

APPROVED
January 17, 2024

 Dave Kelm
General Counsel

Item #D-2
January 17, 2024

NEW UNITS OF INSTRUCTION AT PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: This item requests approval of two new associate degree programs to be offered at one community college.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approves the following programs at the college indicated:

Illinois Central College

- Associate in Fine Arts in Art and Design
- Associate in Fine Arts in Music

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

NEW UNITS OF INSTRUCTION AT PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES

By statute, the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) is responsible for approving new associate degree programs proposed by public community colleges. The Board's approval criteria, defined in administrative rules, address relevance to college mission, academic control, faculty and staff, support services, financial resources, student demand, employer demand, curriculum, and congruence with IBHE policies and priorities. Before a recommendation for approval of an associate degree program is submitted to the IBHE for approval, staff of the IBHE and the Illinois Community College Board review the proposal. Once agreement is reached on a proposal having met the approval criteria, a recommendation for approval is presented to each board. In addition to the approval criteria in rules, each new program was reviewed for its contributions to the goals of the higher education strategic plan, *A Thriving Illinois: Higher Education Paths to Equity, Sustainability, and Growth*, which sets forth priorities to guide Illinois higher education. Staff recommendations are based on analyses of application materials and responses to staff questions.

Executive Summary

Illinois Central College

- Associate in Fine Arts in Art and Design

Illinois Central College (ICC or the College) is seeking approval for a 62-credit hour Associate in Fine Arts (AFA) in Art and Design degree. The proposed AFA degree is designed for the art and design student planning to transfer to a baccalaureate program in the visual arts. Students must complete 31 credit hours of required general education coursework, 18 credit hours of required art coursework, and an additional 13 to 15 credit hours focused on either studio art or graphic design. Assessment of student learning will be achieved through evaluation of a student portfolio prior to program completion/transfer by ICC faculty. The proposed program will provide a pathway for transfer while also building students' core art skills and offering two tracks for visual arts options. There are policies in place to ensure faculty members possess the training, credentials, and qualifications to provide instruction in the proposed program. The College has sufficient library, technology, staff, and financial resources in place to support the proposed program.

- Associate in Fine Arts in Music

Illinois Central College is seeking approval for a 63-credit hour Associate in Fine Arts (AFA) degree in Music. The proposed AFA degree is closely aligned with the lower division coursework at universities offering bachelor's degree programs in music, offering students a seamless articulation process when transferring to a four-year institution. Students must complete 31 credit hours of required general education coursework and 32 credit hours of required music coursework. The proposed program will provide a pathway for building students' core music skills while also preparing students for transfer into related music programs at the baccalaureate level. There are

policies in place to ensure faculty members possess the training, credentials, and qualifications to provide instruction in the proposed program. The College has sufficient library, technology, staff, and financial resources in place to support the proposed program.

Approval request summary, including staff conclusion, follows in Attachment A.

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolutions:

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby grants authority to the Illinois Central College to offer the Associate in Fine Arts in Art and Design and the Associate in Fine Arts in Music subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.

Illinois Central College
1 College Drive
East Peoria, Illinois 61635
President: Dr. Sheila Quirk-Bailey

Proposed Program Title: Associate in Fine Arts in Arts and Design

Program Purpose

This program will provide a pathway for students to transfer into related Visual Arts baccalaureate degree programs.

Catalog Description

Associate in Fine Arts (AFA) in Art and Design degree is designed for the art and design student planning to transfer to a baccalaureate program in the visual arts. To prepare for transfer at junior standing, students are encouraged to complete the following coursework in the Associate in Fine Arts degree in Art and Design (1) one semester of Drawing I; (2) two semesters of 2D Design and 3D Design; (3) two semesters of the survey of Western art history, ancient to modern; and (4) recommended courses under their area of specialization in studio arts or graphic design.

Curricular Information

The Illinois Central College's (ICC or the College) proposed requirements for the Associate in Fine Arts in Art and Design fall within acceptable limits as defined by the Administrative Rules of the Illinois Community College Board and are consistent with the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) Panel recommendations. The proposed AFA degree is closely aligned with lower division coursework at universities offering bachelor's degree programs in art and design/visual arts, offering students a seamless articulation process when transferring to a four-year institution. Students must complete 31 credit hours of required general education coursework, 18 credit hours of required art coursework, and an additional 13 to 15 credit hours focused on either studio art or graphic design.

Assessment of student learning will be achieved through evaluation of a student portfolio prior to program completion/transfer by ICC faculty. All facilities and equipment are currently in place to support the program. The program will require seven full-time and three to nine part-time faculty to implement the program. All faculty meet the requirements for teaching baccalaureate/transfer courses including master's degrees in the discipline and at least five years of work and/or teaching experience. The program will otherwise be supported fiscally through student tuition and fees.

Justification for Credit Hours Required for the Degree

The proposed program falls within the acceptable range of credit hours (60 to 68) for AFA degrees as outlined in the Administrative Rules of the Illinois Community College Board, Section 1501.302 a)3)A)ii. The curriculum was designed to provide a pathway for transfer while also building students' core art skills and offering two tracks for visual arts options and includes the General Education Core Curriculum (GECC) Credential. The additional two credit hours include professional portfolio development coursework required for baccalaureate/transfer assessment.

