Program Description

The Certificate of Advanced Study (CAS) in Library and Information Science is open to those who hold a master’s degree in library and information science or a related field. Librarians, information scientists, and others in information management enroll in the program to refresh and update their skills, gain greater specialization in their professional training, or redirect their careers from one area to another. Examples of areas of concentration include digital libraries, library and information center administration, information technology, and information management. An area of concentration might also be a specific library function such as children’s services, government information, science information, or technical services. The CAS Program does not lead into the Ph.D. Program.

Admission Requirements

- A master’s degree in library and information science.

- A grade-point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in master’s-level coursework and in the last two years of undergraduate coursework, in which case GRE scores are not required. If an applicant’s GPA is below a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, then GRE test scores are required. However, if an applicant has a JD, MD, or a PhD degree, they would be exempt from the GRE requirement.

- Letters of reference from three individuals, with at least one from a librarian/information scientist and the remainder from employers or teachers, including a representative of the library/information science program that granted the professional degree.

- International applicants whose native language is not English must submit evidence of having passed the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a score of 620 or higher (or 260 or higher for the computer-administered version; 104 or higher [at least a 25 in each section] for the IBT). The test can be administered in the student’s home country but should be arranged at least one year before the applicant expects to begin the program. The IELTS test is also accepted with a minimum score of 7 in each section.

- Resumé.

- A personal statement indicating your commitment to advanced study, your reasons for seeking the CAS, and an outline of a proposed program of study, including possible CAS project areas.

If you are currently enrolled as a master’s student at the iSchool:

Submit one letter of reference from an iSchool faculty member who can address your ability to continue with advanced studies and your potential contribution to the field. The faculty member writing the letter will likely be the person who would support your CAS project work. If this is not the case, you should explain why it’s a different person in your statement; and, if feasible, consult with your proposed advisor in conjunction with preparing your application.
The CAS requires the completion of 40 credit hours. Eight of these credit hours are spent on developing a final degree project in conjunction with the student's CAS advisor. Course selection and project planning are dependent upon the student's professional and academic interests and goals.

Students also have the option to pursue a CAS concentration in Digital Libraries. The CAS-DL requires the completion of 40 credit hours, including 4 required CAS-DL core courses, 4 courses from the CAS-L electives, and the CAS project (IS 593). The project must entail a digital libraries-related project defined and monitored in consultation with the student’s CAS advisor and comprising 8 credit hours. A student who completes any of the 4 required CAS-DL core courses as part of a prior MS degree will need to substitute additional elective courses in the CAS-DL degree in order to ensure they have completed 40 credit hours. CAS-DL core courses and possible electives include the following:

Core
- IS 453: Systems Analysis and Management (4)
- IS 560: Digital Libraries (4)
- IS 561: Information Modeling (4)
- IS 562: Metadata in Theory & Practice (4)

Electives
- IS 531: Foundations of Data Curation (4)
- IS 532: Theory and Practice in Data Cleaning (4)
- IS 590DH: Digital Humanities (4)
- IS 555: Usability Engineering (4)
- IS 590IP: Information Policy (4)

Each student must work with his/her CAS advisor(s) to craft a coherent course of study that meets the student’s interests, integrates courses across categories, and satisfies the CAS-DL program's requirements.

Program Contacts

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