

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES, MLIS

The program leading to the Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) degree is a 36-credit-hour program, one of approximately 55 programs in the United States and Canada accredited by the American Library Association and the only ALA-accredited program in the state of Alabama. The degree prepares graduates to work in any type of library—public, K–12, academic, or special. The degree also prepares students for work in information centers and in entrepreneurial and research environments, especially those using advanced information technologies.

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

Admission Requirements

Students may be admitted to the School of Library and Information Studies without condition (*regular admission*) or with academic conditions imposed. The MLIS program is selective, and does not admit every applicant. Applications are considered holistically, so no single factor determines acceptance to the program.

Regular Admission Requirements

An applicant can be considered for regular admission if he or she has a grade point average of at least 3.0 overall for the last 60 semester hours in a degree program, based on a 4.0 system.

- Application Form
- Statement of Purpose
- Application Fee
- Transcripts
- Three (3) letters of recommendation; for applicants who have been in school in the last 5 years, at least two (2) letters must be academic references.

For further information and to submit an application, go to the Graduate Application Center online.

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

Exceptions to Admissions Policy

Under exceptional circumstances, an applicant may be considered for admission if he or she does not meet the GPA requirement for regular admission (GPA of 3.0). If such an applicant is admitted, he or she will need to obtain permission to continue in the program, after the first 12 semester hours of graduate-level work have been completed. Permission to continue is earned by achieving a GPA of "B" or better (3.0) in the first 12 semester hours. If the 12 hours are completed in a term in which the total credits exceed 12, the evaluation is made on the basis of all graduate-level work completed at the end of that term of enrollment. Students admitted under this circumstance who do not meet the 3.0 requirement after their first 12 hours of graduate-level work will not receive permission to continue in their graduate program, and will be dropped from the program.

Non-degree Admission Requirements

An applicant may be admitted as a non-degree student if the applicant has either a 3.0 undergraduate GPA or a 3.0 graduate GPA. No more than 12 hours may be taken as a nondegree-seeking student and applied to a degree.

Degree Requirements

Candidates for the MLIS degree must earn a minimum of 36 semester hours of credit hours earned in classes in the College of Communication

and Information Sciences. Classes from outside the college can be taken on approval. All work must be completed with a grade average of "B" or better. A portfolio comprised of course assignments reflecting program learning outcomes is required of all students. All MLIS students must complete, as part of the minimum 36 hours, the following 9 hours of required courses:

Core Requirements		Hours
LS 500	Info Sci & Tech	3
LS 501	Information in Communities	3
LS 513	Professional Paths	3

Total Hours		9
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Students may take many pathways to the completion of the MLIS program and should work in conjunction with their assigned academic advisors in the construction of their program. There is a Class A School Library-Media Certification and an Archival Studies Concentration. In addition, there are informal areas of emphasis in Academic Libraries, Digital Stewardship, Public Libraries, Special Libraries, Social Justice, and Youth Services can help guide the selection of courses.

Areas of Emphasis

Academic Libraries		Hours
User Services Electives		
LS 512	Info Resources:Science	3
LS 527	Info Lit. Instruct.	3
LS 567	Digital Reference	3
LS 580	Outreach to Diverse Population	3
Technical Services Electives		
LS 505	Collection Development	3
LS 506	Cataloging and Classification	3
LS 566	Metadata & Semantic Web	3
Technology Services Electives		
LS 524	Project Management	3
LS 581	Universal Access	3

Digital Stewardship		Hours
LS 508	Management Theory and Practice	3
LS 562	Digital Libraries	3
LS 524	Project Management	3
CIS 660	Interpersonal Comm Theory	3
CIS 662	Mediated Interpersonal Comm	3
CIS 666	Information Policy	3
LS 590	Issues In Librarianship ¹	3

Footnotes

¹ This is not an exhaustive list, as special topics courses may also be of interest, including Foundations of Digital Curation and Curating Digital Culture.

