

Resolution No. 26-35
Approval of New Degree Programs

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of Governors State University (the “Board” and “University,” respectively) was created on January 1, 1996, by Public Act 89-4 to operate, manage, control, and maintain the University in accordance with the rights, powers, and duties vested by law in the Board;

WHEREAS, The Board is currently comprised of eight members, seven of whom are appointed by the Governor of Illinois with the advice and consent of the Senate, and one of whom is a University student selected by student peers;

WHEREAS, The Board is empowered to operate, manage, control, and maintain the University and prescribe the courses of study to be followed pursuant to Sections 15-10 and 15-45 of the Illinois Governors State University Law, 110 ILCS 670/15-1 *et seq.*;

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Board Regulation III(D)(1), Board approval is required for the establishment of new degree programs prior to the submission of such programs to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) for approval;

WHEREAS, The University proposes to establish a Bachelor of Science in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence and a Master of Arts in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence to address documented regional workforce needs and to expand the University’s academic offerings in high-demand technology disciplines;

WHEREAS, Both proposed programs have undergone the University’s internal curricular review process, including review and approval by the relevant faculty governance bodies, the College Dean, the University Provost, and the President;

WHEREAS, President Ester recommends approval of the proposed B.S. in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence and M.A. in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence; and

WHEREAS, The Board believes the proposed programs meet the criteria for new degree program approval and serve the educational mission of the University.

Now, therefore, it is:

Resolved, that the Board approves the establishment of the following new degree programs at Governors State University, subject to final approval by the IBHE:

Bachelor of Science in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence

Master of Arts in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence

Resolved, that the Board directs the University to take all reasonable and necessary steps to otherwise effectuate this Resolution, including submission of the programs to the IBHE for approval.

Approved June 22, 2026


James Kvedaras, Chair


Karen Nunn, Secretary