Accrediting Information

Illinois Central College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. No specialized accreditation is required.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Efforts

Illinois Central College is committed to equity strategies that involve closing gaps on who enrolls, persists, and completes baccalaureate/transfer degree programs. They currently employ Recruitment and Retention Specialists who are tasked with utilizing multiple forms of outreach with underrepresented groups in an effort to increase enrollment, retention and graduation rates. The College also employs Diversity Retention Coordinators to increase access to and the understanding of all the student support services available. The College offers a range of wraparound services and intrusive student services which includes follow up for at-risk students by faculty, student mentors, and advising staff. They participate in a variety of support programs including TRIO, Upward Bound, and the Workforce Equity Initiative. The College continues its efforts to hire and retain a diverse faculty, staff, and administration through Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training for search committees, advertising to diverse audiences, review of existing policies and practices, and providing access to DEI support activities throughout the year. Faculty have access to classroom support through the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence. The College will intentionally seek to expose program students to a diverse set of faculty within the classroom, and opportunities to hear from diverse individuals with diverse backgrounds in applicable fields of study and industry.

Proposed Program Title: Associate in Fine Arts in Music

Program Purpose

This program will provide a pathway for students to transfer into related music, music education or music performance baccalaureate degree programs.

Catalog Description

The Associate in Fine Arts (AFA) degree in Music is designed for the music student planning to transfer to a baccalaureate program in music education, music performance, or other professional music degree. To prepare for transfer at junior standing, students are encouraged to complete four semesters of music theory; four semesters of applied music (private instruction); four semesters of class piano, as needed; and four semesters of participation in one or more large ensembles. There are multiple large ensembles in which all ICC students are invited to participate: Concert Band, Hard Bop Jazz Band, Concert Choir, Guitar Ensemble, and ICC Vocal Jazz. Music students are required to participate in a large ensemble each semester they enroll in Applied lessons. Large ensembles present public concerts at ICC, high schools, and for special groups throughout the college district.

Curricular Information

The proposed requirements for the Associate in Fine Arts in Music fall within acceptable limits as defined by the Administrative Rules of the Illinois Community College Board and are consistent with the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) Panel recommendations. The proposed AFA degree is closely aligned with lower division coursework at universities offering bachelor's degree

programs in music, offering students a seamless articulation process when transferring to a four-year institution. Students must complete 31 credit hours of required general education coursework and 32 credit hours of required music coursework.

The proposed curriculum was developed in collaboration with several baccalaureate institutions, including Illinois State University, Western Illinois University, and Bradley University, to provide seamless transfer of graduates into related baccalaureate music degree programs.

Assessment of student learning will be achieved through evaluation of a student portfolio prior to program completion/transfer by ICC faculty. All facilities and equipment are currently in place to support the program. The program will require two full-time and 13 part-time faculty to implement the program. All faculty meet the requirements for teaching baccalaureate/transfer courses including master's degrees in the discipline and at least five years of work and/or teaching experience. The program will otherwise be supported fiscally through student tuition and fees.

Justification for Credit Hours Required for the Degree

The proposed program falls within the acceptable range of credit hours (60 to 68) for AFA degrees as outlined in the Administrative Rules of the Illinois Community College Board, Section 1501.302 a)3)A)ii. The curriculum was designed to provide a pathway for transfer while also building students' core music skills and preparing for transfer into related music programs at the baccalaureate level. The curriculum also includes the General Education Core Curriculum (GECC) Credential. The additional three credit hours includes a professional portfolio development course required for baccalaureate/transfer assessment.

Accrediting Information

Illinois Central College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM).

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Efforts

Illinois Central College is committed to equity strategies that involve closing gaps on who enrolls, persists, and completes baccalaureate/transfer degree programs. They currently employ Recruitment and Retention Specialists who are tasked with utilizing multiple forms of outreach with underrepresented groups in an effort to increase enrollment, retention, and graduation rates. The College also employs Diversity Retention Coordinators to increase access to and the understanding of all the student support services available. The College offers a range of wraparound services and intrusive student services which includes follow up for at-risk students by faculty, student mentors, and advising staff. They participate in a variety of support programs including TRIO, Upward Bound, and the Workforce Equity Initiative. The College continues its efforts to hire and retain a diverse faculty, staff, and administration through Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training for search committees, advertising to diverse audiences, review of existing policies and practices, and providing access to DEI support activities throughout the year. Faculty have access to classroom support through the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence. The College will intentionally seek to expose program students to a diverse set of faculty within the classroom, and opportunities to hear from diverse individuals with diverse backgrounds in applicable fields of study and industry.

Staff Conclusion

Illinois Central College and its proposed programs meet the criteria to implement the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205) as set forth in 23. Ill. Admin. Code 1050.30 and the Illinois Board of Higher Education policies pertaining to assessment and accreditation for licensure.