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ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HEALTHCARE INFORMATICS,
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT, SPRINGFIELD

Action: Establish the Master of Science in Healthcare Informatics, College of Business and Management

Funding: No new funding is required to initiate the program. Any future funding for a new faculty or staff member who might be needed within the next five years will be provided through program enrollment growth.

The Interim Chancellor, University of Illinois Springfield, and Vice President, University of Illinois System with the advice of the Springfield Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Business and Management to establish the Master of Science in Healthcare Informatics (M.S. HCI).

Per the American Health Information Management Association, healthcare informatics is an interdisciplinary field that utilizes technology to organize, analyze, manage, and use information to improve healthcare. As a fast-growing field, various healthcare informatic applications, such as electronic health records, electronic billing, and data analytics, are becoming critical to the development and success of health services. The proposed M.S. HCI is designed to develop graduate students' leadership, analytical thinking, data analytic skills, and management skills in healthcare informatics as required by private, public, and nonprofit healthcare institutions.

The proposed M.S. HCI, a 30-hour degree program, will be housed in the Department of Management Information Systems and will provide students with an opportunity to begin a career in healthcare informatics or to advance existing careers in a healthcare organization. It is also expected that healthcare technicians and nurses will pursue this degree to advance their careers to information technology-related management positions. The proposed program will prepare students to navigate legal, privacy, regulatory, and ethical challenges in healthcare. Graduates of the program will be marketable in high-demand fields such as health data analytics and information systems in healthcare organizations. Although the program is designed for program completion within 12 months, students may require more time to complete the degree based on personal and professional circumstances.

The program curriculum, which was mapped to the American Medical Informatics Association Core Competencies for Health Informatics, and designed in consultation with healthcare informatics experts from industry and academia, includes ten required courses such as a survey of U.S. Healthcare Systems, and topics such as Healthcare Information Systems Security and Privacy, and Project Management in Healthcare. A required exit exam will assess student knowledge mastered in the program, as well as the achievement of the program's learning objectives.

The M.S. HCI will be offered in an online format, providing coursework flexibility that is expected to attract working professionals, as well as students who seek competencies in applying acquired information technology skills to support various types of healthcare operations.

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.