

# SLIS Strategic Plan (2016, reaffirmed 2018)

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the School of Library and Information Science is to prepare qualified individuals for professional roles in libraries, archives, and other information environments with appropriate knowledge and skills to serve the information needs of their communities.

## **Values**

The School of Library and Information Science is committed to:

- *Student-centered learning:* We are committed to cultivating an active, student-centered learning community.
- *Diversity:* We recognize and value the diversity of modern society and support inclusiveness in learning.
- *Intellectual freedom:* We embrace the ideals of intellectual and academic freedom and strive to nurture an open, respectful learning environment for the free exchange of ideas.
- *Service:* Because we believe that it is a core of the profession, we support service at all levels and encourage ongoing professional development as a means of enhancing skills and knowledge.
- *Community:* We believe in creating, fostering, and participating in learning and research communities that span borders on state, national, and international levels.
- *Research:* We believe that research is an essential part of scholarship, not just for the creation of new knowledge but also for the support of teaching and learning and the sharing of new knowledge with multiple communities of interest.

## **Administrative Goals**

The School of Library and Information Science's administrative goals will support the University and College's current areas of strategic focus.

### **Goal 1: Maintain recognition as a strong, accredited provider of library and information science education and training.**

- **Objective 1:** Continue providing reasonable access to LIS education programs through accessible scheduling and diverse methods of teaching.
- **Objective 2:** Promote departmental scholarship and assistantship opportunities at state, regional, and national levels.
- **Objective 3:** Sustain quality of MLIS program by maintaining ALA accreditation.
- **Objective 4:** Prepare graduates for the current LIS job market.

- **Objective 5:** Maintain an inclusive community of learners that reflects and respects diversity of people and ideas.

## **Goal 2: Enhance the visibility of SLIS programs and faculty.**

- **Objective 1:** Seek opportunities for collaboration with faculty from other departments or academic units.
- **Objective 2:** Distribute information on the accomplishments of the SLIS community.
- **Objective 3:** Faculty members maintain active memberships in appropriate professional and academic organizations.

## **Goal 3: Support targeted and strategic enrollment growth in undergraduate and graduate programs.**

- **Objective 1:** Identify additional opportunities and/or methods for recruiting students into our undergraduate and graduate programs.
- **Objective 2:** Identify additional opportunities and/or methods for recruiting transfer students into the undergraduate program.
- **Objective 3:** Support institutional promotional activities.

## **Goal 4: Foster retention, progression, and graduation in LIS programs.**

- **Objective 1:** Participate in and utilize all available student support services.
- **Objective 2:** Add student support statement and contact links to course syllabi.

## **Goal 5: Emphasize professional development for faculty and students.**

- **Objective 1:** Introduce relevant professional associations in all relevant courses (e.g., Library Management would introduce the ALA management special interest group, Reference RUSA, etc.).
- **Objective 2:** Faculty members participate in professional development activities (as resources permit).
- **Objective 3:** Enhance student education with opportunities for professional development and training.

## **Goal 6: Maintain and develop connections with stakeholders to further the mission of the School of Library and Information Science.**

- **Objective 1:** Explore possibilities for increasing cross-discipline course offerings, joint degrees and/or additional electives from other departments.
- **Objective 2:** Maintain official status for our SLIS student associations.

**Goal 7: Support student research activities.**

- **Objective 1:** Seek opportunities to mentor student research activities.
- **Objective 2:** Seek opportunities to collaborate with students on research.
- **Objective 3:** Encourage and support student scholarly communication.

**Goal 8: Review departmental processes, objectives, and activities as necessary for continuous accreditation.** (see ALA's *Resources for LIS Program Administrators*: [www.ala.org/accreditedprograms/standards](http://www.ala.org/accreditedprograms/standards).)

- **Objective 1:** Regularly review SLIS mission, goals, and objectives.
- **Objective 2:** Regularly review curricular objectives to support established professional competencies.
- **Objective 3:** Regularly review and update student policies and procedures.

**Goal 9: Contribute to scholarship.**

- **Objective 1:** Establish scholarly profiles through appropriate venues and tools.
- **Objective 2:** Participate in funding initiatives.
- **Objective 3:** Contribute to scholarly and professional publications.
- **Objective 4:** Participate in institutional scholarly activities.
- **Objective 5:** Participate in external scholarly activities.