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Welcome to the School of Information Sciences

Dear prospective and enrolled students,

As director of the School of Information Sciences (SIS) at the University of Tennessee, I am pleased that you are interested in a career in the information professions.

Our faculty and staff offer a dynamic, forward-looking program that embodies and reflects global issues in our field. Whether you choose a career in one of the traditional areas of librarianship (Public, School, Special, Academic) or in one of the allied and emerging information fields, such as archives and records management, publishing, information systems and technology, management of digital information, competitive intelligence, knowledge management, science information, information architecture, or even if your professional goals are not yet specific, we encourage you to call, write, or visit the School to discuss your interests.

SIS recognizes our students’ diverse needs and we offer a variety of curriculum delivery formats to provide a high quality learning experience. These include traditional face-to-face classroom instruction and virtual instruction via distance education technology. While occasionally courses are offered with face-to-face classroom instruction, most all elective courses are delivered via distributed education technologies including synchronous class meetings and the course management system Blackboard.

We are proud to provide quality education to meet student needs regardless of where the student may live. SIS believes that helping a student achieve his or her professional potential entails much more than providing classes.

We work hard to ensure that all students receive thoughtful advice about career planning and placement so that their educational experience is relevant and forward-looking.

This manual introduces our program’s components and policies, course descriptions, and admission information. Our faculty, staff, and students invite you to be part of our School, and we look forward to meeting you. For the most current information about School policies and events, browse our website at www.sis.utk.edu.

Sincerely,

Edwin-Michael Cortez, Ph.D.
Director and Professor
Introduction

In order to serve the mission and vision of the Graduate School and preserve the integrity of Graduate Programs at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, information related to the process of graduate education in each department is to be provided for all graduate students.

Based on Best Practices offered by the Council of Graduate Schools, it is important that detailed articulation of the information specific to the graduate degrees offered in each department/program be disseminated.

The Department Graduate Handbook does not deviate from established Graduate School Policies http://catalog.utk.edu/index.php?catoid=12 noted in the Graduate Catalog, but rather provides the specific ways in which those policies are carried out.

WHY CONSIDER UT’S SCHOOL OF INFORMATION SCIENCES?

How do you access digital libraries and databases all over the world? Can you be sure that information on the Internet is accurate? Should your local library restrict access to provocative websites? How do you organize and create records and archives for your small business? How do you personally manage information overload? These issues are central to the research and scholarship of the School of Information Sciences.

Our school stands at the convergence of people, information, and technology. We are not only building the crossroads to connect these forces; we are writing the user’s manual.

In 1928, when the College of Liberal Arts launched an undergraduate major in library education, the program preparing school librarians couldn’t have anticipated the rapid pace of change in information technologies or the complexity of intellectual property issues that define the information environment today.

Now, over 80 years later, the School of Information Sciences’ mission has evolved to answer society’s most complex information needs, while establishing a national reputation for excellence. From the highly theoretical, to the practical and popular, SIS scholarship and instruction addresses information content and format, users and uses, and the interaction between information and quality of life. These issues are interwoven throughout the fabric of our organizations and communities. Being information literate means having the power and potential to improve our lives and the environments within which we live and work.

Where We Rank

UT’s School of Information Sciences is ranked the 17th best library and information sciences graduate program accredited by the American Library Association, according to the most recent survey by U.S. News & World Report. Serving some 250 degree-seeking graduate students, SIS offers both an on-campus program and a fully Web-based program leading to a Master of Science degree. Fourteen full-time faculty, plus regional and international lecturers and practitioners deliver the master’s program. SIS also offers an Undergraduate Minor in Information Studies & Technology and a Ph.D. in Communication and Information which is delivered through the College of Communication and Information’s interdisciplinary doctoral program.

Arkansas, Delaware, Virginia, and West Virginia do not have an ALA-accredited and publicly funded MS program, therefore students from these states can qualify to pay in-state tuition through participation in the Academic Common Market. We are proud to serve a broad area within the Southeast with a diverse faculty that is internationally visible and highly productive in publishing scholarly articles and books while providing first-rate instruction.

SIS faculty is ranked No. 1 in the nation for per capita journal articles published. One of our professors, Carol Tenopir, is ranked as the single most research productive library and information science faculty member in the United States. While our faculty are ranked #1 in research, many have also garnered several national teaching awards, such as the Library Journal 2013 Teaching Award, Thomson Reuters Outstanding Information Science Award presented by the American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIST) and the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) Award for Teaching Excellence in the Field of Library and Information Science Education.

Program History

The School of Information Sciences has strong roots in the library and information professions dating back to 1928. Accredited by the American Library Association since 1971, the School has achieved regional, national, and international recognition through its award winning faculty, innovative research, and its Center for Information and Communication Studies. In 2002, the School of Information Sciences combined with the College of Communications to form the new College of Communication and Information. The School’s leading-edge curriculum and respect for
intellectual diversity makes it a top choice for both Tennesseans and out-of-state students.

