

Board Meeting
July 19, 2018

ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION SCIENCES,
SCHOOL OF INFORMATION SCIENCES, URBANA

Action: Establish the Bachelor of Science in Information Sciences, School of Information Sciences

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 School of Information Sciences to establish the Bachelor of Science in Information Sciences.

The proposed Bachelor of Science in Information Sciences (BS in IS) will educate students in organizing and managing digital information, using information in particular application areas, and understanding the human dimensions, social context, and policy implications of information technology.

The School of Information Sciences (iSchool) is a charter member of the iSchool Caucus and an international leader in the information field. For almost 125 years, the iSchool has provided highly-regarded graduate education to students around the world. However, a degree with this emphasis has not been available to undergraduates. The proposed program will bring the expertise of the faculty who offer

the top-ranked graduate program in library and information science in the United States to undergraduates at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The proposed BS in IS will ensure the iSchool fulfills its mission "...to lead the way in understanding the use of information in science, culture, society, commerce, and the diverse activities of our daily lives." By providing undergraduates with both breadth and depth in information sciences, the BS in IS will prepare graduates for a wide range of careers that require an awareness of how people interact with information as well as technical information management skills. The BS in IS will offer a strong foundation in information theory and social inquiry as well as the technical and analytical skills that are necessary for the 21st century knowledge economy.

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.