

Board Meeting
May 14, 2014

REDESIGNATE, RENAME, AND REVISE THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE WITH A
MAJOR IN STATISTICS AND OPERATIONS RESEARCH, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL
ARTS AND SCIENCES, CHICAGO

Action: Redesignate, Rename, and Revise the Bachelor of Science with a Major in
Statistics and Operations Research, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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 and the College of Liberal
Arts and Sciences, recommends the redesignation and renaming of the Bachelor of
Science with a Major in Statistics and Operations Research as the Bachelor of Science in
Liberal Arts and Sciences with a Major in Statistics.

Currently undergraduate students can pursue a Bachelor of Science in
Statistics and Operations Research. The degree was designed for students planning
advanced study in statistics and operations research, or planning for careers in the data-
oriented applications of these disciplines to a wider variety of areas including accounting,
actuarial science, auditing, data management, and financial analysis. However, the
degree program has been under-enrolled for many years, with students numbering only in
the single digits.

While statistics is one component of the current degree, it is not the focus. The curriculum combines coursework in mathematics, economics, statistics, computing, and operations research. After assessing the viability of the degree, the Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science determined that it was appropriate to refocus the degree and better utilize the expertise of its faculty by offering a strong undergraduate program in statistics. As a result, the current degree will be revised, renamed, and redesignated as the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences with a Major in Statistics.

As expertise in statistical theory and methods has become increasingly necessary in the natural and social sciences, professional demand for statistical training has increased. The revised degree is expected to attract more students and better prepare them for professional opportunities. Coursework in economics, computing, and operations research will be eliminated. The degree will require 120 credit hours comprised of 79 hours of general education and elective coursework and 41 hours in the major, almost exclusively mathematics and statistics courses. In addition, all students will earn one of two concentrations, Applied Statistics or Statistical Theory and Methods.

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.