

MLIS Program Committee
April 29, 2019, 1:00-2:00pm, HBK 4113

AGENDA

In attendance: Ana, Renee, Ann, Morgan, Suzy, Loretta, Ursula, Jeff

ALA Annual Update, Loretta's Phi Beta Mu Award

- Jeff and Erin are volunteering, getting exhibit passes (as many as possible)
- Sending 4 students to ALA and paying for a year of membership for each of them
- Saturday June 22 is alumni event from 5:30-7:30 at the Henley Park Hotel
- Paul and Natalie have a book talk
- Congrats, Loretta

1. MLIS Application: Proposed Supplementary Application Questions (due May 15, 2019)

Feedback from the committee:

- Make Question 3 the mandatory question to answer.
- By making the Graduate School's Statement of Purpose optional, will we get a full view of a candidate using only these questions?
 - Jeff: Possible to incorporate parts of the grad school statement of purpose into the questions that we ask.
- The questions amount to about 1,000 words. The current essay requirement is 500. We could reduce the word count by making all questions optional, adding the language "Please answer 4 of the following questions, incorporating any relevant experience (work, volunteer, internship, etc) in the field into one of your answers."
- What about a question geared towards diversity in the profession, perhaps along the lines of "How will you contribute to the diversity of the information profession?" or "What diverse perspective do you bring to the iSchool?"
- Jeff: Does it change if the grad school essay is not optional?
- Ursula: Would only change for how many questions we require them to answer.

Updated Supplementary Application Questions (Effective for Spring 2020)

We are interested in finding out more about what you want to do in this program and in your career. Please answer the following questions in 150-200 words. You must answer the mandatory question. Then you may choose 4 of the optional questions to answer.

Questions

Possibly Mandatory Question: Please describe any relevant experience (work, volunteer, internship, etc) that makes you stand out as a candidate. (possibly make this the framework for answering all the questions; just incorporate into the answers)

New mandatory question: Why have you chosen to apply to our MLIS program? Feel free to give examples of specializations, classes, faculty, diversity, etc.

Second mandatory question: Which specialization are you most interested in and why? If you have selected the Individualized Program Plan, please go into some detail explaining what knowledge and skills you wish to gain through your coursework.

<https://ischool.umd.edu/mlis-curriculum>.

Please choose 3 of the following questions. Answer each in 150-200 words.

1. Find and briefly describe a current job opening that you could see yourself pursuing upon completion of the MLIS degree. How will the MLIS program prepare you for this?
2. Imagine you could create any class for the MLIS Program to offer. What would the class be called and what skills/content would the students gain?
<https://ischool.umd.edu/courses>
3. What skills will you use to be successful as a graduate student?
4. Being an information professional can mean many things. What kind of information professional would you like to be and how will this program help you reach that goal?
5. Students often tell us they love books...how can a love of books help you as an information professional?
6. Reflect on an experience where you've had to navigate adversity. Describe how you succeeded despite difficulty or impediments. (**return to the language**)
7. The iSchool values diversity and inclusion. What diverse perspective do you bring to the MLIS program?

2. INST646 and INST647

We would like to combine INST646 and 647 into one records management class that includes electronic records. We would like to retire INST647 (Management of Electronic Records & Information) and teach INST646 (Principles of Records and Information Management) going forward, knowing that it includes electronic records.

- Ursula: It will require smushing two syllabi together and would require curriculum development.
- Ann: There are specific actions needed to retire a course.
- Ursula: We have not taught these classes in a few years and part of it was that there was a feeling that these classes weren't desired by students. After we did a survey, we found out that students DID want it. Adam Kreisberg had a bunch of great ideas for new approaches.

3. Women's Leadership Course

- A. Bruce would like more feedback on our initial discussion: how do we want to see the learning outcomes changed? Do we want the class to include all diverse populations?
- Morgan: He seems hesitant to include all diverse populations.
 - Ann: Keith also wants this class.