Library and Information Science, M.A.

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 on the School of Library and Information Science website 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 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.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Core Courses</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All of these:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Electives</strong></td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>With their advisor's guidance, students select seven courses for 21 s.h. or a combined course total of 21 s.h. from these:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SLIS:4150</td>
<td>Introduction to Book Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<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:5041</td>
<td>College and University Libraries</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:5042</td>
<td>Public Libraries</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:5043</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: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>Reading Culture: History and Research in Print and Digital Media</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:5700</td>
<td>Cultural Heritage</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLIS:5900</td>
<td>Health Informatics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLIS:5950</td>
<td>Health Information and Communication</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:6120</td>
<td>Natural Language Processing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:6130</td>
<td>Community Engagement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:6140</td>
<td>Digital Environments</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:6145</td>
<td>Digital Preservation and Stewardship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:6150</td>
<td>Information Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLIS:6155</td>
<td>Information Visualization</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:6170</td>
<td>Management, Teams, and Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLIS:6250</td>
<td>Beginning Cataloging and Classification</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLIS:6255</td>
<td>Beginning Rare Books Cataloging</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLIS:6330</td>
<td>Collection Development</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLIS:6335</td>
<td>Metadata Theories and Applications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIS:6345</td>
<td>Stewardship of Information and Collections</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
required.

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

Specializations

Students' programs often are designed around particular
career goals. Examples of possible general specializations
are listed below. Information also is available regarding
Specialized Focus Areas and Certificates on the School of
Library and Information Science website.

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 often are required. Since
librarians in this setting usually are considered academic
faculty members, a second master's or other advanced
degree is desirable.

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. 35] 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.