LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES, PH.D.

The Ph.D. program at the UW–Madison Information School (iSchool) cultivates a cooperative, supportive intellectual environment that allows a small group of highly qualified students to excel in their doctoral studies. By admitting a small cohort of doctoral students each year, we can ensure that each student develops close working relationships with faculty members, receives strong and consistent advising, and is fully funded.

The iSchool Ph.D. program is writing intensive, requiring students to produce a substantial body of written work as they prepare to research and compose their dissertations. We provide a structure in which students conduct original research and prepare results for presentation and publication in scholarly conferences and journals. iSchool faculty members work closely with Ph.D. students to help them polish their research for publication, and most students graduate with several published articles.

Because it is part of an internationally top-ranked research university, the iSchool offers students the opportunity to engage in the rich variety of educational experiences both within the school and in the broader University of Wisconsin–Madison campus.

For more information, including instructions on admissions, please see the iSchool PhD program webpage: (https://ischool.wisc.edu/programs/phd-program/)

To see the research interests and expertise of iSchool faculty members, please refer to the iSchool Faculty Research Page: (https://ischool.wisc.edu/faculty-staff-directory/research/).

RESIDENCE AND COMMUNITY

The iSchool Ph.D. program is a residential program. Students must be able to attend classes in person at UW–Madison for three years. Most students continue to live near Madison as they research and write their dissertations. Four to five years of full-time study is typical for students to complete the degree. The school strongly prefers full-time Ph.D. students.

ABOUT THE INFORMATION SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Information School or “the iSchool at UW–Madison” is a professional school offering several degrees and non-credit education that prepare students for future 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. See the M.A. Guide page here (https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/information/library-information-studies-ma/#text).
- The Capstone Certificate in User Experience Design (http://hci.wisc.edu/madux/) 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 masters degree. See the Capstone Certificate Guide page here. (https://guide.wisc.edu/nondegree/capstone/user-experience-design-capstone-certificate/).
- The Capstone Certificate in Data Analytics for Decision-Making (https://dataanalytics.ischool.wisc.edu/) 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 masters degree. See the Capstone Certificate Guide page here. (https://guide.wisc.edu/nondegree/capstone/data-analytics-decision-making-capstone-certificate/).
- The Ph.D. degree (https://ischool.wisc.edu/programs/phd-program/) provides advanced academic preparation for those wishing to pursue careers in academia, industrial research or policy making.
- Undergraduate Digital Studies certificate (https://ischool.wisc.edu/programs/undergraduateddigital-studies/) 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 noncredit 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 several student organizations that shepherd long-term, information-justice projects including the Jail Library Group, the Tribal Library Archives and Museums Group, and the Allied Drive Literacy Project. Student groups at the iSchool (https://ischool.wisc.edu/current-students/slis-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 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.

RESEARCH AND 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 communication technologies (ICT) and development, and transnational diaspora use of ICT
- the social aspects of information and communications systems

Faculty have made valuable scholarly contributions in the areas of medical information and medical information technologies, online search behavior and search effectiveness, publisher e-journal licensing
practices, information technology history, print culture and library history, information ethics and policy, and youth and new media. For more information see the iSchool Research Overview Page. (https://ischool.wisc.edu/faculty-staff-directory/research/)

Faculty and staff are widely involved in different research areas 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 Wisconsin Institute for Discovery, and the Center for Financial Security.