ASACR 8

Office of the President
April 23, 2026

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACADEMIC DEGREE: COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Applied Psychology in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Background: The proposed bachelor's degree in Applied Psychology will provide students with access to one of the most versatile undergraduate fields of study. The degree program is designed for students who want to apply psychological science directly to real-world contexts by emphasizing applied skills in communication, critical thinking, cultural competence, workforce needs and ethical decision-making. These skills align with employer demand across Kentucky's key economic sectors, including health care, education and human services. This is a shift from the traditional psychology undergraduate degrees that focus on theoretical foundations, research methods and a broad understanding of human behavior, preparing students for graduate school or academic research. Students graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Psychology will be prepared to enter directly into the workforce while advancing the University's land-grant mission to serve the Commonwealth.

The proposed bachelor's degree has been recommended to the Provost by the College of Arts and Sciences faculty given their expertise within their respective disciplines. The Provost of the University supports the program faculty's recommendation.

Action taken: ☑ Approved ❑ Disapproved ❑ Other_____