Approved by the Board of Trustees

May 18, 2023

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Board Meeting

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# RENAME AND REORGANIZE THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN GLOBAL STUDIES, COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND EDUCATION, SPRINGFIELD

**Action:** Rename and Reorganize the Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies, College of Public Affairs and Education

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois Springfield, and Vice President, University of Illinois System, with the advice of the Springfield Senate, recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Public Affairs and Education to rename the Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies (BAGBL) to the Bachelor of Arts in International and Global Studies (BAIGS) and reorganize the curriculum.

**Since the program began over 10 years ago, the interdisciplinary BAGBL has been housed within the Department of Political Science and has provided** multiple perspectives to students to understand the global community. As part of the university’s recent academic reorganization, the Global Studies program is now housed in the new School of Politics and International Affairs (SPIA). Changing the program name to include “international studies” will expand curricular linkages between the degree program and the new school and give students the opportunity to take a wider range of courses with the school’s instructors and researchers.

The degree’s strong interdisciplinary curriculum will continue, with an emphasis on upper-division core coursework in fields such as economics, environmental studies, and history. The popularity and need for interdisciplinary Bachelor of Arts programs has increased since the establishment of the BAGBL. In addition, more institutions now offer interdisciplinary degrees focused on both global and international studies, so this name change will better align the degree with those offered at peer institutions.

The curricular changes in the new program include two substantive changes and three minor changes. The two substantive changes include eliminating the foreign language requirement, as well as the methods course. Because resource constraints have led UIS to eliminate foreign language courses, the presence of a foreign language requirement in the global studies degree has deterred students from pursuing the degree. By eliminating this requirement and expanding the degree’s interdisciplinary focus, the program is expected to boost enrollment. With respect to eliminating the methods course requirement, the program faculty have chosen to scaffold research requirements throughout the program, culminating in the program’s required capstone course to ensure that students are able to improve their research skills over several courses rather than in a single course.

The non-substantive changes in the degree will include:

* + Eliminating the Self-designed/Topical concentration
  + Renaming the Globalization concentration
  + Renaming the Politics and Diplomacy concentration

The Globalization concentration, which draws heavily on courses offered outside the SPIA, such as economics, environmental studies, and sociology, will be renamed the Global Affairs and Development concentration. The Politics and Diplomacy concentration, which includes courses from within SPIA and history, will be renamed the International Relations and Diplomacy concentration. The program will eliminate the *S*elf-Designed/Topical concentration. However, students who choose to pursue an optional concentration may select either the Global Affairs and Development concentration or the International Relations and Diplomacy concentration.

No additional costs are associated with the reorganization of the BAGBL.

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 and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.