



MSIS

UNC

SCHOOL OF INFORMATION AND LIBRARY SCIENCE

The Master of Science in Information Science program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Information and Library Science is designed to prepare students to contribute to the design, development and maintenance of information systems and networks; to provide leadership in the development of new technologies and new applications relating to the delivery of information to users; and to demonstrate a theoretical knowledge of information science, including the theory of information storage and retrieval, systems science, and social, political and ethical implications of information systems.

Within this degree, students may develop their own specializations through their choice of courses. Four examples of possible specializations are human information behavior, database and information retrieval systems, networking and Internet technologies, and management of information systems. This degree program is intended to prepare students for careers focusing on the design, implementation, evaluation, and administration of a wide variety of information systems including databases, networks, multimedia, the World Wide Web, instructional technologies and other emerging technologies.

Curriculum

Designed around five functional areas, the curriculum of the master's degree of science in information science includes courses in organization, collection and retrieval, information-related behavior, design and evaluation, and management. Elective courses build upon the required courses in each of these areas and allow students to concentrate their studies. As a requirement of this program, students must have a basic knowledge of computing using a variety of software applications. The remainder of the 48 semester hours of graduate course work will draw from the school's course offerings, and as appropriate, from related areas such as computer science, journalism and mass communication, or business.

Degree Requirements

Master of Science in Information Science candidates fulfill the following requirements:

- 48 semester hours of graduate-level course work
- Satisfactory completion of a comprehensive examination
- Satisfactory completion of a master's paper or project

Academic Environment

Ranked #1 in the nation by U.S. News & World Report, the School of Information and Library Science at UNC-Chapel Hill is at the forefront of today's ever-changing information and library science landscape. The school is home to nearly 400 students pursuing bachelor's degrees in information science, master's degrees in library science and information science, certificates of advanced studies and doctoral degrees in information and library science. Twentyseven faculty members are well known for their commitment to research and service, as well as their interaction with students.



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). Those seeking financial assistance should apply as close to November as possible to receive consideration for the widest range of financial opportunities. Items needed for application are:

1. UNC Graduate School application and \$77 fee (see the online application admission information at: www.gradschool.unc.edu)
2. Official college transcripts, sent directly from each institution. Send one copy to the Graduate School and one to SILS.
3. GRE scores taken within the past five years, sent from Educational Testing Service (Request your scores be sent to the UNC Graduate School, ETS code R5816)
4. Three letters of reference
5. Brief essay expressing why the applicant is interested in information or library science as a career (500 words maximum)
6. Resume including work experience, special abilities and skills

Mail items 1-3 to:
The Graduate School
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
CB #4010
Bynum Hall
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-4010

Mail items 2, 4-6 to:
School of Information and Library Science
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Attn: Graduate Admissions
100 Manning Hall CB# 3360
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3360

Transfer of Credits

Up to nine semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred upon approval by the dean. These graduate credits must have been earned within three years preceding enrollment in the SILS master's degree program, and must not have been accepted or have been used to satisfy the requirements for another graduate degree. Any graduate courses taken prior to enrollment in SILS, including those taken through the University's Continuing Studies program, become part of the nine-hour transfer limit.

Financial Assistance

Merit-based financial assistance (service and nonservice) is available from the Graduate School (University-wide competition) and from the School of Information and Library Science. SILS awards are initially of one-year duration; many of these are renewable for a second year, contingent upon academic and service performance. Students may take advantage of part-time internships offered within the University and by area corporations, information agencies, or libraries. Need-based awards (e.g., student loans) are handled by the University Office of Student Loans and Scholarships; applicants submitting the FAFSA form to UNC are considered for these awards. To qualify for North Carolina residency, applicants must submit a residency statement to the Graduate School (forms available at www.gradschool.unc.edu).

For International Students

For applicants whose native language is not English, a minimum (paper-based) TOEFL score of 625 or (computer-based) TOEFL score of 263. TOEFL scores must be submitted to the Graduate School. International applicants also need to supply SILS with a financial statement (available at www.gradschool.unc.edu).

More information

Additional information is available on the Web at <http://sils.unc.edu> or you may call 919-962-8366 or send e-mail to info@sils.unc.edu. Prospective students may make appointments with faculty and staff members to discuss admission requirements, program schedules and curriculum content. Students who visit the campus are welcome to visit classes. The school office arranges appointments within its 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday office hours.