

Board Meeting  
November 14, 2019

ESTABLISH THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN METROPOLITAN FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, URBANA

**Action:** Establish the Bachelor of Science in Metropolitan Food and Environmental Systems, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

**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 Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences to establish the Bachelor of Science in Metropolitan Food and Environmental Systems.

The proposed Bachelor of Science in Metropolitan Food and Environmental Systems (B.S. in MFES) uses an interdisciplinary approach to understanding and implementing solutions in the areas of metropolitan food and environmental systems. The B.S. in MFES will be administratively housed at the college level, allowing for integration of disciplines from across the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES). Students will learn the science and practice of food production, processing, and security across urban environmental,

economic, and social contexts with emphasis on maintenance of metropolitan environmental sustainability.

In response to the challenge of feeding the world's future population in a sustainable way that promotes environmental and human health, local food systems have become a fast-emerging sector of agricultural and food science in major metropolitan areas. Currently, there is no undergraduate program in the state of Illinois that takes a holistic, systems-oriented approach to training students in the science and practice of metropolitan food systems. The proposed B.S. in MFES responds to that opportunity and need. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's College of ACES is uniquely equipped to provide this program through the offering of its multi-disciplinary coursework in an integrated way that will prepare students for careers in the agricultural and food sectors. The demand for such graduates is expected to grow as professional opportunities expand in the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and local-state agencies. In addition, the proposed B.S. in MFES will promote connections between urban communities and constituencies with the university and the College of ACES.

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 recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.