

Board Meeting
July 23, 2015

ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PUBLIC POLICY, COLLEGE OF
PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND ADMINISTRATION, SPRINGFIELD

Action: Establish the Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy, College of Public Affairs and Administration

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 a proposal to establish the Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Policy in the College of Public Affairs and Administration.

The Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy will equip students with the analytical tools needed for effective, informed participation in policymaking. The program will offer a multi-disciplinary curriculum incorporating a number of fields within the social sciences to ensure that graduates will gain a broad understanding of the manner in which policy engages complex public problems. A two-track curriculum will allow students to focus their studies on either domestic or international policy-making. In completing the 120-credit hour on-ground degree, students will develop competency in the theory and process of public policy formation, learn to critically evaluate policy, and have the ability to demonstrate and integrate understanding of policy and applied politics.

Although the program will not be available entirely online, many of the courses will be offered online to provide students flexibility in their schedules.

As the first public university in Illinois to offer an undergraduate degree solely in public policy, UIS has the opportunity to take advantage of its location in the state capitol to offer applied learning opportunities in policy formation and analysis. Graduates of the degree program will find career opportunities as legislative staffers, executive agency employers, researchers, and policy analysts. The major will also prepare graduates for advanced study in fields such as public policy, policy analysis, political science, and law.

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 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.