master of science program

www.lis.illinois.edu/academics/degrees/ms
GSLIS is a world leader in library and information science education.

With its distinguished history of innovation, our ALA-accredited master’s program serves as a strong foundation of excellence. According to U.S. News & World Report, GSLIS is the top LIS program in the nation with a reputation for providing the highest quality education at the master’s and doctoral levels.
master of science program (MS)

The hallmark of our master’s program is flexibility: core courses supplemented by a broad array of electives allowing students to design individual programs of study. Students also benefit from outstanding faculty renowned worldwide for their teaching, research, and leadership in shaping the field.

It’s no wonder our graduates become creative, inspired leaders who confidently manage the challenges of our information-driven world. By connecting others with resources and technology to achieve goals, GSLIS alumni implement innovative solutions and anticipate the changing role of information in today’s society.

We move the field in exciting directions—and you can too.

Coursework

At GSLIS, we equip students with the theories and practices of library and information science. We emphasize the study of the foundations, principles, and ideas of the discipline, while exploring the status and expectations of the profession.

Students and graduates describe the opportunity to design their own programs of study as a major advantage at Illinois. With only two required courses and a broad range of electives, our MS degree encourages students to work with their advisors to tailor a program that best meets their needs and interests. GSLIS also offers formal specializations and certificates in community informatics, data curation, K-12 school librarianship, socio-technical data analytics, special collections, and youth services.

LEEP Online Option

Our MS students can choose one of two scheduling options: a regular on-campus schedule and the LEEP online education option, which allows students to complete their MS degree online with brief periods of on-campus instruction.

For more than fifteen years, our online option has been a model for other schools in the field. Our nationally recognized faculty use advanced technologies that provide interactive, web-based instruction. Students participate in live lectures and communicate with faculty and each other via voice and text chat. During class, students view slides, graphics, and websites together in real time as well as collaborate using interactive online technologies. Our instructional technology staff continually test and refine new technologies, ensuring that GSLIS students continue to receive innovative virtual education experiences.

“My experience as a LEEP student was awesome! I was able to specialize in special collections and archives while working full time in Southern California. Live classes met all over the world synchronously and I was able to participate even while traveling. The structure allowed for real discussion just as if I were in the same room as the professor and my peers. I loved visiting campus and am now proud to be an Illinois alum!

Ziba Zehdar (MS ’12), adult services librarian, Orange County Public Libraries

“I enjoy knowing that I am assisting everyday citizens navigate a seemingly overwhelming amount of government information and use it to their benefit. While my daily tasks may not be as thrilling as performing a gravity-defying medical procedure, I find the challenge of designing website content and structure with the user in mind to be just as interesting—and a bit less precarious.”

Michelle Chronister (MS ’09), user experience team lead, USA.gov
Careers

Each year GSLIS graduates top-notch information professionals who make a difference in their communities. Our alumni are adept at using the latest information technology and methods, qualifying them to pursue careers across the information industry. Employers recognize the value of a GSLIS degree, and we assist our graduates in identifying job opportunities that meet their career goals. Our alumni work in positions ranging from librarians, archivists, and research specialists to information architects, web developers, and data managers. They enjoy belonging to our network of more than 10,000 alumni who serve as valuable resources for advocacy, mentoring, and employment referrals.

To apply

For an overview of specific admissions requirements as well as detailed instructions for applying to the program, please visit www.lis.illinois.edu/admissions/requirements/ms

Additionally, incoming students must have basic technical competencies, defined here: www.lis.illinois.edu/admissions/requirements/ms/tech

For more information, please contact the GSLIS admissions office at (800) 982-0914 or lis-apply@illinois.edu.

Financial aid

Information about current tuition rates and financial aid is available at www.lis.illinois.edu/admissions/tuition-aid, including details about the types of financial aid students may be eligible for, and how to apply for it.