Professionals who work in community informatics (CI) collaborate closely with community members to cultivate innovative technological solutions to the many issues facing society today including poverty, violence, food security, and more.
Certificate in Community Informatics

Students and faculty who work in community informatics (CI) collaborate closely with community members to cultivate innovative technological solutions to the many issues facing society today including poverty, violence, food security, and more.

People involved in CI use insights from fields such as sociology, planning, computer science, critical theory, women’s studies, library and information science, and management studies to promote social, cultural, and economic development of communities. The program features hands-on engagement through partnerships with local, national, and international organizations. This project-centered approach allows students to experience the intersection of theory and practice as they build sustained relationships with communities.

Courseload

The master’s degree program requires 40 hours of graduate study including two GSLIS core courses. Students pursuing the CI Certificate are required to take LIS 518: Community Informatics and 8 additional credits in community informatics. These 12 credits count toward the 40 credit total for the degree. The remaining credits can be fulfilled by diverse courses focusing on theory, research, and practice in community informatics, social entrepreneurship, and community library and information services. Prospective and current students are encouraged to contact CI faculty members to discuss what courses will best meet their needs and fulfill further requirements.

Students can earn the CI Certificate on either a full- or part-time basis and as an on-campus or online student.

Careers

The educational knowledge and practical experience gained through the CI Certificate program at GSLIS prepares students to serve as librarians, youth media instructors, and researchers in a variety of settings such as public and school libraries, nonprofit organizations, cultural heritage groups, and municipal governments. Through their work with underserved populations and marginalized communities, GSLIS alumni make an impact at the local and global levels.

Admission requirements

Admission requirements for the CI Certificate are the same as those for the master’s degree program, which include several steps that allow applicants to show their interest in and qualification for study. Contact the GSLIS Admissions Office with questions about the admissions process at (800) 982-0914 or visit www.lis.illinois.edu/admissions.