

Board Meeting  
May 11, 2017

ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DESIGN, COLLEGE OF  
ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN, AND THE ARTS, CHICAGO

**Action:** Establish the Bachelor of Arts in Design, College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Chicago Faculty Senate and the Dean of the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts recommends the establishment of the Bachelor of Arts in Design.

The School of Design in the College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts currently offers the Bachelor of Design (BDes) and Master of Design (MDes) in both Graphic Design and Industrial Design. The BDes programs have a rigorous and specialized studio-based curriculum (76-80 studio hours out of 133 in total) that begins in the freshman year and requires specific sequencing of courses through four years of study. Because programs at community colleges or other institutions are unlikely to contain equivalent content, the School of Design is not able to accept transfer credit. Further, students who develop an interest in design after beginning their undergraduate studies have no pathway for entry into the discipline.

The B.A. in Design is an upper-level undergraduate degree that provides a focused introduction to design practices by combining methodologies and processes from both graphic design and industrial design. The degree focuses on the human experience in the design of communications, objects, and/or services, and views design process as a research-based activity. It was developed as a result of demand from students at UIC and other institutions who wish to transfer their academic interests to design studies, and from students who wish to transfer previous credit in design studies from other institutions.

Undergraduate students having completed 20 hours of pre-design studies (i.e., academic writing, art history, history of design, and general education coursework) are eligible for admission as sophomores, and students having completed 52 hours of pre-design studies including 16 studio hours of approved credit (i.e., drawing, photography, digital media design, and color theory) are eligible for admission as juniors. To earn the B.A. in Design, students must complete all pre-design academic and studio course requirements (52 hours), 46 hours of required design courses, and a sufficient number of electives to reach 120 hours in total.

No other institution in Illinois offers an interdisciplinary B.A. in Design. The degree will complement the existing BDes programs and allow the School of Design to expand its contribution to city, state, and regional employment by increasing the number of graduates qualified for work as design professionals in a growing range of industries. The program has a projected enrollment of 24 students in the first year and 100 once fully implemented.

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.