

Board Meeting
March 15, 2017

ELIMINATE THE MASTER OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL
ARTS AND SCIENCES AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, URBANA

Action: Eliminate the Master of Arts in Psychology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College

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 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College to eliminate the Master of Arts in Psychology.

The Master of Arts (M.A.) in Psychology is a degree that is embedded within the doctoral program in the Department of Psychology. Students apply to and are admitted to the doctoral program, and the current M.A. is an optional step on the way to the Ph.D., as doctoral students are required to complete a master's-level research report but not to pursue a master's degree. For various reasons, students in the doctoral program sometimes leave prior to completion of the Ph.D. and will complete the M.A. based on coursework and completion of a thesis. The needs of such students are better served by an embedded Master of Science in Psychology, another degree option in the department. The requirements for the M.A. are almost identical to the requirements for

the Master of Science (M.S.) in Psychology, which offers both a thesis and a non-thesis option. Both degrees are not needed.

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.