

iSchool 2025 – an individual view

1. A firm commitment to supporting and growing public institutions that provide access of information to all people. Our distinguishing strengths should continue to be defined by our dual role of being Maryland's library school and the Federal region's college of information studies. Continue with our current recognized strengths in school libraries, diversity and inclusion, and digital archives but also broaden our strengths in alignment with the goals of the State of Maryland's Library Agency. This support includes a top ranked MLIS program of approximately 200 students who take jobs in the public and private sector, membership of college leadership in state government activities, DCIC supporting exciting and challenging projects in digital archives to students across all of our programs, and in professional classes supporting LIS professionals in the field.

2. A robust relationship with the public and private sector, locally and nationally, in the design, evaluation and application of human-computer interaction. This relationship is supported by a strong design-focused HCIM program of approximately 60 students with ties across campus, recruiting and financial support with industry, capstones with both private and public-sector organizations, and the involvement of HCIM students with research on the frontier of HCI.

3. A similarly robust relationship with the public and private sector, locally and nationally, in the design, development, and analysis of the systems, applications, and platforms that are part of the information economy. This relationship is supported by a MIM program of approximately 100 students, and has recruiting and financial support with industry, and capstones with both private and public-sector organizations.

Note that an increasing number of our graduate students benefit from training across our programs because of the changing nature of work and environment, and so our programs internally support students constructing individual study plans that cross these programs.

4. A BSIS program that is recognized as preparing students to thrive in the fully-emerged information economy. The majority of students in this program select the BSIS when applying to UMD rather than transferring in, and the students readily explain the value of their BSIS without reference to other degrees. This program has a proportionally large number of students who are first generation or from underrepresented groups. This program includes at least four specializations, including data analytics, health informatics, and cybersecurity and privacy.

6. A set of research efforts that define us nationally and internationally as a leader (we are already doing this), and with funding from 60 grants from agencies such as IMLS, NSF, DOD, USDA, and foundations. The term "living well in the information economy" (or some better title) is an umbrella term for categorizing a large part of our research, because it ties together what we are already strong in, points towards areas of growth including privacy and cybersecurity, computational archival science and health informatics, and brings non-technical research since the information economy/connected communities and smart cities must

include the people and institutions of the community as well as the technology that is driving the private sector push.

5. Supporting these research efforts, a Ph.D. program with approximately 80-100 students, of which at least half are supported on GSRs and most graduate within 6 years. After obtaining their doctorate, over half of the students go on to post-doctoral fellowships, faculty positions, or policy positions.

7. A robust development process with companies, foundations, and individuals and an iSchool that is connected with its alumni. This includes an industrial affiliates program that serves the college and our graduating students well, which runs alongside a strong graduate recruitment service for students to enter the public sector. A college advisory board of approximately 12 members from public and private institutions that reflect our research and educational mission and who help us build new contacts, advise us on our program planning, and think through new ways of increasing our impact.