Information Sciences

http://ischool.illinois.edu/

Dean of the School: Allen Renear
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Champaign, IL 61820-6211
(217) 333-7197, (800) 982-0914 (within the U.S.)
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Major: Information Management
Degree Offered: M.S.

Major: Library and Information Science
Degrees Offered: M.S., C.A.S., Ph.D.
Graduate Concentrations: Digital Libraries (C.A.S. only), Writing Studies
(http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/writing-studies) (Ph.D. only)

Major: Bioinformatics
Degree Offered: M.S.

Graduate Concentration: Library and Information Science

Online Programs
Degrees Offered: M.S., C.A.S.
Graduate Concentration: Digital Libraries (C.A.S. only)
Information Management: M.S.
Library and Information Science: M.S., C.A.S.

Joint Degree Programs: Library and Information Science and African Studies; Library and Information Science and History; Library and Information Science and Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies
Degrees offered: M.S. and M.A.

Graduate Degree Programs

The School of Information Sciences (iSchool) offers programs of study leading to the Master of Science (M.S.), the Certificate of Advanced Study (C.A.S.), and the Doctor of Philosophy degrees. Three Master of Science (M.S.) degrees are available. The M.S. in Library and Information Science (L.I.S.) prepares students for professional careers in all types of information organizations, including libraries. The M.S. in Information Management (I.M.) will prepare the students for information-intensive professional roles in a broad range of sectors. The Library and Information Science concentration of the campus-wide M.S. in bioinformatics program emphasizes multidisciplinary skills that are required for a career developing and managing information systems for the biological sciences community. The C.A.S. program provides the opportunity

1. to study an aspect of information sciences in greater depth than is possible in the M.S. program,
2. to refresh and upgrade one's professional training several years after completing a M.S. program, or
3. to redirect one's career into a different area of library and information science.

School Librarian Licensure is available in conjunction with both the M.S. in L.I.S. and C.A.S. The Ph.D. is a research degree program.

Admission

The general admission requirements of the Graduate College apply. Consideration is also given to language study and computer skills, relevant work experience, letters of reference, and evidence of leadership. International students must score at least 620 on the paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) (260 on the computer-based test; 104 on the iBT version); or 7 on each section of the IELTS. The M.S. in bioinformatics requires a strong background in information science including undergraduate-level computing and mathematics. The C.A.S. requires a master's degree in library and information science and a grade point average of at least 3.0 (A = 4.0) in the master's program.

School Librarian Licensure

Candidates interested in the School Librarian Licensure program must first be admitted and enrolled as a degree-seeking student within the School of Information Sciences before their application to the School Librarian Licensure program is reviewed. Accepted students must successfully pass two Illinois State Board of Education testing requirements prior to registration for the final fieldwork experience.

Graduate Teaching Experience

Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement, experience in teaching is considered an important part of the graduate experience in the Ph.D. program for those interested in faculty careers.

Facilities and Resources

Among the major areas of faculty research are:

- community informatics
- data analytics
- data curation
- digital humanities
- digital libraries
- history of information
- information retrieval
- organization of knowledge and information
- privacy, security, and trust
- ethics and values for information
- youth literature, culture, and services

The iSchool’s Center for Informatics Research in Science and Scholarship (CIRSS) conducts research on information problems that impact scientific and scholarly inquiry. The Center for Children’s Books (CCB) provides a review and research collection of the newest literature for children and young adults. The Communications Office produces two high-quality publications, Library Trends and The Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books. The staff of each of these units is available to students and faculty for consultation and guidance. A computer network with Internet connectivity is integral to teaching and learning activities. The University Library provides a vast reservoir of resources for all types of study and research in library and information science.

The School maintains an ongoing commitment to continuing education through conferences, institutes, workshops, and course offerings.

Financial Aid

Financial aid may be available from the iSchool, the University Library, and elsewhere in the University in the form of graduate assistantships, teaching assistantships, research assistantships, and hourly paid work. Area libraries may provide pre-professional or hourly positions. Also, the iSchool offers a limited number of fellowships for which doctoral students tend to be favored over C.A.S. and master’s degree students. Students in the joint program that do not hold a FLAS fellowship are
eligible for, but not guaranteed, fellowship or assistantship support in the semesters in which they are enrolled in the iSchool. Any assistantship awarded to these students provides a waiver of the base in-state tuition and service fee as well as a stipend. Non-Illinois residents must pay the difference between in- and out-of-state tuition.

The Master of Science programs in:

- **Information Management, M.S.** ([Link](http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/library-info-sci/ms-info-mngmt))
  
  This master’s degree is also available online.

- **Library and Information Science, M.S.** ([Link](http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/library-info-sci/ms-library-info-sciences))
  
  This master’s degree is also available online.

- **Bioinformatics, M.S., Library and Information Science Concentration**

The Doctor of Philosophy program in:

- **Library and Information Science, Ph.D.** ([Link](http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/library-info-sci/phd-lis))

Certificate of Advanced Study programs in:

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign’s School of Information Sciences complies with the U.S. Department of Education’s Gainful Employment requirements by disclosing information to applicants regarding our Certificate of Advanced Study program. Required information can be found here ([Link](http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/library-info-sci/cas-library-info-science/LIS.pdf)).

- **Library and Information Science, C.A.S.** ([Link](http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/library-info-sci/cas-library-info-science))
  
  The Certificate of Advanced Study is also available online.

- **Library and Information Science, C.A.S., Digital Libraries Concentration**
  
  A Digital Libraries concentration is also available for the Certificate of Advanced Study.

Joint Programs available in:

- **M.S. Library and Information Science and M.A. African Studies** ([Link](http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/african-studies/#jointdegreeexternetext))
  
  This joint master’s degree includes a program of language and area studies courses leading to an interdisciplinary Master of Arts degree in African Studies as well as a program of study leading to the Master of Science in Library and Information Science. The joint degree matches area expertise with professional education, and prepares students for professional careers in all types of information organizations, including libraries.

- **M.S. Library and Information Science and M.A. History** ([Link](http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/history/#jointprogramtext))
  
  This joint interdisciplinary master’s degree program includes a program of courses leading to a Master of Arts degree in History as well as a Master of Science in Library and Information Science. The joint degree matches expertise in historical research and writing with professional education, and prepares students for professional careers in archives, libraries, museums, historical societies, corporations, and government agencies. The joint degree program requires 56 credit hours divided between History and iSchool courses. No more than 12 hours can double count.

- **M.A. Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies and M.S. in Library and Information Science** ([Link](http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/russ-east-euro-studies/ma-rees-ms-lis))
  
  This joint master’s degree includes a program of language and area studies courses leading to an interdisciplinary Master of Arts degree in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, as well as a program of study leading to the Master of Science in Library and Information Science. The joint degree matches area expertise with professional education, and prepares students for professional careers in all types of information organizations, including libraries. The joint degree requires 56 credit hours divided between REEES and iSchool courses. A minimum GPA of 3.25 must be maintained throughout in order to remain in good academic standing.

These three programs are available online; the requirements are the same as the on-campus requirements.

- **Library and Information Science, M.S. - Online** ([Link](http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/library-info-sci/ms-library-info-sciences-online))
- **Information Management, M.S. – Online** ([Link](http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/library-info-sci/ms-info-mngmt/#requirementstext))
- **Library and Information Science, C.A.S. - Online** ([Link](http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/library-info-sci/cas-library-info-science-online))