



University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library and Information Science - MS

Program Description



School of Information Sciences graduates understand both the theory and the practice of library and information science (LIS): they have studied the foundations and principal ideas of the discipline, and they have been introduced to the values and expectations of the profession. We foster critical thinking about the literature of LIS and related fields, and we encourage high standards of professionalism and service. Our graduates are prepared to develop and evaluate resources and programs and to understand the needs of many different kinds of users. Students who have completed our program are equipped to anticipate social and technological changes, and to promote change that advances the profession, improves technology, and encourages positive social transformation. Upon completion of the MS/LIS program, students will be able to:

- Apply foundational concepts, theories, and principles to problems of information organization and access.
- Communicate capably with diverse stakeholders, promoting not just access to but also effective use of information services and systems in specific contexts.
- Use evidence to help address information problems, meet information needs, and create relationships in their institutions, communities, profession, and the world.
- Compare and critique contemporary information practices, structures, and standards in relation to historical and global alternatives.
- Apply core ethical principles to professional practice.

Admission Requirements

While a bachelor's degree is required for admission, your degree can be in any discipline. If you earned a 3.0 GPA for the last two years of undergraduate study, you do not need to submit GRE or GMAT scores. For those with a GPA below a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, 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. In addition to the online application, admission requirements include:

- Three letters of reference
- A resumé
- A personal statement

International applicants whose native language is not English must submit evidence of having passed the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with the following scores:

- 620 or higher (or 260 or higher for the computer-administered version)
- 104 or higher (at least a 25 in each section) for the TOEFL iBT test

Note: Our School's Institution code is 1836.

The IELTS test also is accepted with a minimum score of 7 in each section. The University's Department of Linguistics serves as a resource for currently enrolled Illinois graduate students who wish to improve English-language proficiency.

Degree Requirements

Students complete 40 graduate credit hours to earn a Master of Science in Library and Information Science. All MS/LIS students must complete the two required courses, LIS 501: Information and Organization (4 credit hours) and LIS 502: Information and Society (2 or 4 credit hours*). These courses are foundational for all areas of the field and provide a context for future coursework in areas of specialization. The remaining credit hours provide students with a great deal of flexibility and allow them to customize their degree to suit their individual career goals.

Students have a number of ways to customize their MS/LIS degree to accomplish individual goals:

- 1) Follow a professional curriculum track
- 2) Complete a specialization
- 3) Select individual courses and/or combine a professional curriculum track or specialization

All three options require students to complete the two required courses. Completing a thesis is optional and should be discussed with the student's advisor. A practicum, and other preprofessional work, is highly encouraged for all students and should be discussed both with the student's advisor and/or the practicum coordinator, Rebecca Hodson.

The professional curriculum tracks are just one way in which an MS/LIS student can customize their degree. These tracks merely serve as guides for students as they go about planning their courses and experiential learning opportunities. Students can choose to follow a track in its entirety, can combine courses from tracks or specializations and/or choose to identify courses completely outside of tracks or specializations. Information about experiential learning, job titles and professional associations are merely meant to be representative, not all inclusive.

- Research and Analysis: Business Research, Competitive Intelligence, Knowledge Management and Prospect Research
- Archival Information Services
- Data Management and Data Curation
- Research and Information Services
- Information Organization and Management
- Digital Libraries and Asset Management

Program Contacts

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