MLIS Mission, Goals, Objectives and Learning Outcomes
(Adopted March 11, 2016)

Mission

The mission of the MLIS program is to educate the next generation of information professionals by offering a rigorous curriculum that fosters professional knowledge and skills, professional ethics, critical inquiry, and leadership to address the needs of a diverse and global information society.

Goals, Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Goal 1: To instill in the next generation of information professional a critical understanding of the philosophy, principles, culture, ethics and values of library and information science.

Objectives:
1.1 Provide a historical framework for the profession.
1.2 Promote multiple perspectives regarding the philosophies, principles, cultures, ethics and values of the profession and their implications for services
1.3 Introduce and explore career options in information-related professions
1.4 Facilitate the development of student’s communication skills
1.5 Ensure that students have technological competence

Student learning outcomes:

- Differentiate between important developments in library and information science and evaluate their current implications in the field (1.1, 1.2)
- Describe and evaluate relevant aspects of the activities and goals of the profession
as a whole and select sub-groups within the profession (1.2, 1.3, 1.4)

- Assess the impact of important social and political issues on the profession and the role of the profession in society (1.1)
- Analyze the policy statements and ethics of professional organizations (1.2)
- Exhibit critical thinking skills as determined by the student’s ability to raise, formulate and articulate vital questions; gather and assess relevant information; use abstract ideas; and think open-mindedly (1.2, 1.4)
- Apply principals of effective communicating to stakeholders (1.4)
- Apply technological skills in professional settings (1.5)
- Find resources to assist in the development of a professional presentation of one’s expertise (1.3, 1.4, 1.5)

Goal 2: To impart knowledge of the fundamentals of library and information science including user behaviors, information organization, access, and retrieval and the ability to apply that knowledge in a dynamic, technological information society.

Objectives:

2.1 Provide descriptive and analytical contexts related to the most central activities of the profession

2.2 Cultivate an understanding of the need for professional change

2.3 Facilitate the analysis of major information-related activities, including creating, gathering, representing, organizing, preserving, storing, accessing, retrieving, seeking, and re-packaging information

2.4 Provide the information technology and methods used for information user behaviors, organization, access, and retrieval.

Student learning outcomes:

- Explain the concepts behind rules and systems that provide bibliographic and intellectual access to documents (2.3, 2.4)
- Define and explain the major traditions in information organizations (2.1, 2.3, 2.4)
- Define the tradition of various types of information systems (2.2, 2.3)
- Articulate key issues in the information creation, collection, organization, storage, retrieval, dissemination, and service (2.4)
- Assess the fundamental characteristics of information systems (2.3, 2.4)
- Analyze diverse information needs, preferences, and the behaviors of the user within a given context (2.1, 2.3)
- Assess the content of a variety of information systems (2.3, 2.4)
Goal 3: To develop new scholars and information professionals who value and are able to contribute and execute applied research in LIS.

Objectives:

3.1 Offer core and advanced research courses.

3.2 Apply research theory, methods, and techniques to the LIS field

3.3 Encourage a culture of research inquiry by fostering research-based course assignments, independent research and thesis options and by promoting opportunities for dissemination of student research.

Student learning outcomes:

- Design and conduct research projects using research methods, theoretical frameworks, techniques, and resources appropriate to their topics in LIS field (3.1, 3.2, 3.3)
- Produce a research proposal (3.1, 3.2, 3.3)
- Evaluate the merits of a peer-reviewed journal article (3.2, 3.3)
- Characterize the relationship between practice and research (3.1, 3.2, 3.3)
- Articulate the process of writing and publishing a peer-reviewed journal article (3.1, 3.2, 3.3)

Goal 4: To promote the role of library and information services in a diverse global society while addressing the needs of underserved populations.

Objectives:

4.1 Offer and promote library and information services to underserved groups, outreach opportunities for students to underserved communities, and networking with advocates for underserved groups

4.2 Encourage understanding of and involvement in international information issues through study abroad and student exchange programs, international visitors, and involvement of students in international projects

4.3 Integrate the theory and practice of library and information services in diverse settings, preparing students to serve a wide range of patrons

Student learning outcomes:

- Identify best practices in meeting the information needs of a marginalized and/or a diverse population (4.1, 4.2, 4.3)
- Articulate key issues in LIS for multicultural and/or international communities (4.1, 4.2, 4.3)
• Identify, analyze and construct outreach programs to a specific population
  (4.1, 4.3)
• Design information literacy programs to meet the needs of their patrons
  (4.1, 4.3)

Goal 5:  To prepare professionals who are able to meet the needs of varied constituencies
through the development of specializations in library and information science.

Objectives:
  5.1 Maintain official (transcript-designated) concentrations that build on the
      School’s strengths and fulfill needs in the field.
  5.2 Promote the growth of existing and new coordinated degree programs.
  5.3 Consult general as well as specialized lists of the ALA professional
      competencies in the process of curriculum development.

Student learning outcomes:
• Identify core competency delineated by professional organization(s)
  relevant to their area(s) of interest(s) (5.1, 5.2, 5.3)