

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES: ONLINE PROGRAM, MA

This is a named option within the Library and Information Studies MA (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/information/library-information-studies-ma/#text>).

The ALA-accredited master's degree at the Information School (iSchool) prepares graduates to develop, provide, and assess information services that create, collect, organize, store, analyze, find, distribute, and use information in a diverse, technological, and global society. The program prepares information professionals to work in multiple areas of the information professions, including libraries (public, university and college, youth services, special, and government), archives, digital librarianship (which includes user experience and data analytics/management), and information organization. Students can tailor their program to include other emphases such as Tribal Libraries, Archives and Museums, social justice, and digital humanities.

Librarianship: Graduates obtain employment in college and university librarianship, public librarianship, youth and young adult librarianship, electronic collections management, science and health librarianship, research data management, and school library media centers.

Archives in a Digital Age: Graduates obtain employment in digital asset management, digital preservation and curation, digital archives, corporate archives, government archives, special collections, and tribal libraries archives and museums.

Digital Libraries: Design, develop, and manage information technologies with a focus on the user. Potential jobs include user experience and web design, digital humanities, digital asset management and curation, database and data management, and IT training/instruction.

Organization of Information: Graduates obtain employment in metadata management, taxonomy and ontology development and implementation, digital asset management, cataloging, XML and linked data, and database management.

Full-time students generally complete the master's program in two academic years; part-time students complete it in three to four years. Students gain hands-on experience as part of their degree through the school's required field practicum. Students may choose practicum settings based on their career goals.

NAMED OPTIONS

Students interested in the Master of Arts in Library and Information Studies should refer to one of the named options:

- Campus Program (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/information/library-information-studies-ma/library-information-studies-campus-program-ma/>)
- Online Program (p. 1)

OPTIONAL SPECIALIZATIONS

The Information School hosts several specializations that require specific coursework from other departments or other requirements.

Business School Graduate/Professional Certificate in Strategic Innovation: The Information School offers a specialization in information innovation and organizational change in conjunction with the School of Business graduate/professional certificate (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/management-human-resources/strategic-innovation-technology-organizations-society-graduate-professional-certificate/>) which can be completed as part of the school's MA degree (on-campus program only).

Certificate in Leadership: iSchool students can earn the UW-Madison Certificate in Leadership (<https://cfli.wisc.edu/leadership-certificate/>) as part of their Information School MA degree (on-campus and online programs).

Double degrees: The iSchool offers double degrees with the UW Law School, the School of Music, and the Department of Art History. These require separate admissions and additional coursework. (on-campus program only)

School Library Media Specialist License: The School Library Media Specialist License in the State of Wisconsin is a stand-alone teaching license. The iSchool MA program can be modified to provide candidates with the educational requirements for the license taken in addition to the MA courses. Candidates already holding a valid Wisconsin teaching license can be endorsed for the School Library Media Specialist through the iSchool MA program. UW-Madison is part of the UW System School Library Education Consortium (UWSSLEC), which is a certification-only program. Because each state has its own regulations for teacher licenses, this specialization is available to Wisconsin residents or those who will be working in Wisconsin schools only.

Online students (distance degree option) should note: Specialized courses in art, music, law, and school library media specialist, as well as courses offered outside the Information School that may be part of concentrations, specializations, or double degrees, are generally not available online. For a distance student with academic background in one of these areas, combining the general Information School degree with the specialized background may be the best preparation.

The Information School master's program is accredited by the American Library Association, recognized by the Wisconsin Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning for certification of public librarians, and recognized by the state's Department of Public Instruction for preparation of school library media specialists.

ABOUT THE INFORMATION SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The UW-Madison Information School, "the iSchool," is a professional school offering several degrees and non-credit education that prepare students for careers in the information professions:

- The iSchool MA degree (<https://ischool.wisc.edu/programs/ma-library-information-studies/>) is a professional master's that prepares information professionals to work in multiple areas of the information professions, including libraries (public, university and college, youth services, special, and government), archives, digital librarianship

(which includes user experience and data analytics/management), and information organization. Students can tailor their program to include other emphases such as Tribal Libraries, Archives and Museums, social justice, and digital humanities.

