

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE, MLIS: PUBLIC LIBRARY

MLIS: Public Library Concentration

See yourself leading an information revolution in public libraries? The Public Library Concentration prepares MLIS graduates to positively engage with the range of opportunities facing the post-modern public library: extended community involvement, incorporation of emerging technologies, and pro-active advocacy for service populations.

Public library leaders build vital, resilient communities through their understanding of user needs, community partnerships, access to information and library services, and the legal and financial frameworks of public libraries. The objective of the Public Library Concentration is to enable graduates to take strong leadership positions with sensitivity to community needs and the possibilities engendered by new media technologies.

About the School of Information Studies

The School of Information Studies is committed to shaping the future of library science and information technology by improving the world through innovation and inquiry, connecting humans to the information they use every day.

Our mission is to educate the next generation of library science and information technology professionals by offering a rigorous curriculum that fosters professional knowledge, skills and experiential practice, ethics, critical inquiry and leadership to address the needs of our diverse and global information society. SOIS graduates are prepared not only for the current information and technology services landscape but also for future-ready careers and as-yet-undiscovered environments.

Goals of the school are:

1. To prepare professionals who are able to provide leadership and adapt to change in a technological and knowledge-based environment for careers in libraries, school media centers, information systems, and related areas, according to accepted professional standards.
2. To enrich the library and information science profession through recruitment of students with strong academic skills from diverse cultural, geographic, and subject backgrounds.
3. To enable undergraduate students to achieve qualifications to pursue careers in the information professions through the provision of degree and certificate programs.
4. To enable students to develop specializations in the information professions at the graduate level through the provision of single and dual degree programs.
5. To promote a research orientation through participation in the Doctor of Philosophy degree program.
6. To contribute to the international knowledge base of library and information science through research and publication.
7. To facilitate the development, provision, and evaluation of library and information services through consultation services to individual organizations and leadership in professional associations locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally.

8. To offer opportunities for professionals and the wider community to update their skills and knowledge through advanced and continuing education courses, workshops, and programs offered nationally and internationally.

Admission Requirements

Application Deadlines

Application deadlines vary by program, please review the application deadline chart (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/program-deadlines/>) for specific programs. Other important dates and deadlines can be found by using the One Stop calendars (<https://uwm.edu/onestop/dates-and-deadlines/>).

Application

An applicant must apply to both the Graduate School and the School of Information Studies.

Admission

An applicant must meet Graduate School requirements (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission/>) plus the following additional requirements of the School of Information Studies to be considered for admission to the program:

- Applicants from foreign institutions are required to submit the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score. The minimum acceptable score is 550 PBT or 79 iBT. A score of 6.5 or higher on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) may be submitted in lieu of the TOEFL.
- A one to two page reason statement outlining your background and your educational and professional goals.

No prior coursework in library/information science is required. A student whose undergraduate grade point average is below 2.75 (4.0 basis) may be considered for admission on probation. See the Admission on Probation (<http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/admission/>) Website.

Credits and Courses

The minimum degree requirement is 36 graduate credits, 30 of which must be in library and information science and up to 6 of which may be in related areas. Students who have already completed a master's or doctoral degree in a field other than library science may have the library and information science master's program reduced to 30 credits. Under special circumstances, up to 6 of these credits may be from another field in a closely allied area with advisor consent. Students who have completed library science courses at the undergraduate level may, upon request, have their coursework reviewed to determine whether the content was the equivalent of that in required courses in the School of Information Studies Program. However, the establishment of such equivalencies will not reduce the total number of credits required for the master's degree in library and information science, but merely enable the student to avoid unnecessary repetition.

The number of credits needed for each of the coordinated degree programs is 12 credits less than the sum of credits of the two programs if taken separately. All degree requirements of each component program, however, must be satisfied. This includes makeup courses for deficiencies, required courses, and graduation proficiency requirements. The MLIS component of each coordinated program includes 30 credits of SOIS courses including the 12 credits of required courses.

The following are basic required courses:

| Code | Title | Credits |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| INFOST 501 | Foundations of Library and Information Science | 3 |
| INFOST 511 | Organization of Information | 3 |
| INFOST 571 | Information Access and Retrieval | 3 |
| INFOST 799 | Research Methods in Information Studies | 3 |
| Total Credits | | 12 |

Minimum Grade Requirement in the Required Courses

The minimum grade requirement for the required courses is a B. Students who earn a grade of B- or lower have not met the minimum requirement and will be allowed to repeat the required course once. Students are responsible for tuition in the repeated course; no credit is earned from the first attempt at the required course, or any required course for which a B- or lower is earned. Materials and assignments used previously may not be reused or resubmitted when retaking a required course unless approved by the instructor. Those who do not meet the minimum grade requirements upon repeating the course will be recommended for academic dismissal. Students may not register for a course for which any of the required courses is a prerequisite until the minimum grade requirement is met.

Culminating Experience Requirement in Library and Information Science

Effective Fall 2016, INFOST 799 meets the requirement for the culminating event for the MLIS program. If 591 was taken prior to the fall of 2016, it can still be used to meet the culminating event requirement. Said course must be taken in SOIS and cannot be transferred into the program.

