MA Information Session
Fall 2020

THE INFORMATION SCHOOL
iSchool @ UW-Madison
Our Team

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PLEASE MUTE AUDIO AND TURN OFF VIDEO FOR QUALITY PURPOSES

SESSION IS BEING RECORDED

POST QUESTIONS IN THE CHAT BOX

QUESTIONS WILL BE ADDRESSED AFTER THE PRESENTATION
Information Session for Prospective Students

Agenda

- Information School
  - Why iSchool?
  - iSchool & CDIS

- MA Programs
  - Curriculum: Requirements
  - Degree completion
  - Concentration options
  - Career opportunities & services
  - Program comparison & funding

- Application Requirements
Why the UW-Madison iSchool?

• **Program** – Nationally ranked & ALA accredited since 1922

• **Faculty**
  Experts in the field; Responsive and supportive
  Individual advising & interactive classes

• **Community**
  Friendly, supportive, and collaborative community; Progress together through cohort model

• **Curriculum**
  Flexible, customizable, and responsive to changes in the field
  Real world hands-on experience through a required internship

• **Career Services** – Strong career services and high placement rates
UW-Madison

— College of Letters & Science

- Arts & Humanities division
- Natural Sciences division
- Social Sciences division
- CDIS (School of Computer, Data & Information Sciences): EST. 2019
  - Information School
  - Computer Sciences Dept.
  - Statistics Dept.

Why is this good?

- More opportunities & resources for our MA students
  - More courses
  - More faculty
  - More funds to support students
  - More teaching assistantship opportunities
MA Curriculum (39-credits)

**Tier 1:** Required
Must take ALL 3

602: Info: Organization & Search (1st semester)

601: Info: Perspectives & Contexts (1st or 2nd semester)

603: Research & Assessment for Info Professionals (anytime)

**Tier M:** Management courses
Must take at least one (1)

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

**Tier T:** Tech. courses
Must take at least one (1)

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 crs.)**

**Total: 39 crs.**

**Required:** 5 courses (15crs.)
(18 crs.)
+ practicum (3crs.)
+ e-portfolio

**E-Portfolio**

**Practicum Field-placement** (3 crs.)
Degree Completion Timing & Length

- 39 credits
  - Part-time: **Min. 2 credits** per semester (**Min. 4 credits** required for financial aid) → Go slow & self-fund
  - Full-time: **9-10 credits** (three 3-credit courses, and possibly one 1-credit course)

- Typical load:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>On Campus</th>
<th>Online</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall/Spring</td>
<td>9-10 credits</td>
<td>3-6 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>1-4 credits</td>
<td>1-3 credits</td>
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- Hours of study
  Each 3-credit class needs about 10-12 hours
Five Concentration Areas at the iSchool:

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

Concentrations are suggested pathways...  
  → To help tailor the degree to your interests  
  → Lots of students mix & match more than one concentration  
  → Not required to choose a concentration

* Not all archives courses are available online.
Concentration Area: **Archives in a Digital Age**

Provide access to and promote preservation of born digital and historic archival materials and records.

**Career areas:**
- Digital asset management
- Digital preservation & curation
- Corporate archives
- Government archives
- Special collections
- Tribal libraries, archives & museums

- April Rodriguez ('15)
- Media Digitization Specialist
- Minnesota Historical Society
Concentration Area: **Data/Info Management & Analytics**

*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 areas:**

- Data manager
- Digital humanities
- 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**

*Design, develop and managing information technologies to solve problems in society.*

*Help people to use information technologies more effectively.*

**Career areas:**
- User experience & usability
- Web design
- Digital asset management
- Digital curation
- Digital humanities developer
- Systems analyst
- IT training and instruction
- Academic technology support librarian

- Mary Kate Kwasnik ('15)
- Digital Humanities Producer/Traveling Exhibitions Coordinator
- The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History
Concentration Area: **Librarianship**

*Support communities and learning and promote access to information.*

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

- Courtney Becks (’17)
- Assistant Professor, African American Studies Librarian, and Jewish Studies Selector
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Concentration Area: **Organization of Information**

Organize all the stuff!

