This is a named option within the Library and Information Studies M.A. (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/information/library-information-studies-ma/#text)

The 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 five broad, overlapping areas of the information professions.

**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** (on-campus program only): 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.

**Data/Information Management and Analytics:** Graduates obtain employment in information analysis and visualization, knowledge management, prospect research, systems analysis, digital asset management, data and information governance, records management and compliance, research data management and project management.

**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.

**User Experience Design and Information Technologies:** Graduates obtain employment in user experience design, interaction design, systems analysis and project management, IT training, educational technology support, digital asset management and curation, content management, and database development and management.

Full-time students generally complete the master’s program in two academic years with summer work; 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 Delivered Program (p. 1)
- Distance Delivered Program (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/information/library-information-studies-ma/library-information-studies-distance-delivered-program-ma/)

### 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 (http://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 M.A. 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 M.A. 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 M.A. program can be modified to provide candidates with the educational requirements for the license taken in addition to the M.A. courses. Candidates already holding a valid Wisconsin teaching license can be endorsed for the School Library Medial 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 M.A. degree (https://ischool.wisc.edu/current-students/masters-degree-program/) is a professional master’s that offers five concentration areas: Librarianship, Archives in a Digital Age, Data/Information Management and Analytics, User Experience Design and Information Technologies, Organization of Information.
The school admits students to its on campus and online master’s programs once a year, for fall semester. Although applications are accepted until February 1, priority consideration, including consideration for departmental scholarships, is given to applications received by December 15. After February 1, interested applicants should contact the department to ask if a late application can still be considered.

For more information on the Information School MA program, including detailed admissions instructions, please see this link (https://ischool.wisc.edu/current-students/masters-degree-program/).
The Graduate School requires a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited U.S. 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. The GRE is not required.

International students: TOEFL or equivalent scores are required if English is not the native language, or if the undergraduate instruction was not in English. The Information School follows UW Graduate School rules regarding English proficiency exams. See the Graduate School website (http://grad.wisc.edu/) for updated information. For more information about admission to the master’s program, see iSchool MA Admissions. (https://ischool.wisc.edu/current-students/masters-degree-program/)

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

NAMED OPTION REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of Instruction</th>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Evening/Weekend</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Accelerated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students are able to complete a program with minimal disruptions to careers and other commitments.

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.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Credit Requirement</td>
<td>39 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Residence Credit Requirement</td>
<td>33 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement</td>
<td>A minimum of 30 credits must be taken from graduate-level Information School M.A. coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university’s Course Guide (<a href="http://my.wisc.edu/CourseGuideRedirect/BrowseByTitle">http://my.wisc.edu/CourseGuideRedirect/BrowseByTitle</a>).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The remaining 9 credits of coursework must be 300 level or above and may not include iSchool undergraduate coursework.

Overall Graduate GPA Requirement | 3.00 GPA required.

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 portfolio.

Language Requirements | No language requirements.

REQUIRED COURSES

The program has three courses that all students must take. These courses are foundational to the field and provide prerequisite knowledge for more advanced courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIS 601</td>
<td>Information: Perspectives and Contexts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIS 602</td>
<td>Information: Organization and Search</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIS 603</td>
<td>Research and Assessment for Information Professionals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Management Courses

Choose at least 3 credits from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIS 654</td>
<td>Information Services Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIS 712</td>
<td>The Public Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIS 732</td>
<td>Strategic Information Services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Technology Courses

Choose at least 3 credits from the following:
A student may be placed on probation or suspended from the Graduate School for low grades or for failing to resolve incompletes in a timely fashion. In special cases the Graduate School permits students who do not meet these minimum standards to continue on probation upon recommendation and support of their advisor. See iSchool Student Handbook. (https://ischool.wisc.edu/current-students/ma-requirements-overview/ma-program-planning-guides/)

**ADVISOR / COMMITTEE**

All continuing students are required 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 9 credits per semester and a maximum of 4 credits per summer term. 8 to 12 credits in a regular semester is considered full time at the graduate level. Course load maximums are 12 credits in a regular semester, 8 credits in the summer term and 3 credits in the intersession.

**TIME CONSTRAINTS**

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

Master’s degree students who have been absent for five or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

**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/)
  - Dean of Students Office (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
  - 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 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)

Students should contact the department chair or program director with questions about grievances. They may also contact the L&S Academic Divisional Associate Deans, the L&S Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning Administration, or the L&S Director of Human Resources.

OTHER
Online program students are not permitted to accept teaching assistantships, project assistantships, research assistantships, or other appointments that would result in a tuition waiver. Also, students in this program cannot enroll in other graduate programs nor take courses outside the prescribed curriculum.

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.

PEOPLE
For a complete faculty/staff directory see this website (https://ischool.wisc.edu/faculty-staff-directory/).