

J B Mann, Director INTM, Feb 25, 2026

Proposal to Launch a Bachelors in Facilities Management Degree in INTM

The Industrial Technology and Management (INTM) program at Illinois Tech proposes launching a Bachelor's Degree in Facilities Management (BFM) to better meet industry demands for specialized professionals in facilities operations, maintenance, sustainability, and smart infrastructure. This initiative builds on the established Facilities Management (FM) specialization within the current Bachelor of Industrial Technology and Management (BINTM) degree, which is a completion program designed for working adults with prior technical education in areas such as electrical construction technology, stationary engineering, or facilities engineering. The BINTM degree has five specialization areas, including Construction Technology, Facilities Management, Industrial Sustainability, Manufacturing Technology, and Supply Chain Management.

INTM was established 31 years ago with a mission to provide a bachelor's degree completion pathway for non-traditional, adult learners who were working in industry and needed a degree program suited to part-time study. INTM is the only program in Armour College with a dedicated local constituency that is both actively involved in the INTM Advisory Board and supports tuition sponsorship for many of the Union member students from IBEW Local 134 and IUOE Local 399 (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE)). INTM is continuing with that mission today, and the program is open to all students seeking a completion pathway from an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in technical fields of study serving industry. This request to launch BFM degree is responsive to that core constituency but broadens our offerings to serve and attract other potential students in and beyond the Chicagoland area.

The BFM represents a transition from a BINTM FM specialization track to a distinct, named degree. This shift strengthens INTM program identity, enhances marketability, and provides clearer branding for recruitment, career pathways, and employer recognition. The move directly addresses a Fall 2025 recommendation from the INTM Industrial Advisory Board, which emphasized the value of dedicated degree titles to elevate visibility and appeal in competitive job markets.

Importantly, the proposed BFM would be the first bachelor's degree specifically titled in Facilities Management in the Chicago region (and broadly across Illinois). Current offerings in the area are limited to specializations or tracks within broader degrees (e.g., Illinois Tech's existing FM specialization under BINTM), associate-level programs at community colleges (such as Oakton Community College's Facilities Management and Engineering AAS), or certificates (e.g., Northern Illinois University's Facilities Management certificate). No other four-year institution in the Chicago metro or Illinois offers a dedicated, named Bachelor's in Facilities Management, making this program a pioneering opportunity to fill a clear regional gap for bachelor's-level FM education tailored to working professionals.

This program aligns with Illinois Tech's mission to offer practical, technology-driven education that supports Chicago's workforce and economic growth. In a sector shaped by urbanization, sustainability regulations, infrastructure investments, and smart building technologies, facilities management faces persistent shortages of supervisory and leadership talent. The proposed Fall 2026 launch requires minimal new investment (primarily targeted marketing literature) while leveraging existing faculty, courses, and infrastructure for low-risk execution and strong returns through increased enrollment, revenue, and graduate success.

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Strategic Positioning

The proposed Bachelor's in Facilities Management (BFM) positions Illinois Tech as a leader in technology-driven, industry-aligned education by directly addressing the convergence of smart infrastructure, digital buildings, sustainability, and tech-enabled operations that are key pillars of modern facilities management. Building on Illinois Tech's longstanding mission to provide distinctive and relevant education in an environment of scientific, technological, and professional knowledge creation and innovation, the BFM integrates cutting-edge topics such as IoT, AI-driven building systems, energy optimization, and sustainable facility operations into its curriculum. This focus not only equips graduates to lead in Chicago's evolving built environment which is centered around urbanization, green regulations, and digital transformation. This environment creates substantial demand advanced FM expertise and reinforces the Illinois Tech's identity as a hub for practical, STEM-focused programs that solve real-world challenges. By elevating the current FM specialization to a named degree emphasizing these forward-looking elements, the BFM strengthens Illinois Tech's reputation for preparing non-traditional learners to drive innovation in high-impact sectors, aligning seamlessly with institutional priorities like experiential learning, cross-disciplinary technology integration, and contributions to economic and environmental progress in the global city of Chicago.