- The Capstone Certificate in User Experience Design (<https://ischool.wisc.edu/programs/uxcapstone/>) is an educational credential aimed at working adults who seek further education to advance their careers or move into new fields without the commitment of a full master's degree. See the Capstone Certificate Guide page here (<https://guide.wisc.edu/nondegree/capstone/user-experience-design-capstone-certificate/>).
- The PhD degree (<https://ischool.wisc.edu/programs/phd-program/>) provides advanced academic preparation for those wishing to pursue careers in academia, industrial research, or policymaking. See the PhD Guide page here (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/information/information-phd/>).
- The Undergraduate Digital Studies Certificate (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/communication-arts/digital-studies-certificate/>) provides undergraduate coursework in information technologies and society and information management. See the Undergraduate Certificate Guide page here (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/letters-science/communication-arts/digital-studies-certificate/>).
- The iSchool offers non-credit continuing education short courses (<https://ischool.wisc.edu/continuing-education/>) that help information professionals stay up to date.

COMMUNITY

The Information School at UW–Madison is well known for its public-good, community-engagement orientation (<https://ischool.wisc.edu/slis/community-engagement/>). It is home to student organizations that shepherd information-justice projects including the Jail Library Group, the Tribal Library Archives and Museums Group, and the KidsLib and Beyond Group. Student groups at the iSchool (<https://ischool.wisc.edu/student-experience/student-organizations/>) are very active and organize and sponsor events.

The iSchool Library, (<https://www.library.wisc.edu/ischool/>) whose windows overlook the shores of Lake Mendota and the oak trees of Muir Knoll, is a very popular campus space for study, group work, social events, and relaxation. The Information School Library is also home to:

- RADD (<http://radd.dsalo.info/>) "Recovering Analog and Digital Data" equipment for audio/video digitization and digital-data rescue that provides fee-for-service recovery of data from a wide variety of media types.
- The Text Technologies Press: (<http://www.wiscprintdigital.org/projects/text-technologies/>) Typography and letterpress printing equipment for teaching book history, book arts, design, art, and making.

RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP

The Information School faculty are known for scholarly work in the areas of:

- Data and information policy and ethics
- User behaviors and literacies
- Print culture
- Library and information technology history
- Electronic publishing

- Information and communications technologies (ICT) and development, and transnational diaspora use of ICT
- The social aspects of ICT
- Medical information and medical information technologies
- Youth and new media

For more information, see the iSchool Research Overview Page. (<https://ischool.wisc.edu/faculty-staff-directory/research/>)

RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

Faculty and staff are widely involved in different research groups on campus. For example, the iSchool is home to the Center for the History of Print and Digital Culture (<http://www.wiscprintdigital.org/>), a research center focused on authorship, reading, publication, and distribution of print and digital materials. The Information School faculty members are involved with the Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies, the Digital Humanities Research Network, the HCI+Design Group, the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery, and the Center for Financial Security.

ADMISSIONS

ADMISSIONS

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program's admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program's website.

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. **Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s).** Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/>).

Requirements	Detail
Fall Deadline	December 15
Spring Deadline	The program does not admit in the spring.
Summer Deadline	The program does not admit in the summer.
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)	Not required.
English Proficiency Test	Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Requirements for Admission policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241/).
Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)	n/a
Letters of Recommendation Required	3

The school admits students to its on campus and online master's programs once a year, for fall semester. Priority consideration, including consideration for departmental scholarships, is given to applications received by the fall deadline. Applications are accepted until **March 1**. After March 1, interested applicants should contact the department to ask if a late application can still be considered.

Students from any geographical location (including Madison, Wisconsin) are welcome to apply. Online students cannot take face to face courses.

For more information on the Information School MA program, including detailed admissions instructions, read the program admission (<https://ischool.wisc.edu/programs/ma-library-information-studies/ma-lis-admission/>) page.

The Graduate School requires a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited US institution, or a comparable degree from an international institution. A minimum undergraduate grade-point average (GPA) of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) in the last 60 earned credit hours is required.

