

Subject: Master of Library and Information Science

Policy: A5.42

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The Master of Library and Information Science degree is a program of basic professional education designed to prepare students for entry into positions in libraries and information centers in colleges, schools, communities, industries, and businesses.

GOAL

To enable MLIS graduates 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 OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the MLIS program:

1. Students will demonstrate competency in information and its organization.
2. Students will demonstrate competency in the provision of information services.
3. Students will demonstrate competency in leadership and management in the LIS field.
4. Students will demonstrate competency in research in the LIS field.
5. Students will demonstrate competency in technology in the LIS field.
6. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the importance of lifelong learning and professional development within the LIS field.

PROCEDURE

For admission to the SLIS MLIS program, a baccalaureate degree or higher from a regionally or nationally accredited college or university is normally required. An applicant may be considered for admission to the Master's degree program after submission of the following:

1. A USC Graduate School application and the non-refundable \$50.00 application fee.
2. The School of Library and Information Science Supplemental Application which is accessible through the Graduate School application. The Supplemental Application includes an essay requirement. Applicants must respond to the statements provided on the application.
3. Official transcripts from all other colleges or universities attended. The required GPA is 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
4. Two letters of recommendation. The recommenders should be in a position to evaluate (a) your academic performance at the undergraduate or graduate level (e.g., faculty or instructors) or (b) your job performance (e.g., supervisors or administrators). Letters from friends and relatives which speak only of the applicant's personal attributes will not be accepted.
5. Standardized test score report for either the GRE or MAT:

- A. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Official score report for the GRE taken within the last five years must indicate:
 - i. A combined score requirement for the GRE must be 294 with at least 153 on the verbal section.
 - ii. SLIS requires a minimum score of 4.0 on the writing portion of the GRE. The score is considered in the application process, particularly if the GRE score and/or GPA is weak or does not meet the minimum requirement.
- B. Miller Analogies Test (MAT) Official score report for tests taken within the last five years must indicate a score of at least 410. For MAT information and testing center locations go to www.milleranalogies.com.
6. International Students: Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) International students whose native language is not English must also submit an official score report with a minimum score of 80 on the internet-based (IBT) or on the 570 paper-based (PBT). TOEFL scores are available from ETS for two years. Information can be found at www.ets.org/toefl.

Applicants are only considered when all of the necessary documents are included in their files. Although applicants may present the GPA and/or standardized test scores as noted above, admission is not guaranteed. If applicants do not present a GPA and/or test scores as noted, the Admissions Coordinator will present their application to the SLIS Student Services Committee for further review. Through the Student Services Committee, applicants may then be recommended for full admission, conditional admission or declination. Any application may be subject to review by the Student Services Committee.

Upon admission to the master's degree program, the Student Services Office will assign an advisor for each student. The student or advisor may, at any time, ask for a change of advisor. The advisor will assist in the development of the student's program but it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all of the degree requirements are met.

Degree Requirements:

For the Master of Library and Information Science degree, an approved program of at least 36 semester hours of graduate course work must be completed with a minimum grade point ratio of 3.00 (B) overall. Nine hours of required courses (SLIS 701, 705, and 707) are designed to provide the student with an understanding of the information profession as is the Technology Competency Requirement (SLIS 706 or the Competency Exemption Exam). Student may not exempt SLIS 701, 705, and 707. Students and their advisors will choose a minimum of 24-27 hours of elective courses. No more than six (6) hours can be below the 700-level and courses below the 600-level will not be accepted on the Program of Study. Elective courses in the School of Library and Information Science and other graduate departments may be used to develop a specialization in one or more areas or to provide a broad, general preparation for the information professions. Additionally, all students must complete an end-of-program portfolio. (See Policy A5.85, Portfolio, Student).

A minimum of 24 graduate hours must be completed within the School. The remaining 12 hours may be taken in other related academic units of the University. Students have the option of transferring up to six semester hours of graduate course work from colleges or universities other than the University of South Carolina. (See Policy A5.75, Transfer Credit). No more than six semester hours may be earned in independent study credit. Courses which will be more than six years old at the time the MLIS is awarded may not be included on the student's Program of Study.

Students must present a grade point average of at least 3.0 (B average) on all courses taken in the program at the time of graduation. Students who earn a grade below B on more than six hours of course work or who make a grade below C in any course will not be allowed to continue in the program. Students who receive a grade below C in a course cannot apply the course toward graduation. Students who receive a grade of D+ or D in a required course (i.e., SLIS 701, 705, 707; the Technology Competency Requirement course, SLIS 706; joint program requirements; or CAEP requirements) must retake the course upon reinstatement to attain a grade of at least C (see Policy A5.80, Grade Requirements for Degree Credit).