Approved by the Board of Trustees

May 22, 2025

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Board Meeting

May 22, 2025

# ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION IN MANAGEMENT SCIENCE, COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT, SPRINGFIELD

**Action:** Establish the Master of Business Administration in Management Science, College of Business and Management

**Funding:** No new funding required

The chancellor, University of Illinois Springfield, and vice president, University of Illinois System, with the advice of the University of Illinois Springfield Senate and the College of Business and Management, recommends the establishment of the Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Management Science.

Students pursuing a University of Illinois Springfield (UIS) MBA with a management science focus - utilizing data-driven analytics to manage business - currently pursue a general MBA degree with the opportunity to select a certificate in a variety of analytic foci, such as Business Analytics, Accounting Analytics, and Business Process Management. Their granted diploma notes the award of an MBA, but neither the elected certificate nor the management science focus is listed on the diploma. Instead, the transcript includes two designations: the MBA and the selected graduate certificate.

The proposed MBA in Management Science will create a distinct degree that identifies the quantitative nature of the curriculum and its STEM focus. It will separate the MBA in Management Science from the broader MBA program and include the certificate programs which carry STEM-designated coursework related to management science. This will allow students’ degrees to represent their refined field of study more accurately.

To earn an MBA in Management Science, students will complete the same curriculum required of both the current MBA and the Business Analytics certificate. The 30-hour curriculum, which will be offered in both face-to-face and online formats, consists of 10 courses. As the program expands, students will have the choice to earn an MBA in Management Science by completing the core program curriculum and either the Business Analytics certificate or one of the other data analytic-focused certificates offered at UIS, such as Accounting Analytics, Business Process Management, and Cybersecurity Management, among others*.*

The MBA in Management Science is designed for completion within 12 calendar months but also allows students to take longer to complete the program based on professional and personal circumstances. The online/on-campus program format will provide coursework flexibility to working professionals and students and meet the increasing demand for professionals to hone skills in data analytics, statistics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and other areas of expertise. By offering a stand-alone MBA in Management Science, UIS will be recognized as an academic leader, capturing demand for STEM-based graduate programs in business and analytics by leveraging existing strengths, capacity, and expertise of core faculty in business and management information wsystems.

The MBA in Management Science will be housed in the College of Business and Management under the leadership of the dean and included in the catalog as a program of the Department of Management, Marketing, and Operations. No new State resources are needed, as UIS has both the facilities and faculty to support the reclassification of the MBA with the Business Analytics certificate into a stand-alone program. All courses will be taught by existing faculty or highly qualified adjuncts. All required and elective courses for the program are currently regularly offered at UIS. Class sizes and student-faculty ratios are expected to remain the same, though as enrollment increases, additional sections are easily scalable.

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.