

Educational Mission / Purpose

The Southern Miss School of Library and Information Science is committed to preparing its students for careers as library and information science professionals by offering a curriculum that is grounded in the traditional knowledge and skill areas of library and information science as well as focused on the diverse challenges of the future. The program embraces the philosophy that library and other information professionals must be prepared to participate in leadership roles for their profession and communities of service, be able to adapt to dynamic work environments and engage in life-long learning. The preparation of such individuals involves two fundamental elements; preparing candidates with the necessary intellectual and technical abilities to serve in the field of library and information science, and providing candidates with the appropriate perspectives of ethical responsibility and respect for diversity.

Educational Goals

Goal 1. Knowledge of and commitment to ethical practices

To foster and promote among master's degree candidates a knowledge of and commitment to ethical practices on the part of library and information professionals.

- Objective: Interpret the Library Bill of Rights.
- Objective: Develop balanced collection policies.

Goal 2. Professional practice and training experiences

Master's degree candidates demonstrate knowledge of the basic tenets of reference through the location and evaluation of appropriate reference sources to meet the informational needs of their patrons and the basic tenets of cataloging through cataloging and classification exercises.

- Objective: Demonstrate the role of the library and of the librarian in the information-seeking process.
- Objective: Demonstrate ability to catalog a variety of materials so that they are readily accessible to patrons served by a library or information center.

Goal 3. Knowledge of the LIS literature

Master's degree candidates demonstrate knowledge of the body of literature related to the discipline of library and information science.

- Objective: Locate and evaluate library management articles.
- Objective: Create an annotated bibliography of IS research.

Goal 4. Engagement in research

Master's degree candidates demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scholarly LIS research and demonstrate the ability to identify and apply appropriate research methodology to specific problems in library and information science.

- Objective: Conduct bibliometric research.
- Objective: Demonstrate an understanding of the process and role of research in the field of library and information science through the completion of an original research project and report.

Goal 5. Technical competency

Candidates develop an awareness of the use of technology in libraries and participate in technology applications to advance their skills and experiences.

- Objective: Create a multimedia vodcast or podcast.
- Objective: Create an e-portfolio.