SLIS Strategic Plan

Southern Miss Four Areas of Strategic Focus:
- Climate for Academic Success
- Image Development
- Community Connections
- Healthy Minds, Bodies, and Campuses.

SLIS Vision
- Excellent teaching
- Innovative research
- Distinguished service

SLIS Mission
The mission of the master’s of library and information science program is to prepare qualified individuals for professional roles in libraries and other information environments with appropriate knowledge and skills to serve the information needs of their communities.

SLIS Goals that Support Four Areas of Strategic Focus

Activities in the strategic plan are ongoing with yearly review and assessment.

University Strategic Focus 1: Climate for Academic Success

SLIS Goal 1: Address the state and region’s need for qualified librarians and other information professionals

Objective 1: Provide online access to LIS courses that prepare librarians and other information professionals to serve the information needs of their communities.

Activities: Identify needs and resources through feedback from focus groups, student evaluations, SLIS Advisory Board, course technology survey
Review and update courses to conform to ALA competencies and AASL Standards; develop new online courses and new programs or certificates

Results: B.A. program is offered with the majority of core LIS courses online (ongoing); new undergrad minor is in process of being approved (2012); MLIS with and without licensure is offered entirely online – program enrollment has sustained approximately 150 – 200 MLIS students (ongoing) Graduate Certificate in Archives and Special Collections approved (2010)
Assessments: Graduation rates, enrollment trends
   Feedback from focus groups, student evaluations, SLIS
Advisory Board

Objective 2: Expand educational opportunities for students by obtaining internal
and external funding for student financial assistance and program support

Activities: Seek grants with Office of Research and Sponsored Programs
   and the USM Foundation
   Seek funding for student assistantships and scholarships
   Post scholarship information to SLIS Web site and student listserv

Results: IMLS grant to recruit and support 10 minority students
   ($429,000, 3 years) (2010)
   Dollar General Grant to assist in funding local library literacy
   service project ($3,000) (2009)
   Carnegie Whitney Grant ($5,000) that funded one graduate
   assistant (2010)

Assessments: Number of grant applications, amount of internal and
   external funding
   Number of student assistantships, number and amount of
   scholarships and awards
   Technology surveys

University Strategic Focus 2: Image Development

SLIS Goal 2: Enhance the image of SLIS internally and externally

Objective 1: Provide faculty development information and opportunities

Activities: Evaluate faculty based on goals/contract system
   Support, encourage faculty participation in university-sponsored
   training sessions in technology, QEP (Quality Enhancement
   Program), curriculum alignment (NCATE), research and grant-
   writing
   Support, encourage faculty participation in scholarly seminars and
   conferences
   Require scholarly productivity and service for tenure,
   promotion
Results: Faculty completed training in Blackboard 9.1, Wimba Live Classroom, SPSS, SOAR, ADA compliance, Responsible Conduct of Research (2010-11)
Faculty have published scholarly books, articles in peer-reviewed journals, papers in conference proceedings; faculty have participated and presented at numerous scholarly conferences at the local, state, national and international levels (ongoing)

Assessments: Number of training sessions attended, number of certificates awarded
Number of scholarly seminars and conferences attended by faculty

Objective 2: Market the program regionally and nationally

Activities: Update Web site and Facebook page to reflect current SLIS program and activities
Sponsor information booth at:
Southern Miss Letters Day, Black & Gold Day
State conferences Mississippi Library Association, Society of Mississippi Archivists, LAMP, e-Resources Symposium
National conferences ALA, ALISE
Purchase ad to promote program in Library Journal
Create a SLIS e-newsletter to distribute to students, alums, supporters and other interested parties
Contribute items to College newsletter and University P.R.
Market Children’s Book Festival and British Studies course via professional listservs, brochures and posters, SLIS Web site, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn

Results: New Web template with updated images and information (2011)
Robust attendance and participation in Children’s Book Festival, British Studies (ongoing)

Assessments: Graduation rates, enrollment trends
Feedback from focus groups, student evaluations, SLIS Advisory Board

University Strategic Focus 3: Community Connections

SLIS Goal 3: Establish and maintain connections in the community.

Objective 1: Expand practicum opportunities

Activities: Post scholarship practicum opportunity information to SLIS Web site and student listserv
Results: Undergraduate practicum is the required capstone course (ongoing)

Graduate students have two practicum elective courses, a library practicum and/or archival practicum (ongoing)

Archival practicum is required for the Graduate Certificate in Archives and Special Collections (ongoing)

Assessments: Number of student practicums, evaluations by on-site practicum supervisor, student course evaluations

Objective 2: Expand collaborative effort with professional organizations

Activities: Collaborate with Society of Mississippi Archivists to sponsor a new student group, Society of Student Archivists

Encourage students to attend SMA archival workshops

Encourage students to work each spring at the Children’s Book Festival (CBF) in return for free registration

Participate in ALA Student-to-Staff Program

Partner with corporate entities with strong ties to library world

Results: New student group, SAA, approved in 2010

Several students worked at SMA workshops in return for free registration (2011)

A number of students and alums volunteer to work each year at the Children’s Book Festival in return for free registration (ongoing)

Each year, an LIS student is chosen for Student-to-Staff Program to work at ALA Annual Conference in return for conference lodging and registration (2009-present)

Assessments: CBF evaluations, feedback from focus groups, Advisory Board

University Strategic Focus 4: Healthy Minds, Bodies, and Campuses

SLIS Goal 4: Provide students with opportunities to be exposed to the latest practices in the field

Objective 1: Provide faculty and students opportunities to use and become familiar with emerging technologies

Activities: Require faculty and graduate assistants to complete relevant training in technology

Require students take a technology course as one of electives
Results: Faculty and students are proficient in using Blackboard 9.1 and Wimba Live Classroom for online sessions (ongoing) SLIS Facebook group page that students, alums and supporters are encouraged to join (2010 – ongoing)

Assessments: Number of faculty and graduate assistants who have completed or earned certificates in technology training

Objective 2: Provide faculty and students opportunities to learn about ethical conduct

Activities: Require assignments related to ALA Bill of Rights
Require graduate students to complete Responsible Conduct of Research online training modules
Require faculty and graduate assistants to attend campus seminar on responsible conduct of research

Results: All SLIS faculty have completed Responsible Conduct of Research online training (2011)
Most faculty and graduate assistants have attended Responsible Conduct of Research campus seminar (2011)

Assessments: Number of faculty and students who have completed Responsible Conduct of Research Training and attended one of the RCR campus seminars.

Objective 3: Provide opportunities to mentor students, junior faculty

Activities: Require at least 9 hours of campus office hours and at least 2 online office hours per week
Designate specific senior faculty to mentor junior faculty
Encourage faculty to use “Early Alert” feature in SOAR to activate administrative counseling service for students at risk for failing or non-attendance

Results: Increased student retention rates and graduation rates (ongoing)
Junior faculty successfully completed most recent third-year review (2010)

Assessments: Student retention rates, graduation rates
Faculty annual reviews

Objective 4: Provide international study-abroad opportunities
Activities: Offer LIS courses in British Studies

Results: Since 2007, ninety-three students from more than 30 universities across the country have earned credit in British Studies LIS courses

Assessments: Student enrollment in British studies, student evaluations.