, but this focus area is not a formal, transcripted credential. The college proposes to elevate the focus area into a formal concentration, which will result in a transcript note for program graduates. The concentration will include 6 of the 9 courses students complete for the degree.