

Library and Information Science, MA

Requirements

The Master of Arts in library and information science requires 36 s.h. of graduate credit. Students must maintain a minimum Graduate College program grade-point average (GPA) of 3.00. Students must earn a grade of B-minus or higher in all core courses and a grade of C or higher in elective courses. Courses may be repeated one time if a student receives a grade below the stated threshold; however, the original grade will still contribute to the cumulative GPA. If the second completion does not result in a minimum qualifying grade, the student will be ineligible to complete the MA in library and information science at the University of Iowa.

See the School of Library and Information Science Handbook on the School of Library and Information Science website for further details.

Students may apply a maximum of 12 s.h. of graduate transfer credit from non-University of Iowa institutions and 9 s.h. transfer credit from a University of Iowa graduate program. These courses must be in library and information science or areas related to the degree and are subject to applicable rules and approval by the curriculum committee. Approval is based on the course's content, currency, and applicability to a student's program.

The program may be completed fully online or through a mix of online and in-person courses. Please check residence criteria for any joint degrees and certificates. Most of the online coursework is delivered synchronously and is designed to be completed in two years with an enrollment of 9 s.h. during each of 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.

A thesis option may be available; interested students should contact the program for more information.

The MA in library and information science requires the following coursework.

Requirements	Hours
Core Courses	15
Electives	21

The curriculum includes two levels of coursework. Core courses consist of five required courses that provide a solid grounding for all successive coursework. Students select elective coursework consisting of seven courses for 21 s.h. or a combined electives course total of 21 s.h. based on their areas of interest. This two-level arrangement allows students to concentrate in an area that most closely matches their professional goals.

Core Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
SLIS:5010	Libraries, Culture, and Society (taken in student's first semester)	3
SLIS:5030	Information Organization	3
SLIS:6115	Introduction to Research Methods in Library and Information Science	3
SLIS:6170	Management, Teams, and Leadership	3
SLIS:7900	SLIS Graduation Seminar	0
One of these:		
SLIS:5020	Public User Services and Technology	3
SLIS:6140	Academic User Services and Technology	3

Electives

Course #	Title	Hours
With their advisor's guidance, students select seven courses for 21 s.h. or a combined course total of 21 s.h. from these:		
SLIS:4150	Introduction to Book Studies	3
SLIS:4910	The Book in the Middle Ages	3
SLIS:4920	The Book in Early Modern Europe	3
SLIS:5041	College and University Libraries	3
SLIS:5042	Public Libraries	3
SLIS:5044	School Library Media Administration	3
SLIS:5200	Innovation and Technology Methodology	3
SLIS:5220	Resources for Children	3
SLIS:5230	Resources for Young Adults	3
SLIS:5400	Community Archives	3
SLIS:5450	Reader's Advisory: Practices, Resources, and Media	3
SLIS:5520	Studies in Book History and Technologies	0-3
SLIS:5530	Preservation Management	3
SLIS:5535	Book Conservation	3
SLIS:5600	Reading Culture: History and Research in Print and Digital Media	3
SLIS:5630	Introduction to Special Collections and Archives	3
SLIS:6020	Literacy and Learning	3
SLIS:6040	Media Production Workshop	3
SLIS:6130	Community Engagement	3
SLIS:6140	Academic User Services and Technology	3
SLIS:6145	Digital Preservation and Stewardship	3
SLIS:6150	Information Behavior	3
SLIS:6250	Cataloging and Classification	3
SLIS:6255	Rare Book Cataloging	3

SLIS:6330	Collection Development	3
SLIS:6335	Metadata Theories and Applications	3
SLIS:6345	Stewardship of Information and Collections	3
SLIS:6350	Archives: Theory and Practice	3
SLIS:6355	Advanced Topics in Special Collections	3
SLIS:6370	Topics in Book Studies	3
SLIS:6411	Special Topics in Library and Information Science	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

Students may choose to satisfy up to 6 s.h. for the degree with an approved practicum (SLIS:6520 Practicum in Libraries and Information Centers). Students may repeat the practicum once for a total of 6 s.h. Placements must be preapproved by the practicum faculty lead. For more information, see the School of Library and Information Science website.

Specializations

To earn the degree, students do not need to select an area of specialization. However, programs often are designed around particular career goals, and the school offers courses in the following specialized focus areas that students may choose to take to prepare them for working in a specific area of library and information science.

Public Libraries

Public libraries provide informational, educational, and recreational materials and a wide range of services for a diverse clientele. Although public libraries receive the bulk of their funding from local taxes, they also may be organized on a regional or statewide cooperative basis. The variety of uses, services, materials, and organizational structures of public libraries makes this a challenging area of librarianship. Public librarians need to develop skills in analyzing the communities they serve, designing comprehensive marketing plans to meet their needs, implementing the plans in a cost-effective way, and evaluating the success of their efforts.

Academic Libraries

The academic library, whether in a community college, a four-year college, or a university, provides information services in support of the parent institution's teaching, research, and public service missions. These services include instruction in the use of the library and its resources. Management skills and subject or language competence are often required. Since librarians in this setting usually are considered academic faculty members, a second master's or other advanced degree is recommended.

School Libraries

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 for technology-enabled student learning; offer reading guidance;

provide reference service; and manage the library media center. In the state of Iowa, school librarians are referred to as teacher librarians.

The University of Iowa offers a state-approved program leading to endorsement as 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 MA degree.

Licensed teachers employed in Iowa schools may enroll in a distance education program that leads to an MA in library and information science and endorsement for teacher 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 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.