

Board Meeting
May 7, 2015

ELIMINATE THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN THE TEACHING OF CHEMISTRY,
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES, CHICAGO

Action: Eliminate the Bachelor of Science in the Teaching of Chemistry, College of Liberal Arts and 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 the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences recommends the elimination of the Bachelor of Science in the Teaching of Chemistry.

The B.S. in the Teaching of Chemistry is an intensive degree designed to prepare students for teaching chemistry in secondary schools. In addition to general education, required prerequisite and related courses, students complete 40-hours in chemistry, largely following the major requirements of the B.A. in Liberal Arts and Sciences, major in Chemistry. Students also complete 17-hours of required courses in the College of Education related to teacher licensure, and 8- to 18-hours of courses recommended for science teacher licensure in the natural or physical sciences.

For a number of years, the B.S. in the Teaching of Chemistry has experienced low enrollment and few degrees have been awarded. Since 2009, no more than 18 students have been enrolled in a given year and no more than four degrees have

been awarded annually. Further, all teaching degrees will soon face the need for significant reorganization to meet the regulatory requirements of the Illinois State Board of Education. At the same time, the Department of Chemistry recognized that few students finish the program in less than five years because it includes several field experiences and a full semester of student teaching, during which no other courses may be taken.

Given the availability of high quality Master of Education (M.Ed.) programs in Chicago's College of Education, a superior way of serving students interested in high school chemistry teaching will be for students to earn a bachelor's degree in chemistry followed by a master's degree in education.

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.