Degree Requirements

Candidates for the MLIS degree must earn a minimum of 36 semester hours of credit, completing all work with a grade average of "B" or better. A thesis is not required. All MLIS students must complete, as part of the minimum 36 hours, the following 18 hours of required courses:

- **LS 500** Organization of Information
- **LS 501** Introduction to Library and Information Studies
- **LS 502** Research Methods
- **LS 507** Information Sources and Services
- **LS 560** Information Technologies

And one of the following:
- **LS 508** Administration and Management
- **LS 530** Public Libraries
- **LS 531** Academic Libraries
- **LS 532** School Media Centers
- **LS 533** Special Libraries and Information Centers

Thesis and Coursework Plans

Two plans are offered for the master’s degree:

**Plan I: Thesis.**

Candidates for the master’s degree under the thesis plan must earn a minimum of thirty-six hours of credit, including fifteen hours of required courses, a three-hour required management and administration course, and six hours of thesis credit (LS 599); no more than six hours of thesis credit may be counted toward the degree.

Intent to elect the thesis option must be formally declared within the first nine hours of enrollment in graduate LIS courses. The declaration of intent must indicate the subject area of the research and the faculty member who has agreed to direct the thesis.

The student must identify a three-person thesis committee, to consist of at least two full-time SLIS faculty members, at least one of whom must be a full member of the graduate faculty; a third committee member may be a faculty member from another department of the University, a faculty member from another institution, or a well-qualified practitioner. All committee members must hold appropriate Graduate Faculty status.

The student must obtain committee approval for a prospectus for the thesis project prior to enrolling in thesis credit; a formal defense of the prospectus will constitute the final examination for the MLIS degree.

The student must complete and successfully defend a thesis that meets the requirements established by the Graduate School. The thesis defense shall be made orally before the student’s thesis committee and will be open to the public.

**Plan II: Coursework.**
Candidates for the master's degree under the coursework plan must earn a minimum of thirty-six hours of credit, including fifteen hours of required courses and a three-hour required management and administration course.