Public Libraries		Hours
LS 530	Public Libraries	3
LS 570	Internship	1 to 3
User Services Electives		
LS 520	Early Child Lit Mat & Story Pr	3

LS 521	Matl & Services Childrn	3
LS 522	Matl Serv Young Adults	3
LS 523	Matl Services Adults	3
LS 541	Youth Programming	3
LS 543	Trad. & Digital Storytelling	3
LS 580	Outreach to Diverse Population	3
Technical Services Electives		
LS 505	Collection Development	3
LS 506	Cataloging and Classification	3
LS 566	Metadata & Semantic Web	3
Technology Services Electives		
LS 524	Project Management	3
LS 581	Universal Access	3

Special Libraries**Hours**

LS 533	Spec Libr & Info Centrs	3
LS 570	Internship	1 to 3

User Services Electives

LS 512	Info Resources:Science	3
LS 527	Info Lit. Instruct.	3
LS 567	Digital Reference	3

Technical Services Electives

LS 505	Collection Development	3
LS 506	Cataloging and Classification	3
LS 566	Metadata & Semantic Web	3

Technology Services Electives¹

LS 524	Project Management	3
LS 581	Universal Access	3

Footnotes

¹ See *also* the Information Science & Technology Area of Emphasis for more Technology Services courses.

Social Justice and Inclusivity**Hours**

LS 570	Internship	1 to 3
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Archives

LS 558	Archival Repres., Access & Use	3
LS 590	Issues In Librarianship	3

Community Outreach and Services

LS 621	Interculture Perspect Yout Lit	3
LS 544	Cultural Diversity Programming	3
LS 580	Outreach to Diverse Population	3

Information Technologies

LS 581	Universal Access	3
LS 583	Social Aspects of Information	3

Issues in the Profession

LS 582	Race Gender & Sexuality in LIS	3
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Youth Services**Hours**

LS 530	Public Libraries	3
LS 570	Internship	1 to 3

Collection Development and Reader's Advisory

LS 520	Early Child Lit Mat & Story Pr	3
LS 521	Matl & Services Childrn	3
LS 522	Matl Serv Young Adults	3

Service and Program Planning and Management

LS 621	Interculture Perspect Yout Lit	3
LS 541	Youth Programming	3
LS 543	Trad. & Digital Storytelling	3

Community Outreach

LS 580	Outreach to Diverse Population	3
LS 544	Cultural Diversity Programming	3

Other Elective Useful to Youth Librarians

LS 505	Collection Development	3
LS 506	Cataloging and Classification	3
LS 523	Matl Services Adults	3

Footnotes

¹ See *also* School Libraries for information about serving youth in a school library setting.

Transfer of Credit and Credit for Non-Letter Graded Courses

Graduate credit may be transferred from another accredited university or may be elected from the offerings of other departments. Thesis credit cannot be transferred from another university. No more than nine hours of credit can be applied toward the MLIS for any combination of graduate courses taken outside SLIS, directed research courses, internships, and thesis credit. These hours may be combined as follows:

Thesis

Six hours of thesis credit and three hours of credit for directed research course or internship; or:

Six hours of thesis credit and three hours of approved credit for graduate work taken outside SLIS.

Coursework

Six hours of approved credit for graduate work taken outside SLIS and three hours of credit for a directed research course or internship; or:

Six hours of credit for any combination of directed research courses and internships and three hours of approved credit for graduate work taken outside SLIS.

Time Limit

All requirements for the master's degree must be completed during the six years (18 consecutive semesters) immediately preceding the date on which the degree is to be awarded.

Thesis

Candidates for the master's degree under the thesis plan must earn a minimum of thirty-six hours of credit, including nine hours of required courses, a three-hour required management and administration course, and six hours of thesis credit (LS 599); no more than six hours of thesis credit may be counted toward the degree.

A thesis evidencing research capacity, independent thought, and the ability to interpret materials is required of all master's degree candidates who pursue Plan I: Thesis. The subject chosen must be related to library and information studies and must be approved by the student's thesis director, the student's thesis committee, and the SLIS Director.

The thesis committee must include three individuals, including at least two full-time SLIS faculty members, at least one of whom must be a full member of the graduate faculty; a third committee member may be a

faculty member from another department of the University, a faculty member from another institution, or a well-qualified practitioner. All committee members must hold appropriate Graduate Faculty status.

The student must obtain committee approval for a prospectus for the thesis project prior to enrolling in thesis credit; a formal defense of the prospectus will constitute the final examination for the MLIS degree.

