

Board Meeting
March 15, 2018

RENAME AND REVISE THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MATHEMATICS,
CONCENTRATION IN PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL
ARTS AND SCIENCES AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, CHICAGO

Action: Rename and Revise the Master of Science, Concentration in Probability and Statistics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Chicago Senate, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Graduate College recommends the renaming and revision of the Master of Science in Mathematics, Concentration in Probability and Statistics as the Master of Science in Statistics.

Statistics is the science that provides the foundation for the valid collection and analysis of data. Over the past 30 years since the concentration in probability and statistics was established, the use of statistical methods in areas of application has increased to include virtually all areas of business, industry, and government. Further, the advent of “big data” has created the need for statistical methods to address new, previously unexplored, areas. In order to address this demand, universities all over the country have developed stand-alone degrees in statistics.

Renaming and revising the concentration as a stand-alone degree (the MS in Statistics) will accurately reflect the content of the program and serve the career advancement of graduates. Students will continue to complete a minimum of 32 hours of coursework, comprised of 12 hours of required courses in probability, statistical theory, and applied statistical methods and 20 hours of electives (at least 8 hours of which must be in statistics). No thesis is required, but students must pass a master's examination.

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.