

Master of Library and Information Studies

Library and Information Studies (MLIS)

Library Science and Information Studies

4101 Educational Building
Hampton Boulevard
Department of STEM and Professional Studies
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Elizabeth A. Burns, Graduate Program Director

General Description of the Library and Information Studies Program

The purpose of the Master of Library and Information Studies is to prepare students with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills that will enable them to become highly proficient librarians, media specialists, and information authorities. This includes, but is not limited to, professional positions in academic libraries, public libraries, school libraries, and special libraries such as health sciences, law, or business libraries as well as positions for information specialists in health environments, museums, businesses, government and other agencies.

Graduates of the program will be prepared to manage libraries, select and organize library collections, and interact with library patrons to determine and fulfill information and media needs. Further, librarianship has become a technology-based career and the proposed program reflects this focus. Through specific skills taught in the courses contained in the program of study, individuals will engage in the collection, organization, retrieval, preservation, management, and dissemination of information resources to enrich cultures within society. Thus, MLIS graduates will also be trained to perform tasks such as analyzing patron information requests, assisting in finding information sources including print, audio-video, and virtual information, and teaching information literacy skills.

We offer a concentration in school librarianship leading to endorsement for licensed teachers. Other students are advised through a plan of study completed with an advisor and filed with the program director in the semester when their 12th credit hour is completed. Coursework may focus on a type of library: academic, public, or special or area of library and information work such as youth services or evaluation & assessment.

Coursework for the MLIS is offered asynchronously and online. Coursework is project-based and students are expected to spend time in a library or other information setting for most courses. All students complete an internship. This program is available online.

The Master of Library and Information Studies Program at Old Dominion University is accredited by the American Library Association Committee on Accreditation, with the status of Initial accreditation. The next comprehensive review visit is scheduled for Fall 2028.

Admission

Students must:

1. Hold a bachelor's degree in any field from a regionally accredited college/university;
2. Have an undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.0;
3. Apply for admission to the graduate school;
4. Submit a current resume;
5. Submit a writing sample addressing a prompt supplied by Admissions

Under certain circumstances, applicants who do not fully meet the requirements for regular admission to the program may be admitted on a provisional basis.

Deadlines

New students may apply and are admitted for the fall, spring, or summer semesters.

Deadline for priority Summer admissions is March 1.

Deadline for priority Fall admissions is April 1.

Deadline for priority Spring admissions is Nov. 1.

Curriculum Requirements

Required Courses (15 credits)

LIBS 608	Foundations of Libraries and Information	3
LIBS 674	Library Management and Leadership	3
LIBS 658	Knowledge Resources: Planning, Selecting & Managing Collections	3
LIBS 677	Knowledge Organization and Access	3
LIBS 668	Internship in Libraries and Information Workplaces *	3

Additional Coursework

Select 15 credits from the following: 15

LIBS 601	STEM Education and Maker Spaces in Libraries
LIBS 602	Production of Instructional Materials
LIBS 603	Online Resources for Teaching
LIBS 609	History of Books and Libraries
LIBS 610	Preservation Management in Libraries and Archives
LIBS 611	Community Archiving
LIBS 612	Research Methods in Library and Information Studies
LIBS 614	Information Ethics
LIBS 615	Action Research for School Librarians
LIBS 642	Children's Literature PREK-8
LIBS 644	Literature and Media for Young Adults
LIBS 647	Reading and Literature for Adults
LIBS 648	Reading, Evaluating, and Selecting Graphic Novels
LIBS 649	Storytelling
LIBS 653	User Centered Design in Library and Information
LIBS 654	Information Literacy Instruction
LIBS 655	Methods and Strategies for the School Library
LIBS 656	User Services and Programming
LIBS 657	LGBTQIA+ Issues in Public Libraries
LIBS 676	Library Media Services and the Curriculum
LIBS 680	Culturally Responsive Librarianship
LIBS 681	Assessment and Evaluation in Library and Information Science
LIBS 684	Advanced Library Management
LIBS 687	Cataloging and Classification
LIBS 690	Seminar in Academic Libraries
LIBS 691	Seminar in Public Libraries
LIBS 693	Seminar in Archives and Special Collections
LIBS 694	Seminar in Social Justice in Library and Information Work

Total Credit Hours 30

* LIBS 668 may be completed after Core Coursework:
LIBS 608, LIBS 658, LIBS 674, & LIBS 677

Additional Requirements

Program Requirements

Internship

All students will be expected to complete an internship (LIBS 668) in a library or information setting as a capstone course where they will have the opportunity to apply, develop, and demonstrate the competencies acquired in core courses and electives.

Electronic Portfolio

Submission of an electronic portfolio (E-portfolio) will serve as the comprehensive exam in the program. Students are expected to develop an E-portfolio that represents their mastery of standards, examples of projects completed in the program, and a focus on their individual strengths and beliefs about the profession including a resume and statement of philosophy.

Students will begin work on the E-portfolio in their first course, with coaching and peer-review throughout the program; they will be expected to successfully present the portfolio before graduation. Students who do not successfully present the E-portfolio will be provided detailed feedback and expected to re-submit.

Continuance

Students must:

1. Maintain a grade point average of 3.00;
2. Complete the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) modules during the first twelve graduate credit hours at Old Dominion University. For more information review the instructions at: <https://www.odu.edu/impact/responsible-conduct-of-training> (<https://www.odu.edu/impact/responsible-conduct-of-training/>); and
3. Any courses in which the student has made below a "B-" must be repeated or, if applicable, substituted.

Exit

Students must:

1. have a 3.00 grade point average;
2. No courses in which the student has made below a "B-" will be accepted for the degree.
3. have completed all course and credit hour requirements;
4. submit an application for graduation; and
5. have successfully completed a portfolio review.