Library and Information Science, M.A.

Students who pursue the master's degree in library and information science gain an understanding of the foundations of the library and information profession, including the history of the field, ethical and philosophical concerns, the information cycle, principles and procedures for dealing with a variety of information carriers, and the theory and practice of strategic management. They examine future trends, with emphasis on cutting-edge technological concerns. Students study the discipline's research base, gaining heightened awareness of the synergism between library and information science and other disciplines, as well as the close relationship between research and practice. Finally, students become knowledgeable about the factors that underlie users' information needs and appropriate strategies to assist them.

The University of Iowa offers students the option of completing their degree either on campus or online through a video conferencing system. The School of Library and Information Science combines web-based education with on-campus instruction and collaboration that allows distance students to participate real-time with their campus classmates. Both full- and part-time enrollment options are available for on-campus or virtual course work. For more information about the online program, see Online M.A. in LIS on the School of Library and Information Science website.

### Requirements

The Master of Arts in library and information science requires 36 s.h. of graduate credit. Students must earn a grade of B or higher in all courses for the major. They may repeat a course to remedy a lower grade; see the SLIS Handbook for further details. A thesis option is available for students who seek additional research experience.

Students may apply a maximum of 12 s.h. of graduate transfer credit in library and information science or related areas toward the degree, subject to applicable rules and approval of the transfer credit committee. Approval is determined by the course's content, currency, and applicability to a student’s program.

The program may be completed on campus or in a synchronous distance mode, and is designed to be completed in two years with enrollment of 9 s.h. during the fall and spring semesters. The School of Library and Information Science strongly recommends that students not register for more than 12 s.h. during fall and spring semesters and 8 s.h. during summer sessions. The program also may be completed through part-time study.

The curriculum includes two levels of course work. Core courses consist of five required courses that provide a solid grounding for all successive course work. Students select seven elective courses based on their areas of interest. This two-level arrangement allows students to concentrate in an area that most closely matches their professional goals.

The Master of Arts in library and information science has held continuous accreditation from the American Library Association since 1971.

### Core Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:5010</td>
<td>Cultural Foundations (taken in student's first semester)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:5020</td>
<td>Computing Foundations (taken in student's first semester)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:5030</td>
<td>Conceptual Foundations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:6115</td>
<td>Information and Inquiry</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

### Electives

With their advisor's guidance, students select seven of these (21 s.h.):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:4910</td>
<td>The Book in the Middle Ages</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:4920</td>
<td>The Transition from Manuscript to Print</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:5010</td>
<td>College and University Libraries</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:5020</td>
<td>Public Libraries</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:5042</td>
<td>Special Libraries</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:5044</td>
<td>School Library Media Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:5200</td>
<td>User Education: Multimedia</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:5210</td>
<td>Reference and Information Services</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:5220</td>
<td>Resources for Children</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:5230</td>
<td>Resources for Young Adults</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:5240</td>
<td>Resources for Adults</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:5520</td>
<td>Studies in Book History and Technologies</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:5530</td>
<td>Topics in Preservation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:5535</td>
<td>Book Conservation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:5600</td>
<td>History of Readers and Reading</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:5700</td>
<td>Cultural Heritage</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:5900</td>
<td>Health Informatics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:6020</td>
<td>Literacy and Learning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:6100</td>
<td>Database Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:6110</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Practice in Library and Information Science</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

### Total Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The M.A. with a major in library and information science requires the following course work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Courses</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SLIS:6140  Digital Environments 3
SLIS:6145  Digital Preservation and Stewardship 3
SLIS:6150  Information Behavior 3
SLIS:6155  Information Visualization 3
SLIS:6160  Search and Discovery 3
SLIS:6170  Organizational Management 3
SLIS:6250  Beginning Cataloging and Classification 3
SLIS:6330  Collection Development 3
SLIS:6335  Metadata Theories and Applications 3
SLIS:6345  Stewardship of Information and Collections 3
SLIS:6350  Archives and Media 3
SLIS:6370  Topics in Book Studies 3
SLIS:6380  Analysis of Scholarly Domains 3
SLIS:6411  Topics in Library and Information Science 1-3
SLIS:6490  Information Policy and Ethics 3
SLIS:6520  Practicum in Libraries and Information Centers 3
SLIS:6530  School Library Media Practicum 3
SLIS:6570  Independent Study 1-3
SLIS:6580  Thesis 0-6
SLIS:6590  Digital Humanities Capstone 3
SLIS:7290  Digital Humanities Theory and Practice 3

