

Board Meeting  
May 29, 2013

ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY WITH A  
CONCENTRATION IN PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE MASTER'S, COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES AND GRADUATE COLLEGE, URBANA

**Action:** Establish the Master of Science in Plant Biotechnology with a concentration in Professional Science Master's, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Graduate College

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College to establish the Master of Science in Plant Biotechnology with a concentration in professional science master's.

The proposed major in Plant Biotechnology, in the Illinois Professional Science Master's program, is a self-supporting professional program that will primarily serve students seeking a terminal masters degree as enhanced preparation for careers in plant biotechnology that call for both science and business-related skills and responsibilities. The new major presents a clearly-defined biotechnology theme that requires students to complete a core set of biotechnology-based courses and strongly encourages technology-based experiential learning. This major will replace the

Department of Plant Biology's offering in the Illinois Professional Science Master's program; the Master of Science in Plant Biology will be retained outside the Professional Science Master's program. To date, efforts to optimize industry linkages and promote the program to students have been hampered by limitations imposed by both the current degree name and content of the masters program.

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.