

Board Meeting
May 20, 2010

ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY,
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY, CHICAGO

Action: Establish the Master of Science in Forensic Toxicology, College of Pharmacy

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor at Chicago with the advice of the Chicago Senate, the Graduate College, the College of Pharmacy, and its Department of Biopharmaceutical Sciences, recommends the establishment of the Master of Science in Forensic Toxicology.

The Master of Science in Forensic Toxicology is a natural outgrowth of the current Master of Science in Forensic Science at the Chicago campus. Forensic Science is broader in scope, encompassing criminalistics (forensic chemistry, physical pattern evidence, biology/DNA, and materials) as well as forensic toxicology. The proposed program in Forensic Toxicology is more specifically focused on the study of the biochemistry, pharmacology, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of drugs, toxins, and exogenous substances (or addition of endogenous substances, such as anabolic steroids), and the analytical methods for detecting and quantitating such drugs and substances in body fluids and tissues.

The proposed program is a comprehensive, research-based, professional master's degree with emphasis on basic knowledge of analytical chemistry, physiology, and pharmacology, and problem formulation and solving skills as developed through thesis research. It can provide a pathway to gainful employment in positions requiring or desiring M.S.-level training. It can also provide preparation for Ph.D. programs in areas such as toxicology, pharmacology, and medicinal chemistry.

A minimum of 42 hours is required to complete the Forensic Toxicology program, which is composed of ten required courses, six hours of electives, and a thesis requirement. Graduate program coursework emphasizes the major areas of basic biochemistry, pathophysiology, pharmacology, and forensic aspects of toxicological and drug-testing analytical methods and design. There are also opportunities for M.S. students to work as research assistants in the program's equine toxicology laboratory.

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.