

Contact: Rachel Boon

**JOINT REQUEST FOR PROGRAM CHANGE: BACHELOR OF LIBERAL STUDIES, MAJOR  
IN PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**

**Action Requested:** Consider approval of the request by the University of Northern Iowa, the University of Iowa, and Iowa State University to add a major to the existing Bachelor of Liberal Studies program.

The Council of Provosts and Board office support approval of this request.

**Background:** The Bachelor of Liberal Studies (BLS) program is offered by the three Iowa Regents' Universities: University of Northern Iowa (UNI), Iowa State University (ISU) and the University of Iowa (SUI). The purpose of the BLS is to provide a degree completion program, offering educational opportunities to students who are unable to attend college on-campus, or for whom a flexible degree program is the most reasonable way to reach degree completion. Students take 12 hours in three of the five distribution areas (e.g., humanities, communications/arts, natural sciences/math, social sciences, or professional fields). Students take distance and online classes to earn credit toward their degrees. This major may not be declared with any other major.

**Reason for proposed change:** The change requested is to add the Professional Studies major to the BLS degree that will assist students and employers with understanding the role and value of this degree program. Professional Studies signals that students have received foundational and core competencies that have prepared them for a successful career. Each institution will be able to have select areas of emphasis, minors or certificates available to Professional Studies students that will help them further connect the education they receive to their career goals.

**Effect on program configuration:** This restructuring of the program will also include aligning the admission requirements across all three universities to be open to persons who have at least 24 semester hours of college credit acceptable towards graduation at UNI/ISU/SUI. No other program or curriculum changes will occur.

**Effect on students:** The proposed change will result in students having a major (i.e., Professional Studies) with their degree (BLS). The proposed change will clarify that current students can declare a certificate or minor with their major.

**Effect on accreditation:** There are no accreditation requirements associated with this change.

**Effect on resources:** No additional resources are required.

**Date of implementation:** June 2022.