Approved by the Board of Trustees

November 18, 2021

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Board Meeting

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## ESTABLISH THE CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED STUDY IN SCHOOLS SPECIALIZATION, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, URBANA

**Action:** Establish the Certificate of Advanced Study in Schools Specialization,

School of Social Work and the Graduate College

**Funding:** Anticipated enrollments from the program are not expected to make appreciable changes to class size, teaching loads, or student-faculty ratios. Students will utilize existing advising and career services.

The Chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois System with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the School of Social Work and the Graduate College to establish the Certificate of Advanced Study in Schools Specialization.

The School of Social Work at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has been offering the schools specialization requirements to allow students to gain their Illinois Professional Educator License (PEL) with Endorsement in School Social Work for the past several years. However, up to this point, these students return to complete this requirement as non-degree students who are not eligible for financial aid. Inquiries for this program have doubled in the past two years, but once prospective students apply and find out they are not eligible to apply for student loans, many students are unable to seek this endorsement. By creating a Certificate of Advanced Study for post-Master of Social Work (MSW) applicants, students will then be eligible for FAFSA to help cover the cost of the Schools Specialization program. The State of Illinois is in great need of School Social Workers and students must possess the School Social Worker Endorsement to be eligible to be a School Social Worker in Illinois. Students completing this program are entitled by the Council on Teachers Education with a School Social Worker License.

Students in the proposed program will integrate into classes that are already being taught in the MSW outreach program. Advising and admissions will be overseen by the School of Social Work’s Graduate Enrollment Director, and the existing Student Affairs team will assist with career planning. No new or additional facilities, significant improvements to existing facilities, or additional resources from the University Library are needed.

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 Interim 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 by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.