

Subject: Program Evaluation

Policy Number: A5.01

Date: 4/15/16

POLICY

All academic programs in the school should be systematically evaluated in order to improve the programs and gather data to ensure that the program is achieving its mission, goals, and objectives. Each program has its own learning outcomes and method of evaluation. The learning outcomes are reviewed regularly by the appropriate committee. The data gathered from the evaluations will be used to report annually to the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment for SACS accreditation.

PROGRAMS

Bachelor of Science in Information Science (BSIS)

The mission of the Bachelor of Science in Information Science (BSIS) degree at the University of South Carolina is to provide students with opportunities to acquire foundation and specialized knowledge in the field of information science, as well as essential core skills for career development, professional development, and life-long learning.

Goal 1

To enable the student to perform effectively in the information science field by demonstrating an understanding of the many ways in which information can be created, stored, organized, transformed, and communicated in order to benefit individuals, organizations, and society.

Learning Outcome

Students will describe the techniques and principles for creating, storing, organizing, transforming, and communicating information to various information seekers.

Goal 2

To enable the student to perform effectively in the information science field by demonstrating practical skills for analyzing, processing and managing information and developing and managing the underlying information systems in our knowledge-based society. These skills include problem solving and decision-making so that they will be able to both develop and utilize information systems and information tools effectively, thus establishing their leadership in our evolving information economy.

Learning Outcome

Students will demonstrate practical skills of information science and the use of information systems.

Goal 3

To enable the student to perform effectively in the information science field by demonstrating comprehension of the cultural, historical, economic, and social values of information and information tools for individuals, organizations, and the society at large. Students will be prepared to evaluate the role of information in a variety of industries, in different organizational settings, for different populations, and for different purposes.

Learning Outcome

Students will demonstrate the comprehension of the valuable role of information and information technology in society as well as the diversity of needs and uses for information.

Criteria

Students will take either SLIS 494 (Independent Study) or SLIS 496 (Internship) and will, as a requirement of the course, present to a faculty panel on their experience, demonstrating what they learned related to the learning outcomes. Students will be evaluated on a rubric and must score at least 80%.

Methods

Independent Study/Internship faculty supervisors will share the rubric with the students at the beginning of the semester. Students will create a presentation highlighting how the experience helped them meet the learning outcomes. A faculty panel (members of the Undergraduate Committee) will score the presentation using a rubric based on the learning outcomes. The Undergraduate Committee will compile the results, share results with the full faculty, and use the results to recommend changes.

Master of Library and Information Science

The mission of the Master's program in Library and Information Science is to provide students with opportunities to acquire foundational and specialized knowledge in the field of information science, as well as essential core skills for librarians, information managers, school library media specialists, and other related professionals in the areas of career development, professional development, and life-long learning.

Goal

To enable the student to perform effectively in the library and information professions by demonstrating knowledge of library and information science professions, institutions, programs, and their varied contexts.

Learning Outcome 1

Upon completion of the MLIS program, students will demonstrate competency in information and its organization.

Learning Outcome 2

Upon completion of the program, students will demonstrate competency in the provision of information services.

Learning Outcome 3

Upon completion of the program, students will demonstrate competency in leadership and management in the LIS field.

Learning Outcome 4

Upon completion of the program, students will demonstrate competency in research in the LIS field.

Learning Outcome 5

Upon completion of the program, students will demonstrate competency in technology in the LIS field.

Learning Outcome 6

Upon completion of the program, students will demonstrate an understanding of the importance of lifelong learning and professional development within the LIS field.

Criteria

All students will submit an end-of-program portfolio. Students will choose an example of their best work and will present a work sample related to each learning outcome. Work samples may include, but are not limited to, research papers, projects, and posters; professional briefs; and recorded presentations. Faculty advisors score the portfolio based on a scoring guide. In order for each learning outcome to be considered achieved, 85% of all graduating students should score proficient or higher in each category.

Methods

Learning outcomes are assessed at the end of the Spring (May and August graduates) and Fall (December graduates) semesters. Each graduating student submits a portfolio to their faculty advisor who scores it using the Portfolio Scoring Guide. All Scoring Guides are submitted by faculty to the Student Services Office and results are compiled by the Student Services staff. Results will be shared and discussed at the first faculty meeting of the new semester (i.e. December portfolio results will be shared at the January faculty meeting).

Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Library and Information Science

The mission of the certificate in graduate study in Library and Information Science is to provide post-Master's degree instruction designed to enhance the student's career opportunities in his or her chosen area of specialization.

Goal

To enable Certificate program graduates to perform effectively in the library and information science professions by demonstrating skills and/or knowledge in a specific chosen area of the field.

Learning Outcome 1

Students will demonstrate an understanding of their professional development goals.

Learning Outcome 2

Students will demonstrate an understanding of what specialized knowledge and/or skills are needed to meet their professional development goals.

Learning Outcome 3

Students will demonstrate specialized knowledge and/or skills in a specific chosen area of the field.

Criteria

All students will submit an end-of-program portfolio that will highlight the specialized skills and knowledge gained during the Certificate program. Work samples may include, but are not limited to, research papers, projects, and posters; professional briefs; and recorded presentations. Faculty advisors score the work sample based on a scoring guide based on the learning outcomes. In order for each learning outcome to be considered achieved, 85% of all graduating students should score proficient or higher in each category.

Methods

Learning outcomes are assessed at the end of the Spring (May and August graduates) and Fall (December graduates) semesters. Each graduating student submits a portfolio to their faculty advisor who scores it using a scoring guide based on the learning outcomes. All Scoring Guides are submitted by faculty to the Student Services Office and results are compiled by the Student Services staff. Results will be shared and discussed at the first faculty meeting of the new semester (i.e. December portfolio results will be shared at the January faculty meeting).

Specialist Degree in Library and Information Science

The mission of the Specialist program in Library and Information Science is to provide librarians, information managers, school library media specialists, and other related professionals the opportunity to refresh and update their knowledge and skills, gain greater specialization in their professional training, or redirect their careers from one specialization area to another.

Goal

To provide library and information science professionals the opportunity to refresh and update their knowledge and skills, gain greater specialization in their professional training, and/or redirect their careers from one area to another.

Learning Outcome 1

Students will demonstrate an understanding of their professional development goals.

Learning Outcome 2

Students will demonstrate an understanding of what specialized knowledge and/or skills are needed to meet their professional development goals.

Learning Outcome 3

Students will demonstrate specialized knowledge and/or skills in a specific chosen area of the field.

Criteria

All students will submit an end-of-program portfolio that will highlight the specialized skills and knowledge gained during the Specialist program. Work samples may include, but are not limited to, research papers, projects, and posters; professional briefs; and recorded presentations. Faculty advisors score the work sample via on a scoring guide based on the learning outcomes. In order for each learning outcome to be considered achieved, 85% of all graduating students should score proficient or higher in each category.

Methods

Learning outcomes are assessed at the end of the Spring (May and August graduates) and Fall (December graduates) semesters. Each graduating student submits a portfolio to their faculty advisor who scores it using a scoring guide based on the learning outcomes. All Scoring Guides are submitted by faculty to the Student Services Office and results are compiled by the Student Services staff. Results will be shared and discussed at the first faculty meeting of the new semester (i.e. December portfolio results will be shared at the January faculty meeting).

PhD in Library and Information Science

The mission of this program is to provide doctoral-trained teacher scholars for library and information science programs across the nation, and to promote the research-based foundation for these areas within the profession.

Goal

To enable graduates to master the knowledge and skills necessary for research and teaching careers in the LIS field.

Learning Outcome 1

Students will demonstrate an understanding of theory development and research methods and their application in the field of library and information science.

Learning Outcome 2

Students will demonstrate familiarity with seminal and contemporary scholarship involving major library and information science theories, problems, and practices.

Learning Outcome 3

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the theory, practice, resources, and technologies of college-level instruction.

Criteria

All students will write an annual review statement that updates their progress with course work, presentations, and publications. The review will also include narrative reflecting on how the student has or has not met the learning outcomes of the program. Doctoral and Research Committee members score the annual review via on a scoring guide based on the learning outcomes. In order for each learning outcome to be considered achieved, 85% of students should score proficient or higher in each category.

Methods

Learning outcomes are assessed at the end of the Spring (May and August graduates) and Fall (December graduates) semesters. Each doctoral student will submit an annual review to their advisor. The advisor will share the review with the Doctoral and Research Committee who will use a rubric based on the learning outcomes to score the statement.