Library and Information Science MLIS

PLA: 2021–2022

Completed   **2** GOALS   **5** OUTCOMES   **10** MEASURES   **10** TARGETS   **8** FINDINGS   **16** ATTACHMENTS

Program Description/Summary

The MLIS program is the only program in the state that is accredited by the American Library Association. It is a completely online program without any face-to-face offerings. The MLIS degree requires 40 credit hours, 25 hours of required courses and 15 hours of electives. In addition to basic courses in reference, cataloging, and collection development, graduate students take courses in library management and in research. Our MLIS graduates work in a wide variety of settings, including schools, colleges, universities, public libraries, government libraries, corporate libraries, hospitals, military, museums, archives and other information-related environments. Many graduates of the MLIS program are directors or managers of library systems or programs. (updated May 2022)

Mission

The mission of the School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) is to prepare qualified individuals for professional roles in libraries, archives, and other information environments with appropriate knowledge and skills to serve the information needs of their communities.

Vision

The School of Library and Information Science aspires to promote student success, improve information literacy, and serve diverse populations through excellence in teaching, research, service, and the use of emergent technologies.

Values

The School of Library and Information Science is committed to:

Student-centered learning: We are committed to cultivating an active, student-centered learning community.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: We recognize and value the diversity of modern society and support an inclusive learning environment. We ensure principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion are cultivated to create advocacy for marginalized groups in the pursuit of social justice.

Intellectual freedom: We embrace the ideals of intellectual and academic freedom and strive to nurture an

open, respectful learning environment for the free exchange of ideas.

Service: Because we believe it is a core of the profession, we support service at all levels and encourage ongoing professional development as a means of enhancing skills and knowledge.

Community: We believe in creating, fostering, and participating in learning and research communities that span borders on state, national, and international levels.

Research: We believe research is an essential part of scholarship, not just for creation of new knowledge but for support of teaching and learning and sharing of new knowledge with multiple communities of interest.

1 Outcome Type
Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

1.1 Outcome
SLO 2: Professional Practice and Training Experiences

MLIS students will locate and evaluate appropriate reference sources to meet the informational needs of their patrons and they will demonstrate the basic tenets of cataloging through cataloging and classification exercises.

1.1.1 Measures
Locate and Evaluate Appropriate Reference Sources (Direct Measure)

Students demonstrate the role of the library and of the librarian in the information-seeking process by locating and evaluating reference sources for 1) bibliographies, 2) encyclopedias or biographical sources, 3) health, law, or business, and 4) government or statistical sources. [LIS 501: Reference and Information Sources].

1.1.1.1 Targets
The written assignment is evaluated using the Reference Sources evaluation rubric. [LIS 501] `Met`

TARGET   90% of students will achieve satisfactory or excellent ranking using the reference source evaluation guide and rubric.

FINDINGS   Using the assignment guide and rubric: Fall 21: 33/33 met or exceeded the requirement. Fall 21: 32/33 met or exceeded the requirement. Spr 22: 33/34 met or exceeded the requirement. Spr 22: 28/28 met or exceeded the requirement.

ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS
126/128 or 98.4% met or exceeded the requirement. One student withdrew and one student fell below the expectations.

1.1.2 Measures
Catalog a Variety of Materials (Direct Measure)
Students catalog and classify a variety of materials so that they are readily accessible to patrons served by a library or information center. [LIS 505: Cataloging and Classification].

1.1.2.1 Targets
The written assignment is evaluated using the assignment guide and evaluation rubric. [LIS 505] <mark>Met</mark>

TARGET
90% of students will achieve excellent or satisfactory ratings on cataloging exercises using the writing rubric.

FINDINGS
Using the assignment guide and rubric: Sum 21: 22/22 met or exceeded the requirement. Sum 21: 23/23 met or exceeded the requirement. Fall 21: 37/38 met or exceeded the requirement. Spr 22: 30/33 met or exceeded the requirement.

ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS
112/117 or 96.6% met or exceeded the requirement. Three students withdrew and one student failed to complete his incomplete.

1.2 Outcome
SLO 1: Knowledge of and Commitment to Ethical Practices of Library and Information Professionals
MLIS students will interpret intellectual freedom related to censorship and D.E.I. and will develop collection policies for providing libraries and information centers with a variety of viewpoints through a balanced and inclusive selection of materials and services.

