

## UNC SCHOOL OF INFORMATION AND LIBRARY SCIENCE

### Dual Degree Programs

To meet the challenges of an evolving workplace and workforce, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Information and Library Science has partnered with several other schools and universities in Carolina to offer a variety of unique educational opportunities that allow students to pursue two degrees simultaneously. Many find that this approach affords the knowledge, skills and integrated perspective needed to manage information assets and best serve their organization's or the public's information needs.

The goal of the dual degrees is to maximize learning, minimize course and content overlap, and provide students with a means to earn two synergistic degrees as efficiently as possible while maintaining the integrity and high standards of each degree. The programs are designed to be completed in three academic years.

### In each degree combination:

- Students must apply and be admitted to each graduate program separately and abide by all program requirements.
- Ideally, an individual will identify his or her interest in a dual degree program prior to applying to UNC.
- Because students can accept admission into only one UNC at Chapel Hill program at a time and be enrolled in only one program in any given semester, per University regulations, once the student is admitted into both programs independently (and thus, in effect, admitted into the dual degree program), one of the admissions needs to be deferred for a semester or year, depending upon the overall plan.
- Applicants must confer with the dual degree coordinators for both programs to arrange for deferred admission and to plan appropriate and efficient courses of study.
- Although a student may be matriculated in only one program at a time, that does not mean that they may not take courses in the other school or department during that period.
- In some cases, students might enter one program and learn of, or gain interest in, the dual degree program during their first year. In such cases, the matriculated student would apply for admission into the other program, informing the registrar and the coordinator in both programs at the time of application.
- Students may "double count" up to 20 percent of credits across degrees. For SILS students this means they can apply three courses (nine credits) from the other degree toward their MSIS or MSLS degree while also counting these credits toward the other degree. Students enrolled in these programs earn two graduate degrees.

The following degrees are combined with either the Master of Science in Information Science (MSIS) or the Master of Science in Library Science (MSLS):

### MSLS/MA and MSIS/MA (Archives/Public History)

The School of Information and Library Science offers a cooperative archival program in conjunction with the Department of Public History of North Carolina State University. This program was created in response to today's marketplace demands that archivists, manuscript curators, and records managers have both historical knowledge and advanced information management skills. The new archival workforce must both be able to appraise and describe historical records, and create World Wide Web sites and preserve electronic documents.



### **MSLS/MAH and MSIS/MAH (Art History)**

The School of Information and Library Science and the UNC Department of Art offer a dual program that will prepare students to take on professional library positions in art libraries in colleges, universities, and art museums around the country. It is essential that art librarians are knowledgeable about art history in combination with librarianship and information science.

### **MSIS/MBA (Business Administration)**

In partnership with the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School, this dual degree responds to the marketplace needs for high-tech managers with well-rounded, leading-edge business skills. This program uniquely prepares information entrepreneurs of the future and those seeking to take advantage of brand new career opportunities.

### **MSIS/MPA and MSLS/MPA (Government)**

This dual degree program offered with the UNC School of Government is designed to prepare students to deal with the significant information management tasks/issues/policies they will confront in a public sector career by combining the Master of Public Administration curriculum with graduate studies in information and library science.

### **MSIS/MHA and MSLS/MHA (Health Policy and Administration)**

The School of Information and Library Science has teamed with the Department of Health Policy and Administration and UNC School of Public Health to offer dual programs of study reflecting changes in the field of public health and in society at large.

### **MSIS/JD and MSLS/JD (Law)**

Employment in today's job market requires an ever increasing level of information literacy. Issues such as public access to information, ownership of information, an individual's control over personal information, or an institution's reliance on information systems to accurately gather and analyze data all require critical legal analysis and knowledge of information systems and usage. Professionals with degrees in law and library science are employed in law schools, law firms, federal, state, and local courts, government agencies, and corporations. Possession of both the law degree and the library science degree is a common requirement for entry-level positions in academic law libraries and both degrees are essential for advancement in the profession. Larger law firms are increasingly requiring that their librarians have a law degree plus an MSLS.

### **MD/MSLS and MD/MSIS (Medical)**

Medical students in the Duke University School of Medicine may choose to pursue MSLS and MSIS degrees at the School of Information and Library Science during the scholarly year (the third year) of their medical school curriculum. The medical students will be expected to follow the School of Medicine's registration procedures for the scholarly years and meet all criteria required by the Third Year Committee, including the submission of a thesis that meets Duke's requirements.

### **MSIS/MSN and MSLS/MSN (Nursing)**

Many high-tech employers believe that an information technology-related degree is of paramount importance for success in the health care field, feeling that, for some specialized positions, an MSN graduate requires additional information technology knowledge and expertise. They are demanding health care leaders who have technical backgrounds in information system development and management, information networks, decision support systems, Internet applications, etc. This dual degree aims to fill these needs.

### **Application Requirements**

The application deadline for fall admission is December 15 (for Graduate School merit based aid) and February 15 (for SILS merit based aid). The application process for fall closes May 1. For spring admission, October 15 is the deadline. Deadlines are earlier for international applicants (see [www.gradschool.unc.edu](http://www.gradschool.unc.edu)). Those seeking financial assistance should apply as close to November as possible to receive consideration for the widest range of financial opportunities. For more information: <http://sils.unc.edu> or [info@ils.unc.edu](mailto:info@ils.unc.edu) or 919-962-8366.