

Board Meeting  
May 14, 2014

ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ANALYTICS, COLLEGE  
OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, CHICAGO

**Action:** Establish the Master of Science in Business Analytics, College of Business Administration

**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, Graduate College, and the College of Business Administration, recommends the establishment of the Master of Science in Business Analytics.

Business analytics is a field which focuses on business data, its storage and access, its interpretation and use for business intelligence, and organizational practices regarding data governance and security. The Master of Science in Business Analytics has been designed and is directed at meeting the growing demand for business analytics professionals. It is targeted both at students who seek specialized knowledge and training to work in increasingly data rich business environments, as well as working professionals looking to develop business intelligence and analytics competencies. The degree will also prepare students for further education in doctoral programs related to information management and analytics, as well as further education and research in broader areas

with emerging interest in data- and analytics-driven opportunities like healthcare, financial markets, marketing, public administration, and risk management.

The distinguishing feature of the degree is its blend of technical skills, statistical knowledge, and business capabilities. The degree requires a minimum of 32 hours of graduate coursework. This is comprised of 12 hours of core courses in database management, statistical models and methods, and data mining; a 4-hour capstone course in which students apply analytical skills to practical problems; and 16 hours of electives chosen according to individual career goals and industry-related work interests. Students with the necessary business and technical background can expect to complete the degree within twelve months. Students requiring prerequisite preparation may take 18 to 24 months to complete the degree.

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 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.