Approved by the Board of Trustees

May 16, 2024

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Board Meeting

May 16, 2024

ESTABLISH THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN STATISTICS, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, CHICAGO

**Action:** Establish the Doctor of Philosophy in Statistics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College

**Funding:** No new funding is required

The chancellor, University of Illinois Chicago, and vice president, University of Illinois System, with the advice of the University of Illinois Chicago Senate, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Graduate College, recommends the establishment of the Doctor of Philosophy in Statistics.

As a discipline, statistics is concerned with the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data, as well as the effective communication and presentation of results. Accordingly, the field of statistics has become an essential area of study, as government, industry, business, and academia increasingly rely on data-driven decisions. Currently, UIC students may train as statisticians by entering the PhD in Mathematics program and specializing in statistics and probability. However, formally establishing a PhD in Statistics would boost the visibility of the program in the eyes of potential students and faculty. The PhD in Statistics will provide opportunities for advanced study and research in both applied and theoretical statistics. Graduates will be able to engage in independent statistical research in academic, industrial, or public policy settings.

Students in the program will complete a minimum of 96 credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. As such, the program will require 32 credit hours in core coursework; at least 20 credit hours in 500-level courses under course rubrics in mathematics, statistics, or mathematical computer science; and 44-64 credit hours in a focus area. Students will also take two preliminary examinations in their major area and complete a minor sequence of two 500-level courses (or take a third preliminary examination). Additionally, students are expected to take a course in statistical consulting or participate in at least one consulting project with UIC’s Statistical Laboratory (which provides statistical consulting services for faculty, staff, and graduate students inside and outside the university). Finally, students will complete an oral preliminary examination and a thesis based on original research.

Given that this new program builds on the existing structure within the PhD in mathematics, the current department budget is sufficient to support a standalone PhD in statistics. The instruction for the new program will be provided by the current faculty, and the required courses in the program are already being offered. As a result, the program is requesting no new funding.

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 of Illinois System recommends approval.

This action is subject to further review by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.