

**ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**BOARD OF
TRUSTEES**

**Resolution No. 2026.05/17
Approval of B.A. and
B.S. in Film**

Resolution

Whereas, the Board of Trustees, as authorized by the Board of Trustees Governing Document, Section A, Government Statutes, Subsection 5, Reservation of Powers, has reserved to itself the final decision-making authority for the establishment of any new unit of instruction requiring approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Whereas, the proposed Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Film is designed to be implemented primarily through the reallocation of existing instructional, staffing, and facility resources currently supporting the Film and Digital Media sequence within the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Theatre; and

Whereas, the establishment of the stand-alone Film degree does not require a new recurring General Revenue appropriation, nor does it entail the creation of a new academic unit or the immediate addition of new full-time faculty lines; and

Whereas, initial and ongoing operating costs associated with the proposed program are expected to be absorbed within the College's existing base budget, supplemented as appropriate by tuition and fee revenues, philanthropic support, sponsored grants, and strategic reallocations aligned with the University's evolving budget model; and

Whereas, equipment, facilities, and technology needs associated with the Film program reflect the normal lifecycle of a production based academic discipline and will continue to be addressed through planned reinvestment, prioritization, and reallocation, rather than through new recurring funding commitments; and

Whereas, matters related to faculty workload, release time, and instructional responsibilities will be managed in accordance with applicable collective bargaining agreements and established departmental and college-level workload policies; and

Whereas, the proposed degree reflects careful fiscal stewardship and aligns with the Board's expectation that new academic offerings demonstrate sustainability within existing resources while responding to documented student demand and institutional priorities;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the proposal for degree granting authority for the B.A., B.S. in Film.

Board Action on:	_____	Postpone:	_____
Motion by:	_____	Amend:	_____
Second by:	_____	Disapprove:	_____
Vote:	Yeas: _____ Nays: _____	Approve:	_____

ATTEST: Board Action, May 8, 2026

Secretary / Chairperson

Board of Trustees
Illinois State University
Approval of B.A. and B.S. in Film

The proposed Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Film will be administered by the School of Theatre, Dance, and Film. The program is based on the existing Film and Digital Media sequence within the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Theatre, which was established in 2020, and is intended to replace that sequence. Approval of this action will allow students currently completing a film-focused curriculum within Theatre to graduate with a degree designation that accurately reflects their education and professional preparation, without adding duplicative academic offerings.

The proposal reflects the maturation and sustained growth of the Film and Digital Media sequence. Over the past five years, enrollment has increased from 11 students in Fall 2020 to approximately 124 students in Fall 2025, and faculty hires within the School of Theatre, Dance, and Film have strengthened the University's capacity to deliver a cohesive, discipline-specific program of study in film. As with similar initiatives to elevate established sequences to stand-alone majors, the proposed change responds to student demand, disciplinary norms, and the competitive landscape for both student recruitment and graduate placement.

The curriculum for the B.A./B.S. in Film blends hands-on production with the study of cinema history, theory, aesthetics, and global film cultures. Students write, direct, edit, and produce original work while developing critical and analytical skills applicable to careers in film, television, and digital media, as well as preparation for advanced graduate study. The flexible curriculum allows students to pursue concentrations of interest within production, screenwriting, or film studies, while maintaining a shared core that emphasizes artistic, historical, and technical competencies.

Impact on University operations is expected to be manageable. The program will be implemented through a Reasonable and Moderate Extension request to the Illinois Board of Higher Education and supported primarily through reallocation and absorption within the College's existing base budget, with no new recurring General Revenue appropriation. Existing tenure-track faculty are sufficient to administer the program as proposed, and facility, equipment, and staffing needs will continue to be addressed through planned reinvestment, strategic prioritization, and philanthropy as part of ongoing college and university planning. Once fully implemented, enrollment is projected to reach 150 majors, with an estimated 35 degrees awarded annually.