

Board Meeting
September 19, 2019

RENAME THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES,
MAJOR IN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND
SCIENCES, CHICAGO

Action: Rename the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in African American Studies, 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 renaming of the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in African American Studies. The program will be renamed the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences, Major in Black Studies.

In 2017, the Department of African American Studies revised the curriculum to more explicitly incorporate non-U.S. histories and perspectives, including a requirement that majors take at least two courses in African Diaspora studies that examine the dispersal of persons of African descent around the globe. The major is now organized around four themes that do not privilege a geographic location or national affiliation, but rather emphasize categories of inquiry regarding black subjects: black queer and feminist studies; diasporic and transnational studies; cultural production and analysis; and race, politics, and institutions.

The idea of African American Studies is not being erased, rather, it will be viewed as a subfield under the larger rubric of Black Studies. No revisions to the curriculum are proposed at this time. In the last decade, the larger field has shifted toward a more global and transnational emphasis and this is reflected in faculty research and courses taught among UIC peer and peer aspirational institutions.

The renaming will be effective Fall 2020, and will mirror the new name of the academic department which is being concurrently renamed as the Department of Black Studies.

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.