

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE, M.L.I.S.

Program Description

The Master of Library and Information Science degree is a program of basic professional education designed to prepare students for entry into positions in libraries and information centers in colleges, schools, communities, industries, and businesses.

Learning Outcomes

1. Upon completion of the MLIS program, students will demonstrate competency in information and its organization.
2. Students will demonstrate competency in the provision of information services.
3. Students will demonstrate competency in leadership and management in the LIS field.
4. Students will demonstrate competency in research in the LIS field.
5. Students will demonstrate competency in technology in the LIS field.
6. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the importance of lifelong learning and professional development within the LIS field.

Academic Progress

Students must present a grade point average of at least 3.0 (B average) on all courses taken in the program at the time of graduation. Students who earn a grade below B on more than six hours of course work or a grade of D, F, WF, or U in any course will not be allowed to continue in the program. Students who receive a grade below C in a course cannot apply the course toward graduation.

If a student is readmitted and received a grade of D+ or D in a required course, they must retake the course to attain a grade of at least C. Courses which will be more than six years old at the time the MLIS is awarded may not be included on the student's Program of Study.

Additionally, Graduate School policy states that graduate students whose cumulative grade point average (GPA) drops below 3.00 will be placed on academic probation and allowed one calendar year to raise the GPA to at least 3.00. Students who do not reach a cumulative 3.00 GPA during this grace period will not be permitted to enroll for further graduate work.

Admission to the Master of Library and Information Science (M.L.I.S.) program is selective and based on the faculty's assessment of the applicant's aptitude for graduate study and potential contribution to the profession. The faculty take a holistic approach to the admissions process. Consequently, an applicant's entire file and interview are taken into consideration before an admission decision is made. The following materials are required for full consideration:

1. The School of Information Science Supplemental Application (accessible through the Graduate School application), where applicants respond to statement provided;
2. Official transcripts from all other colleges or universities attended (whether or not a degree was earned);
3. Two letters of recommendation attending to your academic performance and/or job performance—letters from friends and relatives addressing personal attributes do not qualify;

Degree Requirements (36-51 Hours)

For the Master of Library and Information Science degree, an approved program of at least 36 semester hours of graduate course work must be completed with a minimum grade point average of 3.00 (B) overall. Students in the School Library concentration have a prescribed set of courses for certification; those pursuing initial School Library certification will take additional Education courses. Required courses and the technology competency requirement are designed to provide students with an understanding of the information profession. In partial fulfillment of the requirements for graduation, each student will submit an electronic portfolio documenting learning and professional growth during the MLIS program.

MLIS General Coursework (36 hours)

Course	Title	Credits
ISCI 701	Ethics, Values, and Foundational Principles of Library and Information Science Professions	3
ISCI 702	Community Engagement and Service	3
ISCI 703	Reference and Instruction	3
ISCI 704	Leadership in Information Organizations	3
ISCI 705	Research Design and Evaluation	3
ISCI 706	Information Organization and Access	3
Select 18 hours of approved electives including ISCI 600 or above, but not including ISCI 799 or 899		18
Total Credit Hours		36

MLIS School Library Concentration Coursework (36-51 hours)

Course	Title	Credits
Core (6 hours)		
ISCI 701	Ethics, Values, and Foundational Principles of Library and Information Science Professions	3
ISCI 705	Research Design and Evaluation	3
Elective Courses (6 hours = 2 classes, to be chosen from the following options)		
ISCI 600	Storytelling: Theory, Practice, and Development	
ISCI 704	Leadership in Information Organizations	
ISCI 718	History of Children's and Young Adult Literature	
ISCI 728	Public Library Systems	
ISCI 741	Educational Services in Library and Information Organizations	
ISCI 751	Libraries, Literacy, and Literature	
ISCI 752	Diversity in Libraries	
ISCI 754	Library Programming for Children and Young Adults	
ISCI 755	Popular Materials and Programming for Adults	
ISCI 759	Materials for Early Childhood	
ISCI 760	Materials and Services for Latino Youth	
ISCI 764	Universal Design and Accessibility for Youth	
ISCI 765	Planning Library Facilities	
ISCI 781	Critical Cultural Information Studies	
ISCI 782	Social Justice Storytelling and Advocacy	
ISCI 797	Selected Topics in Librarianship and Information Services	

Material Selection (6 hours)

ISCI 756	Children's Materials	3
ISCI 757	Young Adult Materials	3
Curriculum and Technology Integration (9 hours)		
ISCI 706	Information Organization and Access	3
ISCI 742	Curricular Role of the School Librarian	3
ISCI 761	Information Technologies in the School Library Program	3
Reference Sources and Services (3 hours)		
ISCI 703	Reference and Instruction	3
Capstone Courses (6-9 hours)		
ISCI 720	School Library Media Program Development	3
ISCI 794	Internship in Library and Information Science ¹	3-6
Total Credit Hours		36-39

¹ Students currently certified as a teacher will need one internship (3 credits) in a school library. Students not currently certified as a teacher will need two internships (6 credits), one in an elementary school and one in a secondary school. Previous work in a library does not count as an internship.

MLIS School Library Concentration - Foundations in Education

School Library candidates who hold a current and valid teaching license must submit a photocopy of their certificate to the School of Information Science Student Services Office. Candidates who hold a current and valid teaching certificate are not required to complete the education courses listed below.

School Library candidates who do not hold a teaching certificate must complete all required education courses prior to enrolling in ISCI 742 and the capstone courses (ISCI 720 and ISCI 794). Candidates must earn a grade of "B" or better in all courses that are used to meet the "Foundations in Education" requirements below.

Foundations in Education Course Requirements (12 hours)

Course	Title	Credits
South Carolina Read to Succeed		3
Select one of the following:		
EDRD 500	Content Area Literacy PK-12	
EDRD 730	Teaching Reading and Writing in the Content Areas	
EDRD 732	Teaching Reading and Writing in the Content Areas	
EDEX 581	Teaching Reading in the Content Area to Adolescents with Reading Disabilities	
Curriculum Development		3
Select one of the following:		
EDCS 720	Introduction to Diversity and the Curriculum	
EDCS 721	Social Class Diversity and the Curriculum	
EDCS 722	Racial and Ethnic Diversity and the Curriculum	
EDCS 725	Principles of Curriculum Construction	
Psychology of Learning		
EDEX 523	Introduction to Exceptional Children	3
Select one of the following:		
EDPY 705	Human Growth and Development	
EDPY 706	Growth and Development: Childhood	

EDPY 707	Growth and Development: Middle Childhood and Adolescence	
Total Credit Hours		12

End-of-Program Portfolio (MLIS General & School Library Concentration)

Successful completion of the School of Information Science portfolio is a requirement for the MLIS and school library certification. Portfolios are submitted prior to graduation. The portfolio due date for students graduating in May is April 15. The portfolio due date for students graduating in December is November 15.

Program of Study

Students and their advisors will choose a minimum of 18 hours of elective courses. No more than six (6) hours can be below the 700-level and courses below the 600-level will not be accepted on the Program of Study. Elective courses in the School of Information Science and other graduate departments may be used to develop a specialization in one or more areas or to provide a broad, general preparation for the information professions. A minimum of 18 graduate hours must be completed within the School. The remaining 18 hours may be taken in other related academic units of the University. Students have the option of transferring up to six semester hours of graduate course work from colleges or universities other than the University of South Carolina. Courses which will be more than six years old at the time the MLIS degree is awarded may not be included on the student's Program of Study.