Vision, Mission, Goals & Objectives

The University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies (OU SLIS) educates professionals qualified to meet the challenges of the information society. The ability to generate, access, and use information has become the key factor in personal, social, and economic growth. The expanding global information society requires the free flow of information; and the impact of rapidly changing information and communications technologies is reshaping our personal, educational, and social activities, our organizational and political practices, and our local, national, and international institutions.

Roles, responsibilities, and career opportunities for professionals who can function as creative, information resource managers; act as culturally sensitive guides, navigators and interpreters for local and global users; and produce customized, culturally relevant, value-added services and products for diverse clienteles are expanding.

These professionals will play an increasingly vital role in empowering individuals, organizations, and communities to maximize the benefits of the information age.

Through a forward-looking curriculum and diverse learning environments, the School prepares graduates who have the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to be ethical, culturally aware, and transformative leaders.

**Vision Statement:**

SLIS envisions a global society in which information resources are created, protected, managed, and used for the good of society, including addressing challenges and opportunities in the service of equity and productivity for individuals and communities.

**Mission Statement:**

The mission of the SLIS is to provide excellence in education, preparing leaders for a diverse, highly technological, information-based global society; to engage in research and creative activities that generate new knowledge and applications for effective practice and that foster interdisciplinary approaches to address information challenges; and to meet the complex information needs of society through public and professional service.
THE SCHOOL’S GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

The School's goals and objectives focus on the three areas of education, research and service.

EDUCATION

A. **Goal: Educate students at the graduate professional and postgraduate levels to provide information services and products to a society.**

1. Support within required components of the graduate programs the theories, principles, and practices that form the foundation of library and information studies and knowledge management and their relationship to other fields.

2. Offer students a variety of elective courses to provide career-oriented concentrations within library and information studies and knowledge management.

3. Teach interpretation, evaluation, and promotion of information and knowledge resources, technologies, and services within a diverse global context.

4. Provide student advising that promotes informed program choice.

5. Promote through course work and by example professional attitudes regarding scholarship, professional ethics, intellectual freedom, and access to information in a diverse democratic society.

6. Encourage participation in professional activities and organizations at School, university, state, national, and international levels.

7. Promote professional development through student involvement in School planning and governance.

8. Incorporate theories, principles, techniques, and applications of research within all components of the curriculum.

9. Cooperate with other academic units in the sponsorship of specialized educational programs terminating in dual degrees.

10. Deliver courses to students throughout the state.

11. Model the practical and productive use of information technology in instruction.

12. Seek and systematically integrate into planning processes practitioners' input on the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed by graduates of the School's degree programs.
B. Goal: Provide a broadly-based liberal arts education at the undergraduate level that will prepare students for careers in organizational settings in an information-based, pluralistic, global society.

1. Teach the theories, principles, and practices that form the foundation of information studies.

2. Promote understanding of and respect for information ethics, intellectual property, and other related issues in the knowledge society.

3. Provide access to appropriate electives that enrich the foundational components of the degree.

4. Prepare students to work in information intensive environments by enabling them to analyze and process information needs.

5. Provide student advising that enables timely degree completion.

6. Model the practical and productive use of information technology in instruction.

7. Solicit and incorporate into planning processes input and feedback from diverse constituencies on knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed by students at the undergraduate degree level.

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

Goal: Participate in and promote research, scholarship, and creative activities.

1. Conduct and direct research, scholarship, and other creative activities.

2. Publish and disseminate findings of research, scholarship, and creative work.

3. Seek internal and external funding for research, scholarship, and creative activities.

4. Engage in interdisciplinary research approaches to the solution of information problems.

SERVICE

A. Goal: Provide leadership, consultation, and guidance to the professional/information communities.

1. Serve in leadership roles for professional activities and organizations.

2. Provide expert-opinion support to meet the needs of information professionals through consultation and facilitation.

3. Support alumni in their professional development through such activities as placement, advisement, communication, and an alumni association.
4. Provide specialized assistance for development of information services for Oklahoma's diverse communities, especially Native Americans.

**B. Goal: Contribute to University governance by participation at the departmental, college, and University levels.**

1. Facilitate faculty participation in School decision-making and regularly evaluate the effectiveness of established governance structures.

2. Pursue actively opportunities for service through election or appointment of faculty to College of Arts and Sciences governance bodies.

3. Pursue actively opportunities for service through election or appointment of faculty to University-wide governance bodies.

4. Participate as appropriate in the policy structures of other units in the University.

**C. Goal: Promote and defend the profession's values to society.**

1. Advocate values of the profession regarding ethics, intellectual freedom, and participation in the democratic process.

2. Support core discipline values of knowledge preservation, equitable dissemination of information, and organization of information for equity and productivity.

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**SCHOOL'S MLIS STUDENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

*The School's student goals and objectives for the Master of Library and Information Studies program focus on the three areas of information provision, evidence-based practice and professional service.*

**A. Goal: Function effectively in the provision of information services and products to a pluralistic society.**

Upon completion of the program, the student will be able to:

1. Interpret, evaluate, and advocate the theories, principles, and practices that form the foundation of library and information science.

2. Interpret, evaluate and promote the use of information resources, technologies and services.

3. Demonstrate professional attitudes regarding scholarship, professional ethics, intellectual freedom, and access to information in a democratic society.

4. Design and implement information products and services that respond effectively to changes in an increasingly pluralistic society.
5. Demonstrate competency in communication, leadership, and management skills.

**B. Goal: Participate in and promote evidence-based practice.**

Upon completion of the program, the student will be able to:

1. Understand and critically evaluate research and professional literature in the LIS field.

2. Analyze diverse information settings to design information systems and services to provide solutions to information problems.

3. Apply appropriate basic research methods and techniques, when necessary, to conduct applied systematic inquiry.

**C. Goal: Provide leadership, consultation, and guidance to information professions and the communities they serve.**

Upon completion of the program, the student will be able to:


2. Contribute to the development of the professions through speaking, writing, and knowledge-sharing.

3. Assume leadership roles within their professional communities.

4. Pursue opportunities for life long learning and professional development.

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Revised and approved by the faculty May 9, 2008.
Revised by the faculty August 20, 2012; approved by the faculty November 12, 2012.
SCHOOL’S BAIS STUDENT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The School’s student goal and objectives for the Bachelor of Arts in Information Studies program focus on intermediation between information, information systems, and information users.

Student Goal: Facilitate linkages between information technology workers and information users in a global society

1. Articulate the cultural, social, political, and economic implications of the role of information within and outside of the U.S, and the importance of communication across ethnic, cultural, and social boundaries.

2. Apply human-centered design processes to satisfy user information needs in technologically intensive environments.

3. Analyze the information needs of organizations.

4. Use information architecture to coordinate design, technology, and business goals.

5. Implement and protect information systems and networks, using appropriate technological tools and processes.

6. Demonstrate understanding of information policy, information economics, and information ethics within the information professions.

7. Function in leadership and management roles.

8. Utilize critical thinking, professional writing, professional judgment, and analytical skills.

Revised and approved by the faculty April 11, 2008.
Revised and approved by the faculty December 6, 2010.