Our Mission

Our mission is to educate information professionals and those who create and consume information products to live, work, and flourish in a dynamic information society through excellence in teaching, research and creative activity, and public service.

We provide quality education to meet student needs regardless of where the student may live. Instruction is of high quality and accommodates individual needs. All students receive thoughtful advice about career planning and placement to insure that their educational experience is relevant and forward-looking.

Our Vision

The School of Information Sciences will be recognized regionally, nationally, and internationally as an interdisciplinary program of excellence in library and information sciences. Graduates will be knowledgeable, skillful, and ethical in their pursuit of information and information technology. They will be well-prepared for further study and inquiry, for leadership in the information professions, and for enlightened participation in the global information society. The School’s graduates will recognize their responsibilities to contribute to knowledge, advance the information professions, and to engage in lifelong learning.

Our vision is firmly rooted in the School’s commitment to excellence and innovation in teaching, research and creative activity, and service. We are guided by the mission of the University of Tennessee “to provide quality educational opportunities for the people of this state.” In achieving this mission, we seek extensive partnerships and collaborations with organizations and communities both private and not-for-profit. We reach out to those in the state, in the region, and those far away.

We strive to anticipate and respond creatively to change in the information professions and education through continuous self-assessment and reflection and vigorous current awareness. Our curriculum anticipates the skills and knowledge needed in the future. Our instruction embraces intellectual and pedagogical diversity. Faculty research and creative activity is visible and valued. The thoughtful application of information technology informs and supports the School’s mission and values.

We are clearly focused on the effectiveness and success of our graduates. Recruiting and retaining a geographically, demographically, socially, and culturally diverse student body is a high priority. Faculty and students teach and learn with each other. We focus on the need for lifelong learning to maintain competence and professional effectiveness.

Our vision is based upon collaborative and inclusive governance. At some time, each of us will lead and others will follow. All participate. We embrace the challenges of managing the tensions between traditional academic and intellectual freedoms and the management needs of higher education.

What We Value

The School of Information supports the university’s multicultural mission by collaborating with a wide range of partners, from the local community to the global village. Our values are expressed and made manifest in our faculty, students, staff, and alumni, and everything that we do. We value:

- Continuous enrichment
- Creativity and innovation
- Context and a seeking of meaning
- Collaboration and connectivity
- Cultural awareness and diversity

We value our continuous accreditation by the American Library Association as an endorsement of the quality of our program and its relevance to the library community.

Student Responsibility

Graduate students are expected to be aware of and satisfy all regulations governing their work and study at the university. Students should be familiar with the UT Graduate Catalog (http://catalog.utk.edu/index.php?catoid=12), Hilltopics (http://dos.utk.edu/hilltopics/), and information related to the Appeals Procedure and the Graduate Assistant Handbook available on the Graduate School website (http://gradschool.utk.edu).

Our Student Body

SIS attracts students from all over the country, and even from several nations around the world. The majority of our students live and work in Tennessee or one of the states participating in the Academic Common Market. Students in Arkansas, Delaware, Virginia, or West Virginia may use the Academic Common Market to qualify to pay in-state tuition. Many of our approximately 250 students learn from their homes or offices via our online learning program.
Roughly a third of students coming into our program already have masters degrees and have demonstrated great academic potential as well as leadership in their professions. Our incoming student average age is 33.

Our students have developed supportive cohorts throughout Tennessee, Arkansas and Virginia. These cohorts study and socialize together, meet at conferences when possible, and serve as general advocates for each other and our program.

SIS Faculty

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DONALD W. KING, Adjunct Professor, BS and MS, Statistics, University of Wyoming; Fellow - American Statistical Association; research Award Award of Merit - American Society for Information Science and Technology.

DAVID NICHOLAS, Adjunct Professor, MPhil from London Metropolitan University and PhD from City University (London, UK); Director and founder CIBER research group Research Board of the British Library and the International Board of Counter.

LINE POUCHARD, Joint Faculty, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Comparative Literature, Graduate School and University Center, City University of New York; M.S., Information Sciences, School of Information Sciences, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Licence des Universités de Haute-Normandie, Université de Haute-Normandie, Rouen, France.

STEVE SMITH, Adjunct Professor and Dean of UT Libraries, Ph.D. in English literature from Texas A&M University, B.S. and M.S. in English literature from the University of South Carolina, M.S. in Library and Information Sciences from the University of South Carolina.

BRUCE E. WILSON, Adjunct Professor, Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry, University of Washington; B.S. in Chemistry and Mathematica, Michigan State University.

