

Library and Information Studies

Program Overview

Contact Information

Title

Office Address

Phone

Email

Link to broader description of program on University Libraries site (if one is created)

The Master of Library and Information Studies Program develops essential skills in librarianship, archives, and technology, preparing graduates for a variety of career paths in libraries, museums, healthcare, government, and private industry. Graduates will be equipped for roles such as librarians, archivists, curators, research associates, software developers, information architects, data analysts, consumer insight researchers, and vendors in publishing and computer systems.

The Master of Library and Information Studies will also build students' core skills in information organization, including cataloging and classification systems, and information retrieval and assessment through effective search techniques and database management. They will gain expertise in digital literacy by learning to manage and preserve digital content and develop strong communication skills to assist information consumers and educate them on information literacy.

Additionally, students will build management skills for overseeing library operations and programs while addressing ethical issues like copyright, privacy, and intellectual freedom. These highly transferable skills ensure graduates can adapt to the evolving needs of information needs in both physical and digital spaces in a wide range of professional environments.

Requirements

Program Admission Requirements:

To be considered for admission to the MLIS program, applicants must be admissible to the Graduate School at the University of Arkansas and must have:

1. Earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution.
2. A minimum 3.00 GPA overall or a 3.00 GPA on the last 60 hours of coursework.
3. Completed a program-specific application to the MLIS program.
4. Provided a Statement of Purpose and Goals.
 - a. The statement of purpose is a one- to two-page essay explaining your reasons for applying to the program. Be sure to include both your short- and long-term goals.
5. Provided resume or CV.
 - a. Please include information related to your education and professional background
6. Provide three (3) Letters of Recommendation.
 - a. The recommenders should be familiar with the applicant's scholarly and professional background.

Graduation Requirements:

Upon admission to the program, students will be assigned a faculty advisor based on their statement of purpose and goals. Advisors will assist students in forming a master's degree advisory committee, support them in course selection, and inform them about degree requirements. Advisors will be members of the MLIS faculty who hold graduate faculty status. Students are expected to communicate with their advisor each semester to discuss progress, course selection, enrollment, and any issues. Advisors will notify students annually of their standing in the program per the Annual Academic Review policy established by the Graduate School.

Program of Study:

The program of study will include a minimum of 36 hours as indicated below. Substitutions must be approved by the advisory committee prior to enrollment in any courses not included in the approved program of study.

Requirements for the Master of Library and Information Studies: (suggested plan of study)

Fall Semester - Year 1

LIBS 50003	Foundations of Libraries, Information & Society	3
LIBS 50103	Organization of Information, Access & Use	3
Elective		3

Spring Semester - Year 1

LIBS 50203	Management, Policy & Program Evaluation	3
LIBS 50303	Technology Fundamentals	3
Elective		3

Fall Semester - Year 2

LIBS 50403	Outreach & Service in Libraries	3
ESRM 50103	Research Methods in Education	3
Elective		3

Spring Semester - Year 2 (choose Capstone or Thesis Option) 9

Capstone Option

LIBS 61003	Capstone (3 hours)	
Electives (6 hours)		

Thesis Option

LIBS 6000V	Thesis (6 hours)	
Elective (3 hours)		

Total Hours 36