

Board Meeting
June 9, 2011

ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES,
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND THE ARTS, CHICAGO

Action: Establish the Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies, College of Architecture and the Arts

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Vice President, University of Illinois, and Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago with the advice of the Chicago Senate and the College of Architecture and the Arts, recommends the establishment of the Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies.

The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Architectural Studies is an upper-level undergraduate major that uses architecture and related design practices as a lens through which to understand the history of ideas and cultural invention. The program is intended to provide a complementary alternative to the four-year Bachelor of Science in Architecture, which the School currently offers. The primary goal of the new program is the provision of a rigorous, liberal arts education inflected by one specific cultural discipline, namely architecture. The proposed Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) program is expected to be attractive to students who are interested in studying architecture, but who are unable to commit to the intensive four year, pre-professional Bachelor of Science (B.S.) program, or who develop their interest too late to make the B.S. a viable option.

As the major will draw from a broader and more diverse pool of applicants—and as its rigorous, liberal arts focus will emphasize general skills in critical reading, writing, and analysis, along with developing synthetic, problem solving techniques in a range of situations—there will be many opportunities for its graduates, including professional graduate programs such as the Master of Architecture or a scholarly oriented program such as the Master of Arts in Design Criticism. The program is also geared toward those who might have a general interest in the intersection of architecture and society, but who do not wish to pursue more specialized professional education at the graduate level. The critical and analytical ability, as well as design skills that a student develops through this disciplinary study in studio, are of value for study or work in landscape architecture, urban design and planning, public policy, history, law, journalism, or business.

Students will be admitted at the junior level after having completed two years of college, either at the Chicago campus or at other institutions. The program requires a total of 60 credit hours, and will include seven out of the current 17 required B.S. in Architecture courses offered within the School. Two new Architecture courses have been designed for the proposed B.A. program.

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.