What is the Certificate of Advanced Study (or C.A.S.)?
The C.A.S. is open to individuals who hold an M.S. in Library and Information Science and wish to pursue additional formal program of study. Librarians, information scientists and others in information management enroll in the program to refresh and update their skills, gain greater specialization or redirect their careers from one area of the field to another. Individuals who enroll in the C.A.S./K-12 LIS Certification Program do so to earn their Type 10 Illinois teaching certificate which will permit them to work as a school librarian in an Elementary, Middle or Secondary school in Illinois.

Who may apply to the C.A.S. program?
To be eligible to apply for admission to the C.A.S. program, an individual must have completed a Master’s degree in Library and Information Science with a minimum G.P.A. of 3.0 on a 4.0-point scale. A minimum G.P.A. of 3.0 is also required in the last 60 semester hours of the applicant’s undergraduate degree program.

How do I apply to the C.A.S. program?
Prospective students apply to the C.A.S. program using the Graduate College’s Web-based Electronic Application. Deadlines for submission of application materials are March 15 for summer entry, June 15 for fall entry, and November 15 for spring entry.

Those applying to the combined C.A.S./K-12 Certification program must also submit the K-12 LIS Certification Program Application (online at http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/admissions/pdfs/k-12-application.pdf) and an official score report demonstrating a passing score on the Illinois Basic Skills Test, administered by the Illinois Certification Testing System (see http://www.icts.nesinc.com). More information about applying to the K-12 LIS Certification Program (including deadlines) can be found at <http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/admissions/requirements/k12.html>.

What coursework am I required to take for the C.A.S.?
The C.A.S. is a 40-semester-hour program of study that is individually tailored to meet the student’s professional and educational needs and goals. The student plans a sequence of 32 semester-hours of coursework with input from the student’s faculty advisor. The final 8 hours of credit is devoted to the C.A.S. project, a substantive investigation of a problem in librarianship, which is concluded by a public presentation to the student’s C.A.S. committee.

Students enrolled in the combined C.A.S./K-12 LIS Certification Program follow a more prescribed sequence of courses, including an 8-week practicum and 16 weeks of student teaching, to ensure that all requirements leading to certification are completed. In addition to coursework, passing scores on the LIS Content and K-12 Assessment of Professional Teaching Tests—both administered by ICTS—are required for certification.

What are some examples of the C.A.S. Project?
Example C.A.S. projects of interest to school librarians may include the CTE Assessment Portfolio (K-12 LIS Certification students); an action research project, the submission of a project in support of best practice evidence as required by National Board Certification candidates; or the development of a comprehensive library information science curriculum.

Whom can I contact for more information about the C.A.S.?
For more information about the C.A.S. with a focus in school librarianship or the C.A.S./K-12 LIS Certification program, please contact Georgeann Burch, Program Coordinator for the K-12 Library Information Specialist Certification Program, at gburch@illinois.edu or 217-244-0197. Additional information is also available on the Web at <http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/programs/cas.html>.

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