Special Libraries and Information Centers

Special libraries serve corporations, private companies, government agencies, technical and academic institutions, museums, medical facilities, and information management consulting firms. They are organized to anticipate and quickly respond to the specific information needs of their users. Special librarians are information resource experts who collect, analyze, evaluate, package, and disseminate information to facilitate accurate decision making. Knowledge of information technology and the ability to design services suitable to the parent organization are professional necessities. In addition, substantial subject expertise may be required.

School Teacher Librarian

School teacher librarians provide instruction to students in accessing, evaluating, and using information; collaborate with teachers on the use of resources in instruction; provide leadership in the use of instructional and information technologies; offer reading guidance; provide reference service; and manage the library media center.

The University of Iowa offers a state-approved program leading to endorsement as school teacher librarian K-12. In order to fulfill state requirements for this endorsement, students must hold or be eligible for a teaching license and must complete a designated sequence of courses that leads both to certification and to the M.A. degree.

Licensed teachers employed in Iowa schools may enroll in a distance education program that leads to an M.A. in library and information science and endorsement for school librarianship. Contact the School of Library and Information Science for details.

Students who are interested in school libraries but lack a valid Iowa teaching license may earn licensure as a school teacher librarian by completing 30 s.h. in the College of Education. The Master of Arts in library and information science with teacher licensure requires 66 s.h. of credit. Students must apply and be admitted to both programs.

Certificate Opportunities

Book Studies/Book Arts and Technologies

Students can earn the Certificate in Book Studies/Book Arts and Technologies offered by the Center for the Book (Graduate College). The certificate prepares them for careers in special collections librarianship while training them in the production and legacy of the book as a physical artifact. For more information, see Combined Programs [p. 3] in this section of the Catalog.

Informatics

M.A. students have the opportunity to earn the Certificate in Informatics. Specialty areas include bioinformatics and computational biology, geoinformatics, health informatics, and information science. For more information, see the Certificate in Informatics in the Catalog.

Public Digital Humanities

Students also may apply to earn the Certificate in Public Digital Humanities. The program requires 12 s.h. of graduate credit and offers credentials to students who plan to incorporate digital technology into their future research,
training, or careers. For more information, see the Certificate
in Public Digital Humanities in the Catalog

Certificate Program Application
Separate application to each certificate program is required. For more information, see Degrees and Certificates on the
School of Library and Information Science website.

Combined Programs

M.A./J.D.
The School of Library and Information Science and the College
of Law offer a combined Master of Arts/Juris Doctor program. Students in the combined program may apply a limited
amount of credit toward both degrees. Up to 9 s.h. in law
course work may be applied toward the M.A. in library and
information science; up to 6 s.h. in library and information
science course work may be applied to the J.D. degree.
Students take law courses their first year and begin taking
School of Library and Information Science courses in their
second year.
Separate application to each degree program is required.
Applicants must be admitted to both programs before they
may be admitted to the combined degree program. For more
information about the J.D., see Juris Doctor, J.D. (College of
Law) in the Catalog.
Elective courses also are available for students who wish to
specialize in law librarianship but who do not wish to pursue
the J.D. degree.

M.A./M.F.A. in Book Arts
The School of Library and Information Science and the Center
for the Book offer a combined Master of Arts/Master of Fine
Arts in book arts. The combined program allows students with
strong interests in the physical book to acquire training in the
book arts, book history, and material book studies. The earned expertise in the production and legacy of the book as a
physical artifact combined with expertise in library and
information science can be an asset for those focused on
careers in special collections libraries and archives.
Students in the combined program earn both degrees by
completing fewer semester hours than if each degree was
completed separately. Separate application to each degree
program is required. Applicants must be admitted to both
programs before they may be admitted to the combined
degree program. For more information, see the M.F.A. in book
arts in the Catalog.
Students interested in a librarianship career with a more
general interest in the physical book should consider
the book studies, book arts and technologies/library and
information science (BLIS) certificate program; see “Certificate
Opportunities” under Requirements [p. 1] in this section of the
Catalog.

