Subject: Specialist Degree in Library and Information Science

Policy Number: A5.65

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The School will offer a Specialist Degree in Library and Information Science program with competitive and selective enrollment to serve the needs of librarians and other information professionals needing advanced training.

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 OUTCOMES

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of their professional development goals.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of what specialized knowledge and/or skills are needed to meet their professional development goals.
3. Students will demonstrate specialized knowledge and/or skills in a specific chosen area of the field.

PROCEDURE
In order for a student to matriculate and graduate, the following conditions apply:

Admissions Requirements:
1. Official transcript showing possession of a master's degree in library and information science from an American Library Association (ALA) accredited or National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) approved program. (Applicants with a master's degree from an NCATE approved program must also have current certification as a librarian or school library media specialist.)   The required GPA is 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
    A. Applicants with a master's degree in library and information science that is not from an ALA accredited or NCATE approved program may also be admitted to the program upon satisfactory exemption of SLIS 701, 707 and the Technology Competency Requirement (SLIS 706 or the Competency Exemption Exam).   Any of these courses not exempted must be taken as part of the Specialist degree program in addition to the required 30 hours.
    B. Applicants without an ALA accredited or NCATE approved program degree but holding a master's degree in a library and information science related field may be accepted into the program upon satisfactory exemption of SLIS 701, 707, and the Technology Competency Requirement (SLIS 706 or the Competency Exemption Exam).   Any of these courses not exempted must be taken as part of the Specialist degree program in addition to the required 30 hours.

2. Generally, a minimum of three (3) years of full-time experience in a library, media center, or information agency.   Requirements for work experience, however, may be waived at the discretion of the School.
3. 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.
4. Two letters of recommendation from persons able to comment on the applicant's professional performance and potential.
5. A statement of professional purpose indicating the specialization the applicant seeks to develop. A resume outlining the applicant's educational and professional record should be attached to the statement.
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 internet-based (IBT) or 570 paper-based (PBT). TOEFL scores are available from ETS for two years. Information can be found at www.ets.org/toefl.

Upon admission to the Specialist 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:
    1. Each student's program will consist of a minimum of 30 hours of course work.
        A. Of these 30 hours, 18 must be taken within the School of Library and Information Science.
        B. Of these 30 hours, 3 must be Internship hours (SLIS 794) and 3 must be Independent Study hours (SLIS 796).
        C. Any student who has not taken SLIS 705, Introduction to Research in Library and Information Science, or shown evidence of having completed its equivalent, will be required to satisfactorily complete it (with a grade of B or better) in addition to the 30 minimum required hours. (A research methods course satisfactorily completed (with a grade of B or better) in another discipline may be substituted for SLIS 705 at the discretion of the advisor.)
    2. All students must complete an end-of-program portfolio. (See Policy A5.85, Portfolio, Student).
    3. A student may take up to 12 hours of course work in other colleges of the University upon approval by the advisor.   No more than 9 of the total 30 hours of course work may be taken at another institution.
    4. Each student has the option of working with an advisor to complete a project adequate to the

student's program of study that demonstrates the capacity to conduct, synthesize, and utilize research methodology in library and information science. The research project must be approved by the advisor.

5. A maximum of 9 hours of SLIS 796, Independent Study, and SLIS 798, Specialist Project Preparation, may be taken for the Specialist Degree. No more than 6 of these hours may be directly related to the optional research project.

6. Courses which will be more than six years old at the time the Specialist Degree is awarded may not be included in the student's program of study form.

7. At the discretion of the Advisor up to six hours of graduate work taken prior to admission to the program may be included in the Specialist Degree provided that:

   A. none of the courses exceed the six-year limitation noted above;
   B. any course work in library and information science must have been taken at a school accredited by ALA or approved by NCATE;
   C. course work must be germane to the student's program and make a direct contribution to it;
   D. course(s) must show on an official transcript (and a copy of the official course description and/or syllabus provided) and not have been used to earn another degree;
   E. grades for the course(s) must be a B or higher.

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. 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).