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Master of Science Degree Program Objectives

Upon completion of their coursework and completion of the comprehensive examination or ePortfolio or defense of a thesis, SIS graduates will be able to communicate their understanding of:

1. The processes of production, distribution, organization, preservation, retrieval, and use of information in society;

2. The general principles, values, and ethical standards of providing information services in a variety of settings and for diverse populations;

3. The responsibilities of the library and information professional in a culturally diverse, technological, and global society;

4. Critical professional issues in operational and historical contexts;

5. Information policies and information-related laws that influence the information resources throughout society;

6. The nature of information, information needs, information seeking behavior, and information use in society;

7. Information technologies, systems, sources, and services that serve others effectively and efficiently;

8. The role of research in the profession; and

9. Leadership in the profession and influential participation in the global information society.

For more information, see Degree Requirements on page 22.
Responsibilities of Faculty and Graduate Students

Duties and Responsibilities of Faculty

In addition to teaching courses, conducting research to further the profession and the discipline, and participating in school events, SIS faculty advises students on their curriculum plans and their careers. Many research opportunities exist for students, and faculty often include students in their research projects.

Duties and Responsibilities of Graduate Students

The SIS graduate program is a rigorous program that requires full commitment from its students. Every graduate student is expected to:

1. Meet all the requirements set forth in the current UT Graduate Catalog and the SIS Student Manual.
2. Possess the basic technology skill set found at http://www.sis.utk.edu/computing/ict. These competencies are required and assumed on the first day of class.
3. Subscribe to the School’s discussion list for the duration of their enrollment of the program. This list communicates official School announcements and university business, as well as providing a forum for library and information sciences topics.
4. Contact his/her advisor before each course registration period or when help is needed to ask questions and discuss with the academic advisor in selecting courses and preparing for placement.
5. Check his/her academic status in MyUTK and Blackboard during and after each term to verify that academic standards are being met.
6. Alert the advisor and/or instructor when encountering challenges likely affecting academic success.
7. (As future information professionals) take initiative in finding answers to questions

Professional Activities

We encourage every student to participate widely in professional activities as well. Joining and participating in student chapters of national organizations is an excellent way of obtaining leadership skills, learning about the organizations, staying apprised of trends, and beginning professional networking. Student member dues for the national professional associations vary, but are inexpensive. We highly recommend that students become a member in at least one national organization.

Official student organizations include:

- American Library Association and Tennessee Library
- American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIST) Faculty advisor: Dr. Dania Bilal, dania@utk.edu
- Society of American Archivists (SAA) Faculty advisor: Dr. Carolyn Hank, chank@utk.edu
- Special Libraries Association (SLA) Faculty advisor: Dr. Wade Bishop, bbishop13@utk.edu
- Tennessee Association of School Libraries (TASL) Faculty advisor: Dr. Cindy Welch, cwelch11@utk.edu

Visit http://www.sis.utk.edu/organizations for more information.

Also, informal student cohort groups continually form to meet a variety of student needs. The more established cohorts are:

- Memphis (West Tennessee)
- Campus Cohorts (Knoxville)
- CEN-TEN (Middle Tennessee)
- NOVA (Northern Virginia, DC area)
- TRITEN (Tri-cities area)
- Arkansas
- Chattanooga

For more information about student cohort groups, visit www.sis.utk.edu/cohorts

Discussion Lists

All enrolled students—on-campus and distance education—are required to subscribe to the School’s discussion list. Subscribe at http://listserv.utk.edu/archives/utksis-l.html. This list communicates official School announcements and university business, as well as providing a forum for library and information sciences topics. SIS also hosts a LIS jobs list at http://listserv.utk.edu/archives/utsis-jobs.html.

Technology Requirements

In order to attend online courses via the software, students must meet the current hardware and software requirements listed in the chart to properly access the online class. Other digital communication methods may also be employed for specific courses. For an updated list of technology requirements, visit liveonline.utk.edu/techsupport. Other technology considerations can be found on the at http://www.sis.utk.edu/computing.
### Windows System Requirements

**HARDWARE (Recommended)**
- Pentium III 1+ GHz processor
- 1+ GB RAM
- 200+ MB free space

**SOFTWARE (Supported Versions)**

**Operation System**
- Windows XP (32 bit)
- Windows Vista (32 or 64 bit)
- Windows 7 (32 or 64 bit)
- Windows 8 (provisionally supported)

**Browser**
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 8 or higher
- Microsoft Internet Explorer (provisionally supported)
- Firefox (latest version)
- Google Chrome 3.0.15 (provisionally supported)

**Sound**
- Sound card, headset w/ microphone

**JAVA**
- 1.6 or 1.7
- 32bit JVM’s with 32bit Operating System
- 64bit JVM’s with 64bit Operating System

### Apple System Requirements

**HARDWARE (Recommended)**
- G4, G5 or Intel processor

**SOFTWARE (Supported Versions)**

**Operation System**
- Mac OS X 10.7 or higher

**Browser**
- Safari 6.x
- Firefox (latest version)
- Google Chrome (provisionally supported)

**Sound**
- Sound card, headset w/ microphone

**JAVA**
- Apple JAVA 1.5.0_16 (J2SE5 – 32 bit)
- Apple JAVA 1.6.0_07 (J2SE6 – 64 bit)
- Oracle JAVA 1.7 (provisionally supported)

### Internet Connection

A 56kbps modem connection is required, DSL or cable connections are recommended. Note: high-speed Internet can decrease download time for e-mail and Blackboard.