1.2.1 Measures
Interpret Intellectual Freedom Related to Censorship and D.E.I. (Direct Measure) [Updated for AY 22-23]
Students write a 2000-word paper on how censorship impacts or could impact a particular type of library (public, academic, school, special). The paper must 1) state the definition of censorship and how it relates to intellectual freedom in the Library Bill of Rights, 2) how the type of library supports intellectual freedom, and 3) specific ways the library limits access to materials or information. [Will be updated for AY 22-23]

1.2.1.1 **Targets**
The written assignment is evaluated using the Intellectual Freedom Paper evaluation rubric. [LIS 636: Foundations of Librarianship]. Not Reported this Period

TARGET 90% of students will achieve a satisfactory or excellent ranking on the evaluation rubric for interpreting intellectual freedom related to the Library Bill of Rights and censorship.

FINDINGS

ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS It was discovered that the assessment had been significantly changed in content and was no longer applicable to the topic. Review by the faculty discovered the content had not been picked up elsewhere. It was reinstated in two different courses (LIS 500--graded discussions and LIS 511--collection dev. policy) beginning Fall 2022.

1.2.2 **Measures**
Group Project - Collection Development Policy (Direct Measure)
Students develop collection policies for providing libraries and information centers with a variety of viewpoints through a balanced and inclusive selection of materials and services and fostering the patron's right to read.

1.2.2.1 **Targets**
The written assignment is evaluated using the Collection Policy evaluation rubric. [LIS 511: Collection Development and Management]. Met

TARGET 90% of students will achieve a satisfactory or excellent ranking on the collection development policy rubric.

FINDINGS Using the assignment guide and rubric: Sum 21: 25/27 met or exceeded the requirement. Fall 21: 32/34 met or exceeded the requirement. Fall 21: 34/35 met or exceeded the requirement. Spr 22: 30/34 met or exceeded the requirement.

ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS 121/130 or 93.1% met or exceeded the requirement. Six students withdrew. Three students did not complete incompletes.

1.3 **Outcome**
SLO 3: Knowledge of the LIS Literature and Competencies [Updated for AY 22-23]
MLIS students will be able to locate and evaluate library management articles and they will

create an annotated bibliography of LIS articles on an approved topic.

1.3.1 Measures
Locate and Evaluate Library Management Articles (Direct Measure)
Students locate and evaluate at least two articles on a library management issue such as managing change, managing people, managing technology, HR issues, getting and managing grants. [LIS 605: Library Management]. [Updating AY 22-23]

1.3.1.1 Targets
The written discussion board assignments are evaluated using the article evaluation rubric. [LIS 605] Not Reported this Period

TARGET 90% of students will achieve satisfactory or excellent ratings using the discussion board article evaluation rubric.

FINDINGS

ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS Upon investigation, this measure has been removed from the course content. In future cycles, it will be replaced with the existing assessment of leadership and management competencies and the corresponding rubric. [Updating AY 22-23]

1.3.2 Measures
Create an Annotated Bibliography of IS Research Articles (Direct Measure)
Students create an annotated bibliography of twenty resources related to an information science topic. Annotations should be an objective critical analysis of the resources and should consider authority, bias, content, and currency of the source. [LIS 651: Fundamentals of Information Science].

1.3.2.1 Targets
The written assignment is evaluated using the annotated bibliography rubric. [LIS 651] Met

TARGET 90% of students will achieve satisfactory or excellent ratings using the annotated bibliography evaluation rubric.

FINDINGS Using the assignment guide and rubric: Sum 21: 26/26 met or exceeded the requirement. Fall 21: 40/42 met or exceeded the requirement. Spr 22: 41/41 met or exceeded the requirement. Spr 22: 34/38 met or exceeded the requirement.

1.4 Outcome
SLO 4: Engagement in Research

MLIS students will engage in research and apply appropriate research methodology to specific problems in library and information science.

1.4.1 Measures
Research and Write a Bibliometric Study (Direct Measure)

Students complete a bibliometric study based on the characteristics of a specific set of scholarly, peer-reviewed articles. The study should include 1) introduction section, which includes background information purpose of the study, problem statement, research questions, definitions, limitations, and assumptions; 2) review of relevant literature; 3) methodology, which includes a description of data sources, data collection, how data will be compiled and analyzed; 4) results or findings of the research; 5) discussion of implications of the research results and conclusion with recommendations for further research. [LIS 651: Fundamentals of Information Science].

