Frequently Asked Questions about the Post Master’s Certificate

1. What is the Post Master’s Certificate program?  
The Post-Master’s Certificate (PMC) is a post-master’s degree that is designed for practitioners who seek a continuing education program to enhance their professional development in Information and Library Science. We currently offer the certificate program in data curation.

2. Who should apply to the program?  
We expect professionals in library and information science who seek to expand their knowledge in curation and keep up to date with current practices to take this course. We expect practicing librarians, archivists and information professionals to find this course useful.

3. I already have a master’s degree in another area – not an MSLS or MSIS degree – can I apply?  
Yes. You can apply for the PMC program. There may be some recommended additional reading required to bring you to help you with the course.

4. If I have no library experience, would this be a good program for me?  
Yes. We expect a broad range of practitioners to be drawn to this program, including library professionals. We expect the PMC on Data Curation to help anyone who has an interest in persistence archiving and long-term access. With emerging trends in digital data and big data, the PMC will provide introduction to tools and practices that can be applied by people from diverse background.

5. Who will be teaching the classes?  
The classes will be taught by faculty of the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The PMC is a hybrid program with residential and online components. Some of the courses will be contact and others online.

6. How long will it take me to complete it?  
The program is based on 30 course credits. One needs to take around 8 or 9 courses to finish the program. Depending upon your course load each semester and summer, it can take between one and one-half year to three years to complete the program. We expect one to complete the course in two years on the average.

7. Is the PMC just for data curation, or will there be other areas of focus?  
This is our first offering. We plan to offer other areas in the near future. These will include areas such as digital library, big data analytics, health librarianship, etc.

8. How much will the program cost?  
The PMC program is a full-fledged degree-oriented program from the UNC. The cost of the program is on par with a Master’s degree program. Rates are determined by residency and whether or not a student is full- or part-time. For specific costs, please see the document on “Tuition and Fees” located at: http://www.unc.edu/finance/fd/c/sa/docs/13_14_tuitionfees.pdf

9. Is there funding available for the PMC?  
There is no separate funding or scholarship available for enrolling in this program. But there are several University-wide foundations to which one can apply for grants to help defray the cost of the program. We expect students in this program to be working and are taking this program for
career advancement. Hence, we expect that their organizations will be helping to support the cost of attendance.

10. What are the benefits of completing the PMC?
The PMC is a Post Master’s program with concentration in data curation. This is a continuing education program to enhance professional development in Information and Library Science. The PMC is intended to provide:
- A systematic updating and upgrading of a working professional's knowledge in information and library science,
- The development of a specialty subject discipline or in an information or library function, and
- An individual's redirection of a career path or the enrichment and strengthening of demonstrated capabilities.

11. Why should I enroll in the program as opposed to a Master’s or Doctoral program that I can complete online?
One can view the PMC to be between a Master’s program and a Doctoral program. The PMC has a set of course requirements like a Master’s program, but does not have the requirement for fundamental research as needed by the Doctoral program. The PMC is aimed at practitioners of the trade instead of an individual who is planning to pursue research in ILS.

12. There are required courses listed on your Web site, are there other courses I can take to enhance my skills?
There is some flexibility in selecting courses. Even though we prescribe a cohort of set courses, we also provide a set of electives that can be selected to fit an individual's previous education, experience and career intentions. There will also be opportunity to do individual studies with faculty on special topics of interest.

13. Can I develop my own curriculum?
As mentioned above, there is some flexibility in course selection, but we expect each individual to take the core courses as defined by the cohort. The faculty of the PMC have selected carefully the courses that will enhance once skills in the area of discourse and the core is defined to provide a framework for extending the knowledge in that area. The electives provide the flexibility to help reach each individual’s preferences.

14. What are my options for tailoring my program to my specific interests (that is applicable in my workplace)?
The PMC curriculum has a cap-stone project course. We expect each individual to perform their projects which will be in tune with their special interests as well as applicable immediately at their workplace.

15. When does the program begin?
The PMC is based on a cohort which will begin every summer.

16. Other than the two weeks on campus initially, must I complete the PMC online or can I attend classes on campus?
If you are in the area, you can take the course by attending classes on campus.

17. If I have experience in a certain area, can I waive out of a class?
Yes. This is possible. The PMC faculty will decide on this on a case-by-case basis.

18. What materials do I need to apply?
Please refer to http://sils.unc.edu/programs/post-masters-certificates for information about the application process.

19. Are GRE scores required?
Yes. The PMC is a degree granted by the UNC system and hence as such requires that a current GRE score be available for admission.

20. What is the deadline for applying?
The deadline for applying is April of every year. But for this special program, the deadline can be extended. Please contact Lara Bailey at 919-962-7601 or via e-mail at ljbailey@email.unc.edu for information about the last date to apply.