The candidate must give members of the examining committee a minimum of two weeks to read the thesis before the date of the final oral examination. A final oral examination is required of all students completing a thesis. All members of the thesis committee must be members of the UA graduate faculty and must attend the final oral examination unless there are extraordinary circumstances warranting the graduate dean's approval of the absence prior to the defense meeting. The thesis defense shall be made orally before the student's thesis committee and will be open to the public.

Theses must comply with the regulations set out in A Student Guide to Preparing Electronic Theses and Dissertations, available on the Graduate School's website. Approval of the thesis by the graduate dean is necessary before graduation.

The thesis should be completed, if possible, while the student is in residence at the University. To request permission to complete a thesis in absentia, the student must, before leaving the University, submit a satisfactory outline of the thesis, as well as evidence that adequate facilities are available where the work will be done, to the head of the student's major department.

Protection of Human Subjects for Research

Scientific research involving human subjects has produced substantial benefits for society, but it also has posed troubling ethical questions. The mission of the University's Institutional Review Board for Protection of Human Subjects is to ensure that research involving human subjects is conducted ethically. University and federal policies require that review and approval to use human subjects in research precede the research. In the case of thesis research that involves the use of human subjects, the principal investigator – normally the student – is responsible for contacting the college Human Research Review Committee to obtain approval for the planned research. Both the student and the thesis chair are responsible for completing Institutional Review Board training; guidelines for training can be found at <http://ovpred.ua.edu/research-compliance/institutional-review-board-irb/>.

The request forms for IRB approval can be accessed from <http://ovpred.ua.edu/research-compliance/institutional-review-board-irb/>.

Application for Graduation

Each candidate for a master's degree must apply for graduation through the Office of the Graduate School during the first week of the term in which requirements for the degree are to be completed. The form "Application for Degree" is required for this purpose, and must be completed online.

Student Learning Outcomes for the MLIS Teaching

Upon completing the SLIS MLIS program, all students should:

- have acquired a basic core of knowledge in the field: the creation and production, organization and access, selection and evaluation, preservation, dissemination and use of information

- understand the nature of professional ethics, display a committed professional attitude, value the role of professional associations, and be committed to individual professional development
- understand the opportunities and challenges of a variety of information settings, their functions and the users they serve and be able to approach the design and management of services and systems
- value teaching and service as ways to advance the field
- have knowledge of current research, an understanding of research processes and methods and an ability to analyze and critically evaluate research and apply it to professional duties
- understand the significance of concepts and contributions of other disciplines to library and information studies and the importance of library and information studies theories, principles, and concepts to other disciplines
- be aware of and sensitive to the impact of information practices, services, and programs on diverse, underserved and multicultural communities
- understand the appropriate technologies and their applications within particular contexts for the organization, retrieval, management, and dissemination of information
- be able to communicate cogently, clearly, and persuasively
- support the development and improvement of library and information services in general with special focus on the people of Alabama and the southeastern United States

Research and Creative Activities

SLIS faculty will:

- publish papers and reports in journals, monographs, and other publications devoted to librarianship, information science and related disciplines
- present the results of research, inquiry, and creative endeavors to peers at professional meetings and exhibitions
- undertake applied research projects including consulting assignments that augment and advance knowledge

Service

To provide advice and assistance to libraries and information centers that help them enhance the services they provide, SLIS faculty and staff:

- undertake consulting assignments
- provide opportunities for faculty, staff, and students to participate in professional associations, to promote the profession and to assume leadership and policy-making roles
- along with students, participate in the work of the University and the School through service on committees and working groups.

Class A School Library-Media Certification

For admission to the Class A School Library-Media program, a candidate must have a valid bachelor's level or valid master's level professional educator certificate in a teaching field or a valid master's level professional educator certificate in another area of instructional support. Effective June 1, 2017, two full years of full-time professional educational work experience in P-12 school system(s) is also required for admission.

Applicants with out-of-state licensure who are employed or seeking employment in another state are responsible for knowledge about professional licensure requirements in the prospective states. An applicant with out-of-state licensure who intends to apply for Alabama

certification must first apply for the prerequisite certification in Alabama before applying for Class A School Library-Media certification in Alabama.

All applicants must have a criminal history background check as required by the Alabama Department of Education.