1.4.1.1 Targets
The written assignment is evaluated using the bibliometric research paper rubric. [LIS 651] `Met`

TARGET

90% of students' bibliometric research papers will be rated satisfactory or excellent using the bibliometric research paper rubric.

FINDINGS

Using the assignment guide and rubric: Sum 21: 26/26 met or exceeded the requirement. Fall 21: 40/42 met or exceeded the requirement. Spr 22: 41/41 met or exceeded the requirement. Spr 22: 34/38 met or exceeded the requirement.

ANALYSIS OF
FINDINGS

141/147 (95.9%) met or exceeded the requirement. Two students withdrew, one was NA, and three failed to meet the standards.

1.4.2 Measures
Conduct Research and Write a Master's Research Project (Direct Measure)

Students demonstrate an understanding of the process and role of research in library and information science through the completion of an original research project and report. The

process includes submission of a research proposal in LIS 668, a LIS research methods course, then completion of the research project and report in LIS 695 capstone course. Evaluation of the capstone research project is by at least two faculty who review and give feedback to the students at the proposal and draft stages of the project. The research project is evaluated on content and format using a master's research project rubric. [LIS 668: Research Methods in LIS; LIS 695: Master's Project].

1.4.2.1 Targets
The written assignment is evaluated using the masters research project rubric. [LIS695] `Met`

TARGET
95% of students' research projects will be rated satisfactory or excellent using the rubric for the master's research project.

FINDINGS
Using the assignment guide and rubric: Sum 21: 23/23 met or exceeded the requirement. Fall 21: 25/28 met or exceeded the requirement. Spr 22: 40/41 met or exceeded the requirement.

ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS
88/92 (95.7%) met or exceeded the requirement. Three students did not meet minimum expectations and one student withdrew.

2 Outcome Type
Program Objectives (POs)

2.1 Outcome
Retention Rate and Graduation Rate
Retention Rate from Fall 2020 to Fall 2021, Graduation rate from 2016 to 2021

2.1.1 Measures
MLIS Program Retention Rate (Direct Measure)
Retention Rate from Fall 2020 to Fall 2021

2.1.1.1 Targets
Retention Rate data in HelioCampus (USM Institutional Research, 2021) `Met`

TARGET
80% of students in the library and information science master's program in fall will return in fall the following year as determined by data from Institutional Research.

FINDINGS	93.6% Retention from Fall 2021
ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS	Slightly down in retention (-.6%) so this will need to be monitored.

2.1.2 Measures
MLIS Graduation Rate (Direct Measure)
Graduation Rate from spring 2016 to spring 2021

2.1.2.1 Targets
Graduation Rate data in HelioCampus (USM Institutional Research, 2021) `Met`

TARGET	80% of the students admitted to the library and information science master's program will graduate within five years as determined by data from Institutional Research in HelioCampus.
FINDINGS	93.8% six-year Spring 2016-2022 Graduation Rate.
ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS	This program outcome is exceeding the measure. Pushing for more scholarship applications to help those who may drop due to FA issues is a priority of that committee.

Project Attachments (16)

Attachments	File Size
🅐 1.1.1 500 Topic_ Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (ALA and SACS Accreditation Assessments).pdf	65KB
🅐 1.1.1 Collection Development Policy-511.pdf	54KB
🅐 1.1.1. 500 Topic_ Censorship and Intellectual Freedom (ALA and SACS Accreditation Assessments).pdf	50KB
🅐 1.1.2 Collection Development Policy-511.pdf	54KB

Attachments	File Size
1.2.1 Topic_ Encyclopedia or Biographical Resource Evaluation 501.pdf	56KB
1.2.2 Descriptive cataloging exercises Part I --505.pdf	70KB
1.3.1 Leadership and Management Competencies - 605.pdf	72KB
1.3.2 Annotated Bibliography 651.pdf	74KB
1.4.1 Bibliometric Research Paper_651.pdf	48KB
1.4.2 695_paper_checklist FInal Assessment 2022.pdf	104KB
1.4.2 695_Research_Project_grading_rubric.pdf	118KB
1.4.2 Final Research Project_LIS 695.pdf	67KB
6YrGradMLIS.pdf	110KB
Fall_Fall_RetentionMLIS.pdf	109KB
MLIS_Action Plans (002).pdf	590KB
SLIS_Annual Program and Action Plan Analysis_MLIS.pdf	650KB