Program Design and Differentiation

The BFM is a 66-credit completion program following the same model as the current Bachelor's of Industrial Technology and Management (BINTM) degree (typically referred to as a 2+2 program). This degree is tailored to non-traditional students and elevates the current INTM specialization, offering clearer branding and targeted appeal while leveraging existing infrastructure for low-risk launch.

Transfer Pathways: Up to 60 credits from partners (e.g., Triton, Moraine Valley, College of DuPage, Harper, Oakton) in relevant AAS programs.

Curriculum: Example courses cover maintenance technology management, budgeting and finance for facilities management, functional facilities management, sustainable facility operations, energy options, integrated facility management, project/contract management, leadership, and digital transformation (IoT, AI). The curriculum leverages existing course structures, and new course developments are not anticipated until year 2.

Delivery: Evening/online, part-time (typically 4-5 years), with experiential learning: practitioner faculty, projects, plant tours, internships, and seminars by industry leaders.

Differentiation: As the first named bachelor's degree from five INTM's specializations, it provides stronger branding than the current FM track, emphasizing union partnerships and Chicago-focused applications (e.g., industrial buildings or high-rise management).

To further elevate program quality and professional recognition, INTM intends to partner with relevant facilities management organizations, such as the International Facility Management Association (IFMA) Foundation and its Facility Management Accreditation Commission (FMAC). This partnership is intended only for program alignment with globally recognized FM education standards. Importantly, accreditation through IFMA/FMAC is optional and not required, and such alignment carries no cost implications for the proposed BFM degree. This approach

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allows the program to benefit from internationally informed best practices without adding budgetary or administrative burden, while preserving the option to pursue formal accreditation in the future if advantageous.

Unambiguous Stakeholder Support and Demand Evidence

The INTM Advisory Board, including industry leaders from Chicago manufacturing, construction, facilities, IUOE Local 399 and IBEW 134 support the BFM launch, viewing it as vital for closing workforce gaps in managerial/leadership FM talent. Board commitments include guest lectures and tuition assistance via the IBEW/NECA Tuition Reimbursement Program and the IUOE 399 Education Training Fund. A recent INTM survey of alumni and industry leaders revealed compelling demand:

- >2/3 of FM-role INTM alumni cited needs for more sustainability/technology training.
- >75% believed a specialized BFM would better prepare graduates for career advancement and management.
- 90% would recommend; 60% noted employer preference for bachelor's-level FM credentials, linking to higher pay/promotions.

Projected Enrollment and Revenue Impact

Projected first-cohort year-1 enrollment is 15 new students in INTM for the BFM degree (these 15 students are in addition to the students already in INTM who will convert from the current FM specialization). This builds on INTM's proven success with working adults and represents a 25% growth in enrollment of the INTM program at launch (current enrollment is 61 students Spring 2026), The INTM program enrollment is projected to reach 76 students at year-1 of the BFM launch. A estimated 5% year-to-year growth in total INTM enrollment projects at total of 92 INTM program students in 5 years related to the BFM degree. Importantly, no increase in operating expenses is expected for support of the BFM curriculum at launch; however, some operating adjustments may be necessary in subsequent years to accommodate actual BFM growth.

NET Revenue impact:

The total projected annual NET revenue increase in INTM for the 15 new students in Year 1 is estimated as: Year-1 NET annual revenue increase =

$$+15 \text{ new students} \times 6 \text{ credits/student/semester} \times \$1,581/\text{credit} \times 2 \text{ semesters} = \$284,580$$

The projected first year INTM program NET revenue increase is \$284k and the total projected revenue increase in 5 years is \$588k (at a conservative 5% annual growth of the INTM total undergraduate enrollment with BFM in place and no increase in tuition).