Students pursuing Library Media certification should refer to the State-approved program checklist to ensure that requirements are met. In addition to completing an approved program of study, the candidate is required to earn a satisfactory score on a comprehensive examination administered by the School of Library and Information Studies and earn a passing score on the Praxis for Library Media Specialist.

The approved program of studies for certification is as follows:

Code and Title	Hours
Instructional support area	
LS 500 Info Sci & Tech	
LS 501 Information in Communities	
LS 504 Media Prod & Utilization	
LS 507 User Ctr Info Services	
LS 532 School Media Centers	
LS 542 Instruct Design & Dev	
LS 560 Information Technologies	
LS 572 Intern Sch Media Cntrs (requires a minimum of 300 clock hours)	
Foundations of professional studies: Choose ONE of the following SDE-approved diversity courses.	3
BEF 503 History Of Amer Educn	
BEF 507 Sociology Of Education	
BEF 534 Multicultural Education	
BEF 575 Found Educn Through Film	
BEF 607 Readings In Soc Of Ed	
BEF 650 Critical Race Theory In Educ	
BEF 667 Multicult Soc Ed Leadershp	
BEF 681 Ethics And Education	
Research	
LS 502 Research Methods	3
Additional Requirements	
SPE 500 is required if a special education survey course was not part of the undergraduate program or another graduate program.	
LS 520 or Early Child Lit Mat & Story Pr	3
LS 521 Matl & Services Childrn	
LS 522 Matl Serv Young Adults	3
Total semester hours	36-39

If courses equivalent to any of these required courses have been taken previously, substitutions may be made, with the approval of a faculty adviser.

For candidates admitted to the Class A Library Media program July 1, 2017, and thereafter, a minimum GPA of 3.25 on all courses in the Alabama State Board of Education approved library media program is required for certification.

Archival Studies Concentration

The School of Library & Information Studies at The University of Alabama offers a program of study within the MLIS degree that leads to an ACHE-recognized concentration in Archival Studies. This concentration provides a comprehensive grounding in the academic discipline of archival studies,

and an understanding of the theory, art, and practice that informs archival work. Students have the opportunity to develop competencies for work with rare books, manuscripts, traditional records, and digital media.

Graduates of the concentration leave prepared for employment in academic, cultural, public, governmental, and corporate environments. Recent graduates are currently employed at leading institutions, including the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH), the New York State Archives, the University of Washington, Birmingham-Southern College, and Samford University.

In addition to the MLIS requirements, the Archival Studies Concentration requires completion of the following curriculum:

Archival Studies Concentration Requirements (in addition to MLIS Requirements):	Hours
LS 555 Intro Archival Studies	3
LS 556 Archival Theory & Practice	3
LS 557 Archival Appraisal	3
LS 558 Archival Repres., Access & Use	3
Approved archival studies electives	6

Admissions Information:

Prospective students apply directly to the Archival Studies concentration, indicating the archival studies concentration in their application. The full concentration is available to all students, including online students and students studying on campus.

Contact Information:

Please contact Dr. Robert B. Riter for additional information.

MLIS - School Library Media Concentration	Hours
Core	
LS 500 Info Sci & Tech	3
LS 501 Information in Communities	3
LS 513 Professional Paths	3
Credit Hours Subtotal:	
9	
School Library Media Concentration	
LS 504 Media Prod & Utilization	3
LS 532 School Media Centers	3
LS 542 Instruct Design & Dev	3
LS 572 Intern Sch Media Cntrs	3
Credit Hours Subtotal:	
12	
Electives	
LS 502 Research Methods	3
LS 507 User Ctr Info Services	3
LS 520 or Early Child Lit Mat & Story Pr	3
LS 521 Matl & Services Childrn	
LS 522 Matl Serv Young Adults	3
Ancillary BEF course	
3	
BEF 503 History Of Amer Educn	
BEF 507 Sociology Of Education	
BEF 534 Multicultural Education	
BEF 575 Found Educn Through Film	
BEF 607 Readings In Soc Of Ed	
BEF 650 Critical Race Theory In Educ	
BEF 667 Multicult Soc Ed Leadershp	
BEF 681 Ethics And Education	

Credit Hours Subtotal:	15
Total Hours	36