Application evaluation criteria include academic abilities, professional promise, leadership and community engagement. An undergraduate program that includes breadth in liberal arts and sciences is required. Any major is acceptable. Prior work experience related to information professions is useful but is not required.

FUNDING

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

[The Bursar's Office provides information about tuition and fees associated with being a graduate student.](#) [Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid.](#) [Further funding information is available from the Graduate School.](#)

Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Students enrolled in this program are not eligible to receive tuition remission from graduate assistantship appointments at this institution.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum degree requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#requirements-text>) and policies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policies-text>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

NAMED OPTION REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/ Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
No	No	Yes	No	No

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business

schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW–Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirement Detail

Minimum Credit Requirement	36 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	30 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	30 credits must be graduate-level coursework. The remaining 6 credits cannot be L I S courses numbered 300–699 without the Grad 50% attribute. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/).
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.00 GPA required. Refer to the Graduate School: Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/).
Other Grade Requirements	Within the student's total program, one grade of BC or C is allowable in either a required or elective course if it is balanced by a grade of A or AB earned prior to or concurrently with the unsatisfactory grade. A second grade of BC or C or any grade of D or F will normally result in the student being dropped from the program.
Assessments and Examinations	Candidates must complete a minimum of a 120-hour practicum, and must complete a PLO Assessment.
Language Requirements	No language requirements.

REQUIRED COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
Core		
All three courses are required; take L I S 602 in first semester and L I S 601 in first or second semester. L I S 603 can be taken at any time.		9
L I S 601	Information: Perspectives and Contexts	
L I S 602	Information: Organization and Search	
L I S 603	Research and Assessment for Information Professionals	

Tier Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

Complete one of the following courses:

L I S/AFRICAN/ COM ARTS 444	Technology and Development in Africa and Beyond
L I S 500	Code and Power
L I S 520	
L I S 629	Multicultural Literature and Resources for Children and Youth
L I S 640	Topics in Library and Information Studies (Services to Diverse Populations)
L I S 640	Topics in Library and Information Studies (Tribal Libraries Archives and Museums)

Tier Management

Complete one of the following courses: 3

L I S 654	Information Services Management
L I S 712	The Public Library
L I S 722	College and University Libraries

Tier Technology

Complete one of the following courses: 3

L I S 644	Digital Tools, Trends and Debates
L I S 640	Topics in Library and Information Studies (Web Development)
L I S 646	Introduction to Info Architecture and Interaction Design for the Web
L I S 668	Digital Curation and Collections
L I S 751	Database Design for Information Professionals
L I S 768	Digital Humanities Analytics
L I S/CURRIC/ ED PSYCH 803	Computational Research Methods

Tier L I S Fundamentals

Complete two of the following courses: 6

L I S 615	Systems Analysis and Project Management for Information Professionals
L I S 632	Metadata Standards and XML
L I S 635	Reference and Information Service
L I S 639	Pedagogical Theory and Practice for Information Professionals
L I S 651	Cataloging and Classification
L I S 655	Collection Management
L I S/ HISTORY 734	Introduction to Archives and Records Management

Capstone 3

L I S/CURRIC 620	Field Project in Library and Information Agencies
L I S 521	

PLO Assessment

Students are required to complete a PLO Assessment prior to graduation. This is a non-credit bearing requirement. 0

Electives

Suggested courses below are based on potential concentrations. Students do not declare concentrations and may mix and match courses across areas. Students may take up to 6 credits of electives outside of the iSchool. All non-L I S electives must be approved by the student's advisor.

