

Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

MAIN OFFICE One Ashburton Place, Room 1401
Boston, MA 02108
TEL (617) 994-6950
FAX (617) 727-0955
WEB www.mass.edu

OFFICE of STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 135 Santilli Highway
Everett, MA 02149
TEL (617) 391-6070
FAX (617) 391-6085
WEB www.mass.edu/osfa

Noe Ortega
Commissioner
Chris Gabrieli
Board Chair

NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD

Notice is hereby given pursuant to [M.G.L. c. 69, § 30](#) and the [Massachusetts Board of Higher Education's Policy Establishing a Process for Public Comment](#) that the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (Department) will open a comment period relative to **the Articles of Amendment filed by The University of Chicago to offer credit-bearing courses at the Marine Biological Laboratory including September Term, Semester in Biological Discovery, and Semester in Environmental Science in the Commonwealth.**

The University of Chicago (UChicago), located in Chicago, Illinois, is an independent institution of higher education accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). UChicago was founded in 1890 through the philanthropy of John D. Rockefeller and opened for instruction in 1892. The Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) located in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, was founded in 1888 as a private, nonprofit, research and education institution specializing in biological and environmental sciences. MBL has served as a long-time collaborative research and teaching center for faculty and students worldwide and has been affiliated with the University of Chicago since 2013.

UChicago requested retroactive approval from BHE in February 2026 for the credit-bearing courses for September Term, Semester in Biological Discovery (SBD), and Semester in Environmental Science (SES) as they had inadvertently been offered by UChicago at MBL

without prior approval from the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education (“Board”) since the 2017-2018 academic year.

Department Staff have determined that College’s application has reached a stage of readiness for public comment such that notice must be posted for public comment before a recommendation is made to the Board. See 610 CMR 2.06(3).

The public comment period for **the Articles of Amendment filed by the University of Chicago to offer credit-bearing courses at the Marine Biological Laboratory including September Term, Semester in Biological Discovery, and Semester in Environmental Science** begins on August 3, 2026, and will close 21 days thereafter, on August 24, 2026. At the end of the comment period, Department staff will review and take into consideration any and all comments received.

Submission of Comments

Written comments on the proposed amendments may be submitted at any time prior to 5:00 pm on Date, directing the same to the following:

Email:

PublicComment@dhe.mass.edu

Postal Mail:

Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
One Ashburton Place
Room 1401
Boston, MA 02108
Attn: Kristen Stone, Ed.D., Director for Academic & Veterans Affairs

Please submit electronic comments as an attached Word document and type "University of Chicago" in the subject line. All submissions must include the sender’s full name and

address. For special accommodations for submission of public comments or information regarding submission of public comments in an alternative format, please contact Department Staff at PublicComment@dhe.mass.edu.