Applications from EHEA 3-year Undergraduate Degrees Will Be Reviewed Using the Bologna Framework

WHEREAS, 48 countries have been accepted for membership in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and are participating in the Bologna Accords process to develop common academic and quality assurance standards for European degrees; and

WHEREAS, the Bologna Accords process has established a framework that specifies compliant degree program levels and level-specific learning outcomes, competencies, and credits; and

WHEREAS, the Bologna Accords has developed a standardized and certified degree supplement that will allow admissions officers and directors to review the nature, level, context, content, and status of the education completed by degree holders; and

WHEREAS, students who have earned Bologna-compliant baccalaureate and master’s degrees are increasingly seeking admission to graduate degree programs in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the current graduate admissions policy does not recognize 3-year degrees; and

WHEREAS, admissions policies at the campus level serve as the minimum screening criteria, although graduate programs may have admissions policies more stringent;

THEREFORE, Be It Resolved that University of Illinois at Springfield Campus Senate approves that Applications from EHEA 3-year Undergraduate Degrees Will Be Reviewed Using the Bologna Framework.

New catalog copy:
UIS recognizes Bologna-compliant baccalaureate degrees of at least three years duration. These degrees must be completed at an overall performance level equivalent
to a minimum grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale. Degrees must be documented by a certified Diploma Supplement, as meeting the minimum degree requirement for general admission to graduate study at UIS.

Rationale:
Graduate Council has reviewed the Bologna Accords framework and transcript review framework and agrees that the framework is appropriate for evaluating transcripts from EHEA institutions with 3-year degrees. Graduate Council worked collaboratively with the Office of Admissions and the Associate Vice Chancellor of Graduate Education and Research to develop catalog copy for transcript review.

Nothing in this policy addition should be construed as altering the role of graduate program decision-making in graduate admissions at UIS. Graduate programs retain responsibility for setting their degree and certificate program admission requirements and for making program admission decisions, and it is expected that faculty making graduate admission decisions will review required application materials, including the certified Diploma Supplement, to ensure that program-specific admission requirements are met.