

Approved by the Board of Trustees
May 20, 2021

Board Meeting
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RENAME, REORGANIZE, AND REVISE THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH, CONCENTRATION IN BIOSTATISTICS, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, CHICAGO

Action: Rename, Reorganize, and Revise the Master of Science in Public Health, Concentration in Biostatistics, School of Public Health and the Graduate College

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois Chicago, and Vice President, University of Illinois System with the advice of the Chicago Senate, School of Public Health, and the Graduate College recommends the renaming, reorganization, and revision of the Master of Science in Public Health, Concentration in Biostatistics. The program will become the Master of Science in Biostatistics.

The School of Public Health offers work leading to the M.S. in Public Health with concentrations that reflect the areas of focus of the school's academic divisions: Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Community Health Sciences, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, and Health Policy and Administration. The M.S. in Public Health requires a minimum of 48 credit hours and includes a school-wide core comprised of three courses. The remainder of the degree is completed primarily within a specific discipline (i.e., the concentration). However, the degree that is awarded to

students is the M.S. in Public Health regardless of the concentration pursued or the specific concentration requirements.

Reorganizing and renaming the M.S. in Public Health, Concentration in Biostatistics as the M.S. in Biostatistics will better reflect the program's content. It also makes graduates more competitive candidates for employment in their field of study. In addition, the M.S. in Biostatistics will be eligible for designation as a STEM program, increasing opportunities for accessing external funding from organizations that focus on STEM-related work and attracting prospective students who prioritize the STEM designation in their choice of graduate school.

The M.S. in Biostatistics will continue to educate students in the application of biostatistical research methods in preparation for research careers. The degree will require a minimum of 48 credit hours and is completed through coursework only. Students complete two of the school-wide core courses in foundations of public health and introduction to epidemiology, required courses in biostatistics and statistics, and electives. The existing Concentration in Health Analytics will become an optional concentration in the M.S. in Biostatistics. Students wishing to complete this concentration must meet additional requirements.

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

concur with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. The action is subject to further review by the Illinois Board of Higher Education but IBHE approval is not required.