

ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY



Graduate School

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TO: Susan Kalter, Chairperson, Academic Senate
FROM: Denise Wilson, Chairperson, Graduate Curriculum Committee
RE: Executive Summary – Proposal for the New Master of Science in Business Education

The Graduate Curriculum Committee has approved and is forwarding for Academic Senate consideration the attached proposal to add a new Master of Science in Business Education.

The Master of Science in Business Education (MSBE) degree is a collegiate degree with courses offered in the College of Business and the College of Education. The goal of the Illinois State University MSBE program is to prepare students for successful careers in positions of leadership in business or education organizations; including, teaching at the community college level. The Department of Business Education provided the following rationale for adding this new degree program:

- Practicing business teachers in the State of Illinois do not have a pathway to earning a graduate degree within their discipline. By adding the MSBE program, those practicing teachers can improve their teaching skills while also qualifying to teach in institutions of higher learning. The program would strengthen business education across the state.
- The anticipated market for the MSBE will be multi-pronged. First, alumni of the current undergraduate Business Education program will find this degree beneficial in that they can select one of two paths. It is important to note that there are ten credit hours in the BE discipline (BE 461, 465, 480, and 482) that alumni would not have completed as part of their bachelor's degree. Path one: students can continue to enhance their knowledge of the business disciplines by selecting the MBA elective hours. By doing this, they are also earning the hours necessary to qualify them to teach in a two-year program and/or within the first two years of a 4-year program. Path two: students can elect to take courses within the College of Education in the areas of K-12 education administration, instructional design, or educational technology.
- The third market is working professionals who have a desire to teach in a 2-year program or within the first 2 years of a 4-year program. By completing the MBA elective path, these students would earn the hours required to teach within a business discipline. A fourth potential market would be certified teachers who have earned a teaching degree in another discipline. This program could provide some of the required hours (24 upper-division hours in business) to allow the teacher to take the content exam in business and add business education as an endorsement.
- Depending upon the path desired, this degree has the flexibility to appeal to multiple markets.

The Graduate Curriculum Committee supports the proposal to add the new Master of Science in Business Education.

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Attachments