

Board Meeting  
March 15, 2018

ELIMINATE THE MASTER OF ARTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES,  
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND ADMINISTRATION, SPRINGFIELD

**Action:** Eliminate the Master of Arts in Environmental Studies, College of Public Affairs and Administration

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Springfield, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the College of Public Affairs and Administration recommends approval of the elimination of the Master of Arts in Environmental Studies.

The Department of Environmental Studies currently offers both a Master of Arts in Environmental Studies and a Master of Science in Environmental Sciences. Both degree programs have the same prerequisite and core courses with similar elective options. Because students have indicated a strong preference for the Master of Science (M.S.) over the Master of Arts (M.A.), the Department faculty voted to eliminate the M.A. and consolidate it with the M.S. Students currently enrolled in the M.A. program will be allowed to complete the degree within the allowable time limit or transfer to the M.S. program with no changes in curriculum, course rotation, or closure options. No department courses will be cut or eliminated as a result of this reorganization. The consolidation is expected to streamline programming, simplify advising, and improve recruitment.

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.