ABOUT THE M.S. IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Information professionals know—or know where to find—almost anything about nearly everything. They are collaborative, analytical, creative, ethical, flexible, discrete, and diplomatic. Many hold advanced degrees in other fields and speak second or even third languages. As a result, they understand the information needs of those they serve and support. As information systems become more technological and complex, demand for these professionals is on the rise, and St. John’s 36-credit American Library Association (ALA)-accredited graduate program in Library and Information Science (LIS) offers a variety of concentrations and degree options that reflect the diversity of the LIS field. Students can pursue concentrations in law, public, academic, school, and special libraries, as well as archives and information centers.

Program offerings are flexible to meet the needs of working professionals, with a mix of online, hybrid, and face-to-face courses on the Queens and Oakdale campuses.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH AN M.S. IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE?

Students graduate from the library and information science program with a rich and varied skill set that includes research, records management, web design, and organizational management. They are able to identify information needs, find resources to meet those needs, and collect, manage, and analyze data. All of these qualities make library and information science graduates attractive to a wide range of employers.

The M.S. in Library and Information Science qualifies graduates to pursue New York State certification as a public librarian. Those who complete the school librarianship concentration are positioned to satisfy the requirements for the New York State Education Department certification in school librarianship (K–12). The degree can also be partnered with a variety of other disciplines for unique career opportunities.

Recent alumni of the library and information science program at St. John’s have secured positions in the following fields:

- Archives, museums, and record centers
- Public libraries
- Government agencies
- K–12/higher education/corporate training
- Financial services
- Hospital/medical/pharmaceutical libraries
- Law libraries
- Market research
- Publishing and broadcast management
- Risk management
MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The M.S. in Library and Information Science Program is one of the most valuable graduate programs of its kind. Our graduates are assets to their employers and make a positive contribution to society as a whole. We are selective in admissions, so our classes are small and highly interactive. Our faculty members are committed to helping students prepare for this dynamic profession. As a student, you will enjoy the academic resources of a leading Catholic university along with the advantages of studying in New York City, with its renowned libraries, archives, and museums, and corporate, NGO, and public information centers. We welcome your interest and encourage you to join us.

James Vorbach, Ph.D.
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RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Library and information science students have opportunities to design websites for nonprofits, present research papers at international conferences, and publish articles in professional and trade journals. They may work with faculty on research exploring trends in the library and information science field or present their own research at department symposiums each semester. They build electronic portfolios to showcase their work to prospective employers after graduation.

Students are also encouraged to participate in professional associations—including the American Library Association, the Association of American Law Libraries, the American Association of School Librarians, the Progressive Librarians Guild, and the Special Libraries Association—to build networks and to stay abreast of trends and key issues in this rapidly evolving field.

Credit-bearing internships are encouraged for all students and are required for some concentrations. Recent internship placements include the Brooklyn Public Library, the Queens Library, Scholastic Press, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, the Plainview-Old Bethpage Public Library, the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, the Leonard Lief Library, the Dahesh Museum of Art, Poet’s House, and New York Law School.

ASSISTANTSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FINANCIAL AID

The University awards a limited number of graduate assistantships to highly qualified students each year. These positions provide tuition remission and/or a stipend.

The Rev. Brian J. O’Connell, C.M., Library Studies Scholarship is awarded to students in the library and information science program based on merit. Other scholarships are available from the New York State Department of State, the Catholic Library Association, the H.W. Wilson Company, and other corporations.

For more information about assistantships, scholarships, and other types of financial aid, please see the graduate bulletin (stjohns.edu/bulletin).