Digital Librarianship

L I S 646	Introduction to Info Architecture and Interaction Design for the Web
L I S 615	Systems Analysis and Project Management for Information Professionals
L I S 500	Code and Power
L I S 639	Pedagogical Theory and Practice for Information Professionals
L I S 751	Database Design for Information Professionals
L I S 668	Digital Curation and Collections
L I S 640	Topics in Library and Information Studies (Web Development)
L I S 768	Digital Humanities Analytics
L I S/ LEGAL ST 460	Surveillance, Privacy, and Police Powers
L I S 461	Data and Algorithms: Ethics and Policy
L I S 510	Human Factors in Information Security
L I S 661	Information Ethics and Policy

Archives/Records

L I S/ HISTORY 734	Introduction to Archives and Records Management
L I S 616	Records Management
L I S 818	Archives Accessioning and Appraisal
L I S 640	Topics in Library and Information Studies (Description and Arrangement)
L I S 678	Preservation and Conservation of Library and Archives Materials
L I S 615	Systems Analysis and Project Management for Information Professionals
L I S 632	Metadata Standards and XML
L I S 651	Cataloging and Classification
L I S 751	Database Design for Information Professionals

Public

L I S 712	The Public Library
L I S 635	Reference and Information Service
L I S 651	Cataloging and Classification
L I S 655	Collection Management
L I S 639	Pedagogical Theory and Practice for Information Professionals
L I S/ NURSING 517	Digital Health: Information and Technologies Supporting Consumers and Patients

L I S 640	Topics in Library and Information Studies (Services to Diverse Populations)
L I S 642	Reading Interests of Adults
L I S 755	Electronic Resource Management & Licensing
L I S 668	Digital Curation and Collections
L I S 661	Information Ethics and Policy
L I S 632	Metadata Standards and XML

Youth

L I S 622	Childrens Literature
L I S 629	Multicultural Literature and Resources for Children and Youth
L I S 631	Literature and Resources for Youth
L I S 772	Library Services to Children and Young Adults
L I S 639	Pedagogical Theory and Practice for Information Professionals
L I S 668	Digital Curation and Collections
L I S 755	Electronic Resource Management & Licensing
L I S 661	Information Ethics and Policy
L I S 655	Collection Management
L I S 635	Reference and Information Service
L I S 632	Metadata Standards and XML

College and Research Libraries

L I S 722	College and University Libraries
L I S 639	Pedagogical Theory and Practice for Information Professionals
L I S 635	Reference and Information Service
L I S 651	Cataloging and Classification
L I S 632	Metadata Standards and XML
L I S 640	Topics in Library and Information Studies (Services to Diverse Populations)
L I S 655	Collection Management
L I S 661	Information Ethics and Policy
L I S 668	Digital Curation and Collections
L I S 755	Electronic Resource Management & Licensing

Additional Courses

L I S 640	Topics in Library and Information Studies
L I S 855	Topics in Information Agency Management
L I S 501	Introduction to Text Mining
L I S/MUSIC 619	Music Research Methods and Materials
L I S/ART HIST/ HISTORY/ JOURN 650	History of Books and Print Culture in Europe and North America
L I S/ LEGAL ST 663	Introduction to Cyberlaw
L I S/ COM ARTS 705	Introductory Analytics for Decision Making

L I S 706	Data Mining Planning and Management
L I S 707	Data Visualization and Communication for Decision Making
L I S 826	Field Project in Library and Information Literacy Instruction
L I S 839	Special Collections
L I S 875	Topics in Information Processing and Retrieval

One credit courses are offered every semester under a variety of topics under L I S 640 and L I S 855.

Total Credits **36**

Students in this program may not take courses outside the prescribed curriculum without faculty advisor and program director approval. Students in this program cannot enroll concurrently in other undergraduate or graduate degree programs.

POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (<https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/>) serve as the official document of record for Graduate School academic and administrative policies and procedures and are updated continuously. Note some policies redirect to entries in the official UW-Madison Policy Library (<https://policy.wisc.edu/>). Programs may set more stringent policies than the Graduate School. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

NAMED OPTION-SPECIFIC POLICIES

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions

Students may transfer up to 6 credits of approved graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework earned ten or more years prior to admission to a master's degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

Undergraduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions or UW-Madison

With approval, UW-Madison undergraduates accepted into the Information School program may transfer up to 7 graduate iSchool credits (courses in L I S numbered 400 and above) toward their MA degree. With approval, students may transfer up to 7 credits of graduate level credit earned at other institutions during the undergraduate career.

Credits Earned as a Professional Student at UW-Madison (Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Veterinary careers)

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/>) policy.