M.A./Certificate in Book Studies/
Book Arts and Technologies
The Center for the Book and the School of Library and
Information Science (SLIS) collaborate to offer the book
studies/book arts and technologies/library and information
science (BLIS) program. The combined program enables
students to earn an M.A. in library and information science
and a certificate in book studies. It requires admission to the
School of Library and Information Science M.A. program and
the Center for the Book certificate program.
The M.A./Certificate in Book Studies/Book Arts and
Technologies offers multiple pathways into professional
engagement with artifacts available in archives and libraries,
such as rare and artist books. Students select courses that
enable them to gain skills and knowledge in areas of service
such as conservation, cataloging, instruction, and outreach.
The combined program requires 51 s.h. of course work.
Students take 27 s.h. of SLIS courses; 15 s.h. of book arts,
studies, and technologies courses; and the remaining 9 s.h.
may be taken in either SLIS or Center for the Book course
work, or from another unit with approval from the SLIS
advisor.
Admission deadline is February 1 for fall entry. For more
information, see the Certificate in Book Studies/Book Arts and
Technologies in the Catalog.

Admission
Applicants begin the admission process by submitting an
online graduate application through the Office of Admissions.
Applicants then receive a HawkID and can upload the
remaining application documents through MyUI. Transcripts
of all academic work, a written statement of purpose and
goals, a résumé or curricula vitae, and three letters of
recommendation are required. Applicants to the teacher
librarian program are asked to include a copy of their current
teaching certificate. The admission committee considers each
applicant’s letters of recommendation, statement of purpose,
résumé or curricula vitae, and other appropriate criteria, as
well as an applicant’s grade-point average. Applicants for
admission to the M.A. program should have a g.p.a. of at
least 3.00 on a 4.00 scale. Graduate Record Examination
(GRE) General Test scores are not required. Admission is
competitive.
Applicants whose first language is not English must score at
least 81 (internet-based) on the Test of English as a Foreign
Language (TOEFL). Applicants with TOEFL scores below 100
on the internet-based test are required by the University to
take an English Proficiency Test if admitted to the program.
In place of TOEFL, the school also accepts International English
Testing System (IELTS) scores of 7.0 or higher, with no
subscore below 6.0. Applicants who submit IELTS scores are
required to take an on-campus English proficiency evaluation.
Completed applications should be received by February 1
for priority consideration for fall admission. Decisions of the
admissions committee are announced approximately six
weeks after the application deadline. Late applications are
considered if places are still available. Financial aid often is
not available for late applicants. Admitted students are
assigned a faculty advisor for program planning during their
first semester.
Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the
Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations of the
Graduate College.

Financial Support
The School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) typically
offers partial-tuition scholarships and one-quarter-time
graduate assistantships. To be considered for scholarships
or assistantships, applicants must meet the M.A. program’s
grade-point average requirement for admission; see
Admission [p. 3] in this section of the Catalog. At the
discretion of the admissions committee, limited graduate assistantships may be offered to incoming students based on academic merit and prior experience. In addition, available assistantships in SLIS and in other programs and departments throughout the University are advertised as they become available; students should apply for specific assistantships.

For information on departmental scholarships, contact the School of Library and Information Science or visit its website to learn about available opportunities. Part-time employment usually is available in the University of Iowa Libraries or other campus units.

Applications for student loans, work-study eligibility, or other financial assistance should be submitted directly to the University’s Office of Student Financial Aid.

**Career Advancement**

Library and information science graduates have many options for employment. Alumni hold positions in public, school, special, and academic libraries as well as other information settings. They serve in varied roles, such as information consultant, database manager, library administrator, webmaster, network coordinator, cataloger, children’s librarian, school library media specialist, and archivist.

The school shares announcements of national and international job opportunities through an electronic mailing list. In addition, the Library and Information Science Student Organization (LISSO) sponsors talks by speakers versed in areas of librarianship as well as workshops on résumé writing, social media networking, and interviewing. Internships and other opportunities provide students with hands-on experience that may enhance their job prospects.

For recent information on library and information science placement, see the Library Research Service (LRS) website and the annual Placement and Salaries 2018 report on the Library Journal website.