Timeline	Increased INTM Enrollment	Revenue increase
Year 1 (new 15 BFM students)	15 BFM	\$284,580 (NET)
Years 2–5 incremental growth	16 (4 per year BFM)	\$303,552
Total 5-year impact	31 BFM	\$588,132

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Chicago-Specific Demand and Regional Impact

National data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects 4% growth for administrative services and facilities managers through 2034, with a median annual wage of \$106,880 [A]. However, Chicago's regional market underscores even stronger demand due to the city's dense urban infrastructure, including high-rises, industrial facilities, and critical sectors like healthcare and transportation. In the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin metro area, BLS data shows approximately 4,070 facilities managers employed as of May 2021 (latest available detailed metro-level estimate), with an annual mean wage of \$110,100 (above the national median) reflecting competitive local compensation [B]. Local job postings highlight shortages: As of February 2026, over 12,000 facilities management-related positions are available in Chicago on platforms like Indeed, with roles emphasizing skills in sustainability, HVAC, and smart tech integration [C]. Regional reports note persistent talent gaps in skilled FM leaders, intensified by Chicago's focus on energy efficiency and infrastructure upgrades, with half of surveyed FM professionals citing scarcity of candidates with required skills as a key challenge [D]. Union partnerships provide a robust pipeline: IUOE Local 399, with over 9,000 members in Illinois and Indiana, operates extensive training programs and an Education Training Fund that supports tuition for members pursuing degrees like the proposed BFM [E]. Similarly, IBEW Local 134 represents over 12,000 electricians in the Chicago region, many in facilities-related roles, with apprenticeship programs feeding into higher education pathways [F]. These unions have committed to guest lectures, and ongoing sponsored student scholarships, potentially channeling 15-20 candidates annually from their ranks based on current INTM enrollment patterns and union education initiatives. Feeder volumes from partner community colleges bolster this: Programs such as Oakton's Facilities Management and Engineering AAS, Triton's Facilities Engineering Technology AAS, and Moraine Valley's technical trades certificates (e.g., HVAC and Welding) serve as key transfer pathways, with up to 60 credits accepted [G] [H]. While specific enrollment data is not publicly detailed, these colleges collectively enroll thousands in technical AAS programs annually; for instance, Triton and Moraine Valley report strong demand in engineering and trades, projecting 5-10 annual transfers per partner based on historical INTM data and regional workforce needs. The INTM Advisory Board, including Chicago-based leaders from manufacturing, construction, and facilities (with overlap from the Chief Engineers Association of Chicago), endorses the BFM as essential for addressing local managerial gaps, supported by commitments for experiential opportunities.

Strategic Benefits and Projected Impact

The BFM will attract diverse adult learners through flexibility, scholarships, and union support, driving enrollment and revenue while positioning Illinois Tech as a leader in industry-aligned education. As the inaugural shift to a named degree, it sets a precedent for the other four specializations and addresses Advisory Board guidance on enhancing marketability. Graduates will help close Chicago's FM talent gaps, advancing sustainability and innovation. Low-risk rollout uses existing resources, with phased implementation and Armour College collaboration for accreditation/marketing.

- **Enrollment and Revenue:** Attracts diverse, non-traditional students via flexibility, scholarships, and union support; high placement rates (~95% within 6 months) and competitive salaries boost Illinois Tech's reputation.
- **Institutional Advantage:** Reinforces leadership in industry-aligned tech education; strengthens Chicago partnerships and economic contributions.

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- Low-Risk Implementation: Utilizes existing INTM courses/faculty; phased rollout with Armour College collaboration for accreditation/marketing.

Recommendation

Approve the Bachelor's in Facilities Management for Fall 2026 launch. As the first of INTM's five specializations to propose a named bachelor's degree (per a specific INTM Industrial Advisory Board recommendation and Chief Engineers Association of Chicago (CEAC) overlap) this initiative is supported by the 2021-2022 INTM BFM committee questionnaire, full Advisory Board endorsement, BLS projections, market forecasts, and Chicago salary trends. With opportunity to pursue future accreditation through partnerships with organizations like the IFMA Foundation/FMAC, it positions Illinois Tech to lead in FM education, delivering student success, partnerships, and contributions to regional workforce and economy.

References

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Quick Facts: Administrative Services and Facilities Managers	
2024 Median Pay 	\$106,880 per year \$51.39 per hour
Typical Entry-Level Education 	Bachelor's degree
Work Experience in a Related Occupation 	Less than 5 years
On-the-job Training 	None
Number of Jobs, 2024 	422,600
Job Outlook, 2024–34 	4% (As fast as average)
Employment Change, 2024–34 	18,300

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