

Approved by the Board of Trustees  
March 11, 2021

Board Meeting  
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ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND  
DESIGN, COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, CHICAGO

**Action:** Establish the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Design,  
College of Engineering

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois Chicago, and Vice President,  
University of Illinois System with the advice of the Chicago Senate and College of  
Engineering recommends the establishment of the Bachelor of Science in Computer  
Science and Design.

The B.S. in Computer Science and Design (CS + Design) is an  
interdisciplinary program shared between the Department of Computer Science in the  
College of Engineering and the School of Design in the College of Architecture, Design,  
and the Arts. The two units have collaborated for over forty years in operating the  
Electronic Visualization Laboratory (EVL), which specializes in collaborative  
visualization, virtual reality, visual data science, and advanced computing and  
networking infrastructure. The overarching goal of the B.S. in CS + Design is to foster a  
generation of technically savvy designers and creative scientists who operate between  
these disciplines. The degree is designed for students interested in using human-centered  
computing and design methods within fields that involve the creative application of

advanced technologies and cross-practice collaboration. There is only one other bachelor's degree program of this kind in the country at Northeastern University (Boston, MA).

The degree will be housed in the Department of Computer Science, but the CS + Design Program Advisory Committee comprised of faculty and staff from both units will make recommendations regarding admissions, monitor the program's performance and growth, and ensure the curriculum remains current. The degree will require 122 total hours, including 40 hours of general education and non-core courses, 36 hours in the computer science core, and 40 hours in the design core.

Entering students will begin their university studies as pre-majors in CS + Design. In order to be considered for admission to the degree, students must complete established course requirements (e.g., english, math, computer science, and design), and meet course grade and grade point average minimums. The colleges anticipate the first cohort of students in the program will be current computer science students who have already demonstrated an interest in this specialty. It is anticipated that 100 students will be enrolled once the degree is fully implemented.

The B.S. in CS + Design draws from existing faculty and curricular strengths in visualization, interaction, user experience, user studies, design and computer science research, typography, computer graphics, and application of computational design in real world situations. The degree is comprised entirely of existing courses. Current faculty in Computer Science and Design are adequate to support the program, as are facilities and library resources.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respect 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.