

Board Meeting
May 19, 2016

ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN DISABILITY AND HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT, COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES, CHICAGO

Action: Establish the Bachelor of Science in Disability and Human Development,
College of Applied Health 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 College of Applied
Health Sciences recommends the establishment of the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in
Disability and Human Development.

The B.S. in Disability and Human Development fosters understanding of
disability as a social, political, historical, cultural, and environmental phenomenon, not
just a medical or biological condition. The degree brings together the expertise of faculty
within the Department of Disability and Human Development, which already offers both
a master's and doctoral degree in the field, that spans disability policy; disability culture;
performance and arts; history and literature; advocacy, rights, and social justice; family
and community studies; assistive technology; and health disparities and health promotion.

Students completing the degree will meet the demand for skilled employees
able to foster the fuller inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of cultural,
social, economic, and political life. Graduates will be positioned to pursue careers with

potential employers that include non-profit organizations that work with people with disabilities, care and community support services, and businesses that require knowledge of disability laws and policies. They will also be prepared to enter graduate and professional programs in disability studies, the health sciences, social work, and special education.

There are no comparable programs in the State of Illinois that grant an undergraduate degree in disability and human development, disability studies, or offer a dedicated focus on disability from an interdisciplinary perspective. The B.S. in Disability and Human Development requires 120-credit hours including 34 hours of core and elective coursework within the major, and a capstone service-learning opportunity in which students work with on-campus units or community partners to put the knowledge they have gained through coursework into practice. The program has an anticipated enrollment of 25 students in the first year and 140 once fully implemented. This projection is based on interest in the discipline as demonstrated by enrollment in undergraduate coursework offered by the department and Minor in Disability and Human Development. Established in 2013, the minor is currently being pursued by 104 undergraduates.

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 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.