*Work with the latest information technologies and standards to help solve information overload, to increase access to materials.*

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

- Hannah Stitzlein ('15)
- Document Manager
  World Trade Center Health Program
- NIOSH/Center for Disease Control
Additional Ways to Customize Your Degree

- **Certificate Options**
  - **Information Innovation and Organizational Change Certificate** *(School of Business)*
    - Can complete concurrently with MA degree, On-campus MA program only
  - **Leadership Certificate** *(Center for Leadership and Involvement)*
    - Can complete concurrently with MA degree, Online and On-campus MA Programs

- **Courses from Other Departments**
  Count up to 9 credits of approved coursework from other top departments, including Computer Sciences, Statistics, Art History/Museum Studies

- **Double Degrees**
  Must apply to both programs and fulfill requirements of both degrees. Benefit from courses which count towards both degrees (Law, Music, Art History)
Most respondents found jobs prior to graduation or within four months of graduating

- 87% reported full-time employment*
- 77% reported satisfaction with current position*

**Types of Institutions:**
- Archives
- Higher Education Institutions
- Museums
- Non-profit agencies

**Job Emphases:**
- Administration
- Adult Services
- Archiving
- Assessment
- Cataloging/Taxonomy
- Collection Development
- Data Analytics
- Data Curation
- Emerging Technologies
- Government Docs
- Instruction
- Knowledge Management
- Market Intelligence
- Metadata
- Records Management
- Reference Services
- Special Collections
- UX/Usability Analysis,
- Website Design
- Youth/Young Adult Services

(*Data from the iSchool Class of 2018 Employment Survey: 57% response rate)
Strategic Career Planning starts when you start at the iSchool

One-on-One Services include:

• Cover letter and resume reviews
• Interviewing skills & strategies
• Offer negotiation consults

Career Prep Events and Resources Include:

• Current employer & alumni panels
• Samples of real-life successful alumni job applications
• Extensive Alumni network
• Integrated into coursework (Intro Course 601, Field Placement 620)
• 1 credit course on Preparing for the Job Search/ePortfolio
• Career Services Toolkit – 24/7 access: https://ischool.wisc.edu/careertoolkitenter
## Cost Comparison: On-Campus vs. Online Program

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<th>Tuition</th>
<th>On Campus</th>
<th>Online</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rate</td>
<td>Wisconsin Resident: $6,098.06/semester</td>
<td>Same for All – not based on residency: $850/Credit</td>
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<td>Minnesota: $9,524.30/semester</td>
<td>$2,550/3-credit course</td>
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<td>Non-resident: $12,761.50/semester</td>
<td>Residency: Admission as student in the Online MA program <em>does not change your residency status</em>. If you are not from Wisconsin, you remain as a non-resident.</td>
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<td>+ segregated fee ($734.30/sem.)</td>
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<td>● For total estimated cost of attendance, see: <a href="https://financialaid.wisc.edu/cost-of-attendance/">https://financialaid.wisc.edu/cost-of-attendance/</a></td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>Program (typically 4 semesters): Wisconsin: $27,000</td>
<td>Program (39crs): $33,200/39crs.</td>
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<td>Minnesota: $41,000</td>
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<td>Non-resident: $54,000</td>
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Funding

**FAFSA**
- Federal loans and grants
- 4 credits min./semester for financial aid

**iSchool Scholarships**
*About 1/3 of all incoming students receive some funding from the iSchool for year 1*

**iSchool Professional Development Awards**
- Presenting at professional conferences

**iSchool Continuing Student Awards**
- Application opens each spring

**Jobs**
- Most students work over 20 hours per week

https://go.wisc.edu/83932f
Application Requirements

Admissions Deadlines:

**Dec 15 – Priority** deadline: Priority consideration for iSchool scholarships and decision letters by Feb 1

**Feb 1 – Application** deadline: To ensure full consideration, decision letters by early March

Steps to Follow:

- Step 1: Review iSchool admissions page
  https://go.wisc.edu/rw53q6

- Step 2: Complete iSchool online application
  https://apply.grad.wisc.edu
Application: What is needed?

1) Essay – Reasons for Graduate Study:
   • Career goals, reasons for choosing UW-Madison, leadership experience, aspirations, what’s unique about you

2) Resume or CV

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

4) Transcripts:
   • Upload unofficial copies to application system

Things to highlight in your essay:
• Multicultural competencies
• STEM background
• Language skills
• Community service
• Job experience
• Time spent abroad
• Technology skills, etc.

No GRE required!