



# UNC

## SCHOOL OF INFORMATION AND LIBRARY SCIENCE

# PhD

The Doctoral Program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Information and Library Science provides an environment that enables creative and energetic students to become innovative thinkers and leaders in information and library science. The program achieves this by providing the flexibility to customize student programs that coordinate student and faculty interests and activities. Opportunities exist in academia, industry and government for imaginative individuals interested in research and development.

Information and library science is a rapidly growing, multi-disciplinary field that offers opportunities for research and development, teaching, consulting and leadership in a variety of settings. Leaders in the information society must have technical, organizational and social skills to establish policy, invent solutions to information management problems and develop new information and communication theory and practice.

Information and library science researchers address topics such as:

- ▶ How libraries and other information agencies, including corporate information centers, information systems departments, archives and museums, can best create, identify, acquire, store, preserve, retrieve and disseminate relevant information to their users;
- ▶ How individuals and groups, including children, scholars, the public, business and other organizations gather information and use it to solve problems;
- ▶ The nature of information structures and flow;
- ▶ The impact of information and information technology on individuals, organizations and society;
- ▶ The policies affecting the management and provision of information resources and services;
- ▶ The design, organization and delivery of information and information systems in a wide variety of venues including, but not limited to, businesses, schools, libraries, governmental agencies, research institutes, hospitals and society at large; and
- ▶ The evaluation of information and information system quality.

### Academic & Research Environment

Ranked #1 in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*, the School of Information and Library Science at UNC at 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 master's degrees in library science and information science, doctoral degrees in information and library science, a bachelor's degree in information science and certificates of advanced study. Twenty seven faculty members are well known not only for their commitment to research and service, but also for their interaction with students. Faculty members are involved in a wide variety of research initiatives, many of which involve Ph.D. students.



## Application Requirements

Those seeking financial assistance should apply as close to January as possible to receive consideration for the widest range of financial opportunities. As part of the application process, the school may request an interview. The application deadline for fall term is January 1 for merit-based aid from the University's Graduate School. The deadline for merit-based aid from SILS is February 15. Note that decisions are made on a rolling basis until May 1. Application requirements include:

1. The UNC Graduate School application fee of \$77. The application is available online at: [www.gradschool.unc.edu](http://www.gradschool.unc.edu)
2. Official college transcripts, sent directly from each institution. Please send one copy to the Graduate School and one to SILS.
3. GRE scores (Request your scores be sent to the UNC Graduate School, ETS code R5816).
4. TOEFL scores (for international applicants).
5. Residency statement for applicants claiming North Carolina residency (forms are available online at [www.gradschool.unc.edu](http://www.gradschool.unc.edu))
6. Three letters of reference that can be directly uploaded by recommenders into the online application at: [www.gradschool.unc.edu](http://www.gradschool.unc.edu)
7. Financial certificate (for international applicants, see [www.gradschool.unc.edu](http://www.gradschool.unc.edu)).
8. A brief essay of professional intent (500-word maximum) that may be directly uploaded by the applicant into the application.
9. Resume that may be directly uploaded by the applicant into the application.

Mail items 1-5 to:  
The Graduate School  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
CB #4010  
Bynum Hall  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-4010

Mail items 2, 6-10 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

## Academic Background and Knowledge Expected

A student is expected to have the following foundation before entering the program:

- ▶ An academic background including six graduate-level hours in each of at least three of the following areas: information organization, information retrieval, communication, design and evaluation of information systems.
- ▶ A knowledge of research methods that includes: an understanding of distinctions between the range of qualitative and quantitative research paradigms used by scholars in various disciplines, a facility to develop research questions, and a familiarity with the major social science methods of data collection.
- ▶ Knowledge of computing equivalent to that required in the school's master's degree programs. (For more information, see <http://sils.unc.edu/programs/>). The requirement can be met by a demonstration of competence gained through experience, as well as by a record of formal course work or the completion of recommended course work.

## More information

Additional information is available on the Web at <http://sils.unc.edu> or by calling **919-962-8366** or by sending e-mail to: [info@sils.unc.edu](mailto: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.-5 p.m. Monday-through-Friday office hours.