Thesis Option

Students may choose the thesis option in order to satisfy the program requirements and must take at least three credits of thesis coursework in addition to the 36 credits required for the comprehensive examination option, making the minimum credits required for the thesis option 39 credits. However, only 3 credits of thesis coursework may count toward the total degree credit requirement of 39.

Those who already have a graduate degree must complete a minimum of 33 credits for this option. Students who choose the thesis option in the coordinated master's degree programs also need to take an additional 3 credits of thesis coursework. Thus, while total degree credits vary among the coordinated master's programs, the Master of Library and Information Science component of each requires 33 credits of SOIS coursework, three of which would be taken as thesis credit.

Students pursuing thesis options in both programs will be required to fulfill each program's thesis requirement and complete two separate theses. Students in the thesis option must take a minimum of 3 credits of research methods. A course other than INFOST 799 may be chosen in consultation with the major professor. Additional courses that do not count toward degree requirements may be required by individual circumstances.

Students must complete the required MLIS and research methods course before they will be allowed to defend the thesis proposal. Students must register for INFOST 898: Master's Thesis (1-3 credits), during every semester of thesis work. Students may select the thesis option

at any point in their course of study, but are encouraged to make this decision and form their thesis committee as early as possible to avoid the necessity of taking additional coursework.

The faculty advisor assigned to each student upon admission may serve as the student's thesis advisor, but is not required to do so. It is the student's responsibility to enter into a mutually agreed upon advising relationship with a thesis advisor in SOIS, who then serves as chair of the thesis committee.

Students must pass an oral examination in defense of the thesis. The thesis defense may be repeated once. A student may withdraw from the thesis option; however, the student would need to meet all course requirements for the MLIS degree.

Public Library Concentration

Students pursuing the Public Library Concentration must take 15 credits of coursework from the list of qualifying courses as electives within the overall MLIS program. To pursue the Public Library Concentration students must be admitted into the MLIS program and must submit the Public Library Concentration Declaration of Intent form (see SOIS website for details). This will allow the program coordinator to track your progress and communicate with you.

The Public Library Concentration requires 15 credits of coursework planned in consultation with the student's advisor. Credits for the concentration count as electives for the MLIS. The courses that qualify for the concentration are as follows:

| Code | Title | Credits |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Required | | |
| INFOST 736 | The Public Library | 3 |
| Select one of the following: | | 3 |
| INFOST 861 | Seminar in Intellectual Freedom | |
| INFOST 862 | Legal Issues for Library and Information Managers | |
| INFOST 864 | Critical Librarianship | |
| Electives | | |
| Select a minimum of 9 credits from the following: | | 9 |
| INFOST 520 | Managing Library Collections | |
| INFOST 521 | Introduction to Reference Services and Resources | |
| INFOST 524 | Management of Libraries and Information Services | |
| INFOST 622 | Information Marketing | |
| INFOST 637 | Library Services for Young Children | |
| INFOST 638 | Library Services for School-Aged Children | |
| INFOST 639 | Library Services for Teens | |
| INFOST 640 | Information Literacy Instruction | |
| INFOST 645 | Library Materials for Children | |
| INFOST 646 | Library Materials for Young Adults | |
| INFOST 660 | Information Policy | |
| INFOST 661 | Information Ethics | |
| INFOST 682 | Digital Libraries | |
| INFOST 685 | Electronic Publishing and Web Design | |
| INFOST 734 | Library Services and Resources for Adults | |

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| INFOST 774 | Online Information Retrieval |
| INFOST 999 | Independent Research |
| <hr/> | |
| Total Credits | 15 |

Additional Requirements

Time Limit

Students in the 36-credit program must complete all degree requirements within seven years of initial enrollment. Students in the 30-credit program must complete all degree requirements within five years of initial enrollment.

MLIS Mission, Goals, Objectives, and Learning Outcomes

Mission

The mission of the MLIS program is to educate the next generation of information professionals by offering a rigorous curriculum that fosters professional knowledge and skills, professional ethics, critical inquiry, and leadership to address the needs of a diverse and global information society.

Goals and Learning Objectives

Goal 1: To impart knowledge of library and information science (LIS).

Students will be able to...

- 1.1 Delineate and assess important social, political, and historical developments in library and information science and cultural heritage institutions.
- 1.2 Analyze the information needs, preferences, and behaviors of users.
- 1.3 Describe and evaluate the range of roles that LIS professionals fill in society.
- 1.4 Apply the philosophy, principles, and ethics of LIS to professional practice.

Goal 2: To prepare the next generation of professionals for leadership roles in library and information science.

Students will be able to...

- 2.1 Identify and evaluate the diverse functions of the LIS professions.
- 2.2 Prepare for change in a rapidly evolving professional landscape.
- 2.3 Apply principles and technologies for the organization, access, retrieval, and preservation of information.
- 2.4 Develop and evaluate library and information services and systems.

Goal 3: To prepare professionals who are able to serve the information needs of a diverse global society.

Students will be able to...

- 3.1 Identify, promote, and provide services to serve the needs of diverse stakeholders, including underserved populations.
- 3.2 Integrate the theory and practice of library and information science for diverse audiences in a global society.

Goal 4: To develop new scholars and information professionals who can evaluate and apply research findings.

Students will be able to...

- 4.1 Assess the merits of research and apply relevant findings to professional practice.
- 4.2 Apply research theory, methods, and techniques to solve problems in the LIS professions.