Library and Information Science
at
The Catholic University of America

Information Session
April 3, 2014

Why Library and Information Science?

Why the Catholic University of America?

What do I need to know?

Where do I start?
Why Library and Information Science?

- Our society runs on knowledge and information
  - Leaders and educators agree: information skills are critical to opportunity and personal success
  - In government, nonprofits, and business, organizational performance depends on information and knowledge
  - In healthcare, improved information management holds the key to better care and lower cost

- Librarians and IT professionals are the leaders!

21st Century Info Professionals

- Work in all kinds of settings
- Have lots of different job titles
  - Information Architect
  - Digital Libraries Specialist
  - Information Literacy Librarian
  - Content Manager
  - Program Analyst / Information Analyst / Intelligence Analyst
  - Family Literacy Liaison
  - Medical Informationist
  - ... and many more
Why The Catholic University of America?

- Student-focused program
- Small class size
- Caring faculty
- Flexible scheduling – 5 to 6 classes held at LC every year
- Integrates theory and practice
- Strong ties to information professionals and agencies in DC
  - Guest presenters
  - Practicum, internship, and work opportunities

We Offer A Variety of Programs

- M.S. in Library and Information Science
  - Face-to-face
  - Blended
  - Online and Weekend Learning (OWL)

- M.S. in Information Technology with a concentration in Health Information Technology
  - Week night classes

- Post-Master’s Advanced Certificates
  - Library Leadership and Management
  - General
Master of Science in Library Science (MSLIS)

- 36 credits / 12 courses
  - 6 credits granted to students with another post-Bachelor’s degree

- Four core required courses
  - Information Organization (LSC 551)
  - Information Sources and Services (LSC 553)
  - Information Systems (LSC 555)
  - Libraries and Information in Society (LSC 557)

- Comprehensive exam is the program capstone

MSLIS Program Options

- Courses of Study
  - Cultural Heritage Information Management
  - Digital Libraries
  - Health Sciences Librarianship
  - Information Architecture
  - Information Organization
  - Law Librarianship
  - User Services
  - Generalist

- Academic advisors work with students to develop a customized plan

- School Library Media program qualifies graduates for state certification
Law Librarianship

Opportunities in:
§ Law firms
§ Government agencies
§ Court libraries
§ Law schools
§ Law Library of Congress
§ State law libraries

Roles include:
§ Researching case law, legislative histories, conflicts, competitive intelligence & international law
§ Managing legal resources, print and digital
§ Monitoring legislation
§ Training for the efficient use of legal resources

CUA's Law Librarianship Program ranked #3 in the U.S.

Law Librarianship Requirements

36 credits (12 3-credit classes)

❖ 4 Core Courses (mandatory for all MSLIS students)
  • Organization of Information
  • Information Sources and Services
  • Information Systems in Libraries & Information Centers
  • Libraries and Information in Society

❖ 3 Specialized courses
  • Law librarianship
  • Legal Literature
  • Advanced Legal Research

❖ 5 Electives (3 for students who hold the JD)
Joint Degrees

JD/MSLIS

About one-third of all law librarians hold both degrees.

CUA offers a joint degree program:
- 27 credits from the Department of Library and Information Science
- 70 credits from CUA’s Columbus School of Law

Other joint degrees: Philosophy, Religious Studies, Music, English & Politics

OWL & School OWL

- Face-to-face sessions one Saturday a month
- Other course activities delivered online (mostly asynchronously)
- Balance face-to-face interaction and convenience
- A personalized alternative to fully online programs
- Two courses per semester
- Two years to complete
- Two tracks: Generalist and School Library Media
- Flexible cohort
Professional Competencies

- Information organization
- Information resources
- Information services
- Information technology
- Management
- Professional identity

Health Information Technology

- Master of Science in Information Technology with a concentration in Health Information Technology

The Health IT Professional

The MSIT-HIT will help prepare you to:

- Implement and manage systems for the management of electronic medical records and patient health records
- Design and develop collaborative tools and systems to support clinical decision making and research
- Safeguard the security of patient records in compliance with privacy laws and address ethical issues related to the sharing of medical data and patient data
- Develop standards for the exchange and interoperability of medical data
- Promote meaningful use of medical records and data
- Select and implement health information systems to provide affordable quality healthcare

The MSIT-HIT Degree

- 36 credits (12 courses)
- 2 years part-time study; two courses per semester (Fall, Spring, Summer)
- Cohort Model: Students advance through the program as a group
- Evening classes
What Do I Need to Know?

- Assembling your application
  - Order official transcripts
  - Draft a statement of purpose - how your current and/or past academic and work experiences, including volunteer work, have influenced your ability to become a leader in the information professions.
  - Obtain 3 letters of reference – academic or professional
  - A Resume is nice to have
  - Take the GRE and submit scores if GPA < 3.0 (also needed for some forms of financial aid)
  - Submit your application online ($60 fee)

- [http://lis.cua.edu/admissions/howtoapply.cfm](http://lis.cua.edu/admissions/howtoapply.cfm)

When Is My Application Due?

- Summer: April 1
- Fall: July 15
How Much Does It Cost?

- Standard tuition is currently $1525 / credit hour

- Special tuition rates for Library of Congress Employees as well as:
  - Certain public libraries
  - Washington Research Libraries Consortium
  - School Librarian Media Students

Is Assistance Available?

YES!

- Scholarships
  - CUA Provost Scholars – competitive, requires GRE
  - Departmental Kortendick and Rovelstad scholars
  - Scholarships from local and national professional associations (ALA, DCLA, SLA, SAA, etc.)

- Work / study opportunities
  - CUA Graduate Library Pre-professional (GLP) program
  - Research assistants and student workers
  - Paid internships

- Federal student loans
Where Do I Start?

Contact us!

The Catholic University of America
Department of Library and Information Science
http://lis.cua.edu
cua-lis@cua.edu
Phone: 202-319-5085

Questions?