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 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

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 Graduat 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/).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Deadline</td>
<td>December 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Deadline</td>
<td>The program does not admit in the spring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Deadline</td>
<td>The program does not admit in the summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)</td>
<td>Not required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Proficiency Test</td>
<td>Every applicant whose native language is not</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English or whose undergraduate instruction was</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>not in English must provide an English proficiency test score and meet the Graduate School minimum requirements (<a href="https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency">https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters of Recommendation Required</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The school admits students to its on campus and online master's programs once a year, for fall semester. Although applications are accepted until March 1, priority consideration, including consideration for departmental scholarships, is given to applications received by December 15. After March 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

| 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.

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

REQUIREMENTS Detail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Minimum Credit</th>
<th>36 credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residence Credit Requirement</td>
<td>30 credits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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. The remaining 6 credits of coursework must be 300 level or above and may not include iSchool undergraduate coursework.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>3.00 GPA required.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate GPA</td>
<td>This program follows the Graduate School’s policy. <a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203</a> (<a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/</a>).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Grade Requirements</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessments and Examinations

Candidates must complete a minimum of a 120-hour practicum, and must complete an e-portfolio.

Language

No language requirements.

Requirements

REQUIRED 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>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIS 602</td>
<td>Information: Organization and Search</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIS 603</td>
<td>Research and Assessment for Information Professionals</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Choose one of the following courses (3 credits):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIS 500</td>
<td>Code and Power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIS 629</td>
<td>Multicultural Literature and Resources for Children and Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
<td>Course Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| LIS 640     | Topics in Library and Information Studies  
|             | Topic Title: Services to Diverse Populations |
| LIS 640     | Topics in Library and Information Studies  
|             | Topic Title: Tribal Libraries  
|             | Archives and Museums |

**Tier Management** 3

Choose one of the following courses (3 credits):

- LIS 654 Information Services Management
- LIS 712 The Public Library
- LIS 722 College and University Libraries

**Tier Technology** 3

Choose one of the following courses (3 credits):

- LIS 644 Digital Tools, Trends and Debates
- LIS 640 Topics in Library and Information Studies  
|             | Only the topic "Web Development" counts. |
| LIS 646     | Introduction to Info Architecture and Interaction Design for the Web |
| LIS 668     | Digital Curation and Collections |
| LIS 751     | Database Design for Information Professionals |
| LIS 768     | Digital Humanities Analytics |
| LIS/CURRIC/ ED PSYCH 803 | Computational Research Methods |

**Tier LIS Fundamentals** 6

Choose two of the following courses (6 credits):

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

**Capstone** 3

- LIS/CURRIC 620 Field Project in Library and Information Agencies

**E-Portfolio** 0

Students are required to complete an e-portfolio prior to graduation. This is a non-credit bearing requirement.

**Electives** 9

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-LIS electives must be approved by the student’s advisor.

**Digital Librarianship**

- LIS 646 Introduction to Info Architecture and Interaction Design for the Web
- LIS 615 Systems Analysis and Project Management for Information Professionals

**Library and Information Studies: Campus Program, M.A.**

**Code and Power** 500

**Pedagogical Theory and Practice for Information Professionals** 639

**Database Design for Information Professionals** 751

**Digital Curation and Collections** 668

**Topics in Library and Information Studies** 640  
Topic Title: Services to Diverse Populations

**Digital Humanities Analytics** 768

**Surveillance, Privacy, and Police Powers** 600

**Data and Algorithms: Ethics and Policy** 461

**Human Factors in Information Security** 510

**Information Ethics and Policy** 661

**Introduction to Archives and Records Management** 734

**Records Management** 616

**Archives Accessioning and Appraisal** 818

**Topics in Library and Information Studies** 640  
Topic Title: Description and Arrangement

**Preservation and Conservation of Library and Archives Materials** 678

**Systems Analysis and Project Management for Information Professionals** 615

**Metadata Standards and XML** 632

**Cataloging and Classification** 651

**Database Design for Information Professionals** 751

**Digital Health: Information and Technologies Supporting Consumers and Patients** 517

**Topics in Library and Information Studies** 640  
Topic Title: Services to Diverse Populations

**Reading Interests of Adults** 642

**Electronic Resource Management & Licensing** 755

**Digital Curation and Collections** 668

**Information Ethics and Policy** 661

**Metadata Standards and XML** 632

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

College and Research Libraries
LIS 722  College and University Libraries
LIS 639  Pedagogical Theory and Practice for Information Professionals
LIS 635  Reference and Information Service
LIS 651  Cataloging and Classification
LIS 632  Metadata Standards and XML
LIS 640  Topics in Library and Information Studies

Additional Courses
LIS 640  Topics in Library and Information Studies
LIS 855  Topics in Information Agency Management
LIS 501  Introduction to Text Mining
LIS/HISTORY 569  History of American Librarianship
LIS/MUSIC 619  Music Research Methods and Materials
LIS/HIST/HISTORY/JOURN 650  History of Books and Print Culture in Europe and North America
LIS 652  XML and Linked Data
LIS 658  Publishing, Knowledge Institutions and Society: E-Revolutions?
LIS/Legal 663  Introduction to Cyberlaw
LIS/Com Arts 705  Introductory Analytics for Decision Making
LIS 706  Data Mining Planning and Management
LIS 707  Data Visualization and Communication for Decision Making
LIS 820  Topics in Community Engagement
LIS 822  Information Use and Users
LIS 826  Field Project in Library and Information Literacy Instruction
LIS 839  Special Collections
LIS 875  Topics in Information Processing and Retrieval
LIS 879  Digital Libraries

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

Total Credits 36

Students seeking school library media certification have additional required courses; for details, see https://ischool.wisc.edu/programs/masters-degree-program/concentrations/librarianship/school-library-media-program/.

POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School’s Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

NAMED OPTION-SPECIFIC POLICIES

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Work from Other Institutions
Students may count up to 6 credits of approved graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

UW–Madison Undergraduate
With approval, UW–Madison undergraduates accepted into the Information School program may count up to 7 graduate iSchool credits (LIS 400 and above) toward their M.A. degree.

UW–Madison University Special
Students are allowed to count up to 6 approved credits of coursework numbered 400 or above taken as a UW–Madison Special Student. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

PROBATION

This program follows the Graduate School’s Probation policy (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1217/). Also see 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 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 LIMITS**

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

This program follows the Graduate School’s Time Limits policy (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1221/).

**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://facstaffprovost.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.

**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/).

**OTHER**

n/a