Online MA Information Session Fall 2019

Information Session for Prospective Online Students Fall 2019

**Agenda**

- Introduction to the iSchool
- Program requirements
- Concentration options
- Application requirements
Why the UW-Madison iSchool?

- Longstanding program - over 100 years
- Continuously accredited
- Academically rigorous mix of theoretical and practical
- Strong placement rate
- Nationally ranked
- Expanding to meet changing field needs

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Why the UW-Madison iSchool?

- **Small classes** – high interaction with accessible faculty and staff
- **Community** – bonding with classmates, join student organizations, get involved
- **Customizable** – flexible curriculum
- **Hands-on experience** – supported work experience in an organization related to your career goals
iSchool & CDIS

- College of Letters & Sciences
  - New Division: School of Computer, Data & Information Sciences (CDIS)
    - Information School
    - Computer Sciences Dept.
    - Statistics Dept.
- Why this is good
  - More faculty hiring
  - More opportunities & resources for our MA students
    - Short term: new courses, travel funds
    - Longer term: more teaching assistantships

MA Requirements Overview: 39 credits

**Tier 1: Required Courses**

- **602:** Info: Organization & Search (1st semester)
- **601:** Info: Perspectives & Contexts (1st or 2nd semester)
- **603:** Research & Assessment for Info Professionals (anytime)

**Tier M: Courses**

Must take at least one

- LIS 654: Info Services Management (all audiences)
- LIS 732: Strategic Info Services (non pub academic library/archive settings)
- LIS 712: Public Library Administration (pub library & youth)

**Tier T: Courses**

Must take at least one

- LIS 500: Code and Power
- LIS 644: Digital Tools, Trends & Debates
- LIS 646: Information Architecture (web design)
- LIS 668: Digital Collections & Curation
- LIS 751: Database Design
- LIS 768: Digital Humanities Analytics

Electives (21 credits)

- Online Portfolio
- Practicum Field-placement (3 credits)

Total: 39 credits
MA Concentrations

Five concentration areas at the iSchool:

- Librarianship
- Information Technology & User Experience (UX)
- Data/Info Management & Analytics (DIA)
- Organization of Information
- Archives for a Digital Age * (campus only)

Not a requirement!
Lots of students mix & match more than one concentration.

Concentration Area: Librarianship

Support communities and learning and promote access to information.

Career opportunities:

- College and universities
- Public libraries
- Youth librarianship
- Electronic collections management
- Science & health librarianship
- Law librarianship
- Research data management
- School libraries

See alumni profiles on website [https://ischool.wisc.edu/alumni/alumni-profiles/](https://ischool.wisc.edu/alumni/alumni-profiles/)

Courtney Becks ('17)
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
Assistant Professor,
University Library,
African American Studies Librarian, &
Jewish Studies Selector
Concentration Area: Librarianship

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Courtney Becks (’17)
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
Assistant Professor, University Library, African American Studies Librarian, & Jewish Studies Selector

Concentration Area: Information Organization

Organize all of the stuff!
Work with the latest information technologies and standards to help solve information overload and increase access to materials.

Career titles:
- Metadata specialists
- Catalogers
- Taxonomy and ontology specialists
- Digital asset managers
- XML and linked data specialists
- Database and data managers

Amy Sonnichsen (’13)
Metadata Librarian
Getty Research Institute
Los Angeles, California
Concentration Area: Data/Info Management & Analytics (DIA)

Work with data and information in educational, nonprofit, government, start up or business settings.
Analyze information and data to contribute to good decision making.
Take advantage of opportunities in the expanding fields of data analytics.

Career Titles:
Data Manager, Digital Asset Manager, Research Analyst/Data Analyst, Evaluation Specialist, Analytics Specialist, Research Data Librarian

Katy Fox ('16)
Research Analyst
Colorado State Library Research Service

Concentration Area: Information Technology & UX

Design, develop and managing information technologies to solve problems in society.
Help people to use information technologies more effectively.

Career Titles:
User experience (UX) and web design, Digital asset management, Digital curation, Emerging technology librarian, Digital humanities developer, Systems analyst, IT training and instruction, Academic technology support

Mary Kate Kwasnik ('15)
Digital Humanities Producer/Traveling Exhibitions Coordinator at The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History
Degree Completion Timing & Length

• 39 credits: Part vs. full time
  ✓ **Part time:** Min. 2 credits per semester, min. 4 credits for financial aid → Go slow & self-fund
  ✓ **Full time:** 8 credits per semester

• Typical load:
  ✓ Fall/Spring: One or two courses, 3 credits each
  ✓ Summer: 1-4 credits max unless you do not work at all

• Hours of work per week?
  ✓ Each class is about 10-12 hours

• Good academic progress
  ✓ No more than 1 grade of BC or below

Application Requirements

- **No GRE required**

- **Three references:**
  • Academic references preferred for 2
  • If out of school for 5+ years, at least 1 academic reference

- **Reasons for Graduate Study essay:**
  • Career goals, reasons for choosing UW-Madison, leadership experience, aspirations

- **Transcripts:**
  • Upload unofficial copies to application system

We are interested in: Multicultural competencies, STEM background, language skills, community service, job experience, time spent abroad, technology skills etc.
Application Requirements

Admissions deadlines:
• Dec 15 deadline for scholarships
• Feb 1 application deadline to ensure full consideration.

Step 1) iSchool Admissions page
https://go.wisc.edu/rw53q6

Step 2) Graduate School online application
https://apply.grad.wisc.edu

Tuition

How much?
- Fall semester 2020: $850/credit, or $2550 per 3-credit course
- Pay by the credit; no plateau

Residency:
Admission as an iSchool distance student does not change your residency status. If you are not from Wisconsin, you remain a non-resident for tuition purposes.
Funding

FAFSA
• Federal loans and grants
• 4 credits min. for financial aid

iSchool Scholarships
• About 1/3 of all incoming students receive some funding from iSchool

Jobs
• Most students work over 20 hours per week

Travel Awards
• Presenting at professional conferences

Career Services:
Strategic Career Planning starts when you start at the iSchool

• Integrated into course work
• Cover letter and resume reviews
• Interviewing skills & strategies
• Current employer panels
• Samples of real-life successful job applications
• Career Services Toolkit – 24/7 access https://ischool.wisc.edu/careertoolkitenter
• One-on-one help
Career outlook

UW–Madison iSchool Class of 2016
Most respondents found jobs prior to graduation or within six months of graduating. (Per iSchool annual employment survey.)

- 75% reported full-time employment
- 25% reported part-time or contract employment
- 68% report satisfaction with current position.
- 77% response rate from 2016 grads

Average starting salary is highly variable by career choice and by region of the country. (Data from Library Journal Placements & Salary Survey 2017.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Median Starting Salary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Services</td>
<td>41,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>YA/Teen</td>
<td>46,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archives</td>
<td>42,450</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications/PR/Social Media</td>
<td>43,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metadata</td>
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<td>Public Library Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data Curation/Management</td>
<td>53,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data Analytics</td>
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<tr>
<td>UX Design</td>
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Any Questions?