

Catholic University of America

School of Library and Information Science

Professional Competencies for Graduates of the Master's in Library Science Degree Program

Adopted by the Faculty March 26, 2008

Area	Scope note
Professional Identity	<p>Graduate education from the School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) includes philosophical, theoretical, practical, and experiential learning infused with an enduring sense of commitment to the evolving profession of library and information science. The SLIS program offers students the opportunity to learn and develop in the areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the history and importance of the profession to the world;• values, principles, legal, and ethical responsibilities of the profession;• professional development and leadership;• and active individual and collective responsibility for the betterment of humanity.
Management	<p>Information professionals require an understanding of the broad range of competencies required for effective management in organizations of all types. The SLIS program enables students to develop competencies in working with and through others to achieve the effective and efficient operation of libraries and information services. These competencies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• strategic management and planning;• human resource management;• budgeting and financial management;• marketing, including promotion;• ethical management;• leadership;• communication;• negotiation and teamwork;• the management of technology;• change and innovation;• and the evaluation of organizational processes and programs.
Resources	<p>Information professionals are knowledgeable about creating and evaluating resources in order to provide effective reference and collection development services for use by individuals and/or communities working within various specific domains and</p>

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	<p>settings. The SLIS program provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opportunities for students to gain fluency and agility in the theory, vocabulary and best practices of information selection, acquisition, organization, evaluation, de-selection, storage, preservation and conservation of information items in print, electronic and other formats. <p>In addition, the SLIS program enables students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a depth of knowledge on the variety of information resources available, existing library literature, and the evolving patterns of communication and publication within society.
Services	<p>The program at SLIS enables students to develop competencies in the provision and delivery of library and information services that meet the needs of individual users, their communities, and the greater, global society for the purpose of creating, using, and disseminating knowledge.</p> <p>Students at the SLIS program are educated to be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create, identify, retrieve, evaluate and synthesize information for users; • identify, plan, provide, and evaluate library and information services; • provide users with appropriate consultation and guidance or instruction in the use of information resources; • anticipate current and future user needs; • and apply technology strategically to improve services and enhance access to information resources on a global scale.
Information Organization	<p>Information professionals organize and manage information for users in libraries, archives, museums, and other information environments. Competencies in this area encompass knowledge of and skills in the theory and principles of information organization, understanding users, proficiency in methods and systems for organizing information, intelligent use of technologies, and application of research findings. SLIS curriculum prepares students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apply the principles and best practices of information organization, • become cognizant of the approaches for understanding user

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	<p>needs and information seeking behavior and the need to focus on users as we organize information,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand standards and methods for controlling and managing information resources, • develop proficiency in using communication and information technologies to organize information resources for access, and • obtain the ability to assess, interpret and apply research findings from the library and information science field and related disciplines to improve information organization and access for users.
<p>Technology</p>	<p>Information professionals apply information and communication technology (ICT) knowledge and skills to effectively and ethically serve the information needs of individuals, organizations and communities.</p> <p>The SLIS program prepares students who are proficient in the application of standard ICT tools and techniques, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of relevant software systems and applications; • Design and/or creation of accessible and usable information solutions; • Protection of information privacy and security; and • Continual monitoring and learning about emerging and evolving technology. <p>The SLIS program prepares students who have a basic knowledge of, and articulate the important role of, the concepts and processes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human-computer interaction; • Systems analysis and design; • Assessment and evaluation of the efficacy and impacts of ICT