Credits Earned as a University Special Student at UW-Madison

Students are allowed to transfer up to 6 approved credits of coursework numbered 400 or above taken as a UW-Madison University Special student. Coursework earned ten or more years prior to admission to a master's degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

PROBATION

Refer to the Graduate School: Probation (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1217/>) policy and iSchool Student Handbook. (<https://ischool.wisc.edu/current-students/ma-requirements-overview/ma-program-planning-guides/>)

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

All continuing students are encouraged to meet with their advisor prior to registering for each semester in order to remove registration holds and ensure timely progress towards degree completion. Students may switch advisors at any time by completing a change of advisor form.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

The iSchool recommends 3 to 6 credits per semester for online students. 8 to 12 credits in a regular semester is considered full time at the graduate level.

TIME LIMITS

The maximum period for completion of the MA (under special circumstances) is seven calendar years. Contact the department for more information.

Refer to the Graduate School: Time Limits (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1221/>) policy.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/>)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure>)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/>)
 - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (<https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/>)
- Employee Assistance (<http://www.eao.wisc.edu/>) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
- Employee Disability Resource Office (<https://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/>) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
- Graduate School (<https://grad.wisc.edu/>) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions)
- Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/>) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
- Office Student Assistance and Support (OSAS) (<https://osas.wisc.edu/>) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (<https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/>) (for conflicts involving students)
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (<http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/>) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
- Title IX (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>) (for concerns about discrimination)

L&S POLICY FOR GRADUATE STUDENT ACADEMIC APPEALS

Graduate students have the right to appeal an academic decision related to an L&S graduate program if the student believes that the decision is inconsistent with published policy.

Academic decisions that may be appealed include:

- Dismissal from the graduate program
- Failure to pass a qualifying or preliminary examination
- Failure to achieve satisfactory academic progress
- Academic disciplinary action related to failure to meet professional conduct standards

Issues such as the following cannot be appealed using this process:

- A faculty member declining to serve as a graduate student's advisor.
- Decisions regarding the student's disciplinary knowledge, evaluation of the quality of work, or similar judgements. These are the domain of the department faculty.
- Course grades. These can be appealed instead using the L&S Policy for Grade Appeal (<https://kb.wisc.edu/ls/22258/>).
- Incidents of bias or hate, hostile and intimidating behavior (<https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/>), or discrimination (Title IX (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>), Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/eo-complaint/formal-investigations/>)). Direct these to the linked campus offices appropriate for the incident(s).

Appeal Process for Graduate Students

A graduate student wishing to appeal an academic decision must follow the process in the order listed below. Note time limits within each step.

1. The student should first seek informal resolution, if possible, by discussing the concern with their academic advisor, the department's Director of Graduate Studies, and/or the department chair.
2. If the program has an appeal policy listed in their graduate program handbook, the student should follow the policy as written, including adhering to any indicated deadlines. In the absence of a specific departmental process, the chair or designee will be the reviewer and decision maker, and the student should submit a written appeal to the chair within 15 business days of the academic decision. The chair or designee will notify the student in writing of their decision.
3. If the departmental process upholds the original decision, the graduate student may next initiate an appeal to L&S. To do so, the student must submit a written appeal to the L&S Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Academic Affairs within 15 business days of notification of the department's decision.
 - a. To the fullest extent possible, the written appeal should include, in a single document: a clear and concise statement of the academic decision being appealed, any relevant background on what led to the decision, the specific policies involved, the relief sought, any relevant documentation related to the departmental appeal, and the names and titles of any individuals contributing to or involved in the decision.
 - b. The Assistant Dean will work with the Academic Associate Dean of the appropriate division to consider the appeal. They may seek additional information and/or meetings related to the case.
 - c. The Assistant Dean and Academic Associate Dean will provide a written decision within 20 business days.
4. If L&S upholds the original decision, the graduate student may appeal to the Graduate School. More information can be found on their

website: Grievances and Appeals (<https://grad.wisc.edu/documents/grievances-and-appeals/>) (see: Graduate School Appeal Process).

OTHER

n/a

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (<https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/>) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.