Library and Information Science

School of Education

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Lisa O’Connor, Professor and Chair of the Department
Nora Bird, Graduate program Director

Mission

The central mission of the program is to “connect people, libraries, and information through research, teaching and service to enrich living and working in a global environment.” This informs the work of its faculty, students and alumni.

This program is accredited by the American Library Association and leads to the Master of Library and Information Science degree and appropriate state-level certification for school media personnel and public librarians.

About

The Master of Library and Information Science program prepares its graduates for an exciting and rewarding career in a field that is broad and deep in its vocational variety and committed to freedom of speech, equitable access to information and lifelong learning. The program is accredited by the American Library Association and graduates find positions in academic, public, school and special libraries, as well as in a wide array of other information work.

The M.L.I.S. program is available on the main campus in Greensboro and also totally online for students unable to attend class in Greensboro. Our online program is based on a philosophy of connection and for many classes attendance at synchronous web sessions is required. It is a 36 credit hour degree program designed for either working or full-time students and the average completion rate is 2.5 years for part-time study. There are only four core courses that cover the essential concepts common to all information work and these are supplemented by a full complement of elective courses in specialized information resources, archival management and computer applications. Every student works with an advisor to construct a program that fits the student’s interests, background and career aspirations. There is room for customization with the possibility of two independent study courses and a practicum, or field experience.

The Department also offers the degree with a school library focus that has additional accreditation by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (formerly NCATE). This concentration includes all of the courses necessary to prepare students for licensure by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction which carries reciprocity with many other states.

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