### E-mail

University of Tennessee students will be assigned a UT e-mail address. This e-mail address will be used for all official correspondence from the School and university, including login information for your class. If you do not know your e-mail address, visit http://directory.utk.edu/

### Course Software and Support

All software required for the Live Online delivery system is free of charge and runs on PCs or Macs. Online classes require a software download from the Internet. If you have questions regarding these technology requirements, contact Cindy Lancaster by e-mail at lancast@utk.edu. The OIT Help Desk is also available to answer questions at (865) 974-9900.

Whether you are a campus student or a student at a distance, we recognize that you may need additional technical support due to the electronic delivery of classes. As a result, we provide a number of staff and other resources designed specifically for supporting students in Blackboard Collaborate classes.

**SIS Toll-free Support Line: 1-888-378-9338**

The toll-free support line is intended to allow students at a distance to reach technical support at the School at no cost. The support line is staffed during Blackboard Collaborate class sessions (synchronous sessions), and voice mail is available for calls at any time.

**Support Phone Numbers**

- SIS Toll-free Help Line: 1-888-378-9338
- SIS Local Help Line: 865-974-7913
- Blackboard Toll-free Support: 1-877-974-3117
- Blackboard Local Support Line: 865-974-3117

### Admission Requirements & Application Procedure

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

The School accepts applications on a rolling admissions basis until the incoming class is full. We encourage students to submit their application materials to be competitive with other students, particularly for funding opportunities that begin in the fall. There is no deadline to apply to the program, except for international students. Students are admitted in the fall and spring semester. Applicants with a final undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.25 and Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores above the fifty percentile will be considered for admission. Applicants who have completed 12 hours of
graduate coursework at a regionally accredited American institution and who have earned a 3.0 grade point average are not required to take the GRE examination. Admission is competitive and most students have higher GPAs. GRE test scores are accepted within five years of the testing date. If a student does not meet these criteria but feels she is a strong candidate for graduate school, there is an opportunity for additional review of qualifications by the admissions committee. For more information, contact Dr. McClanahan at kmcclan3@utk.edu.

Prospective students are welcome to email, call or visit the school and speak with the assistant to the director and/or the coordinator of student services before the application is completed.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Listed below are the procedures to be completed prior to the review of an application to the M.S. degree program.

1. Apply online for admission to the University of Tennessee Graduate Admissions office and pay a $60 application fee. You can begin the online application process at http://graduateadmissions.utk.edu/apply.shtml. For more information, contact Graduate Admissions, University of Tennessee, 201 Student Services Building, Knoxville, TN 37996, (865) 974–3251.

2. A written statement of one’s career objectives is a part of the online application.

3. Through the online UT application system, contact three persons qualified to judge academic qualities and have each person complete a letter of reference/recommendation. Recommenders will submit online letters directly to the Graduate Admissions Office.

4. Transcripts should be sent directly to the Graduate Admissions Office through the online application system. While unofficial transcripts can be submitted for admissions review, official transcripts directly from previous colleges/universities are required if you are admitted to the program. Do not send transcripts to the School as this will cause a delay in the application process. Applicants must meet the general university admissions requirements in order for the UT application and transcripts to be forwarded to the School. General admissions requirements can be found at http://graduateadmissions.utk.edu/req.shtml.

5. Take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). You may take the examination by computer through Sylvan Learning Centers or through the Educational Testing Service, http://www.ets.org. Examination results reach the university 10 to 15 days after the examination. Send GRE scores to the Graduate and International Admissions office, not the School.

6. Submission of all materials must be completed before the application is reviewed.

ADMISSION OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS


SIS accepts qualified international students from a wide range of countries, institutions, and backgrounds. Deadline for submission of international applications for UT Graduate School and the SIS program is February 1 for fall entry and June 15 for spring entry.

Admission must be granted and degree confirmation received prior to issuance of the I-20 or DS2019 form needed to obtain a visa. The Office of Graduate and International Admissions will not issue these forms after May 15 for fall admission and October 1 for spring admission. SIS requires a minimum TOEFL score of 550 on the paper test, or 213 on the computerized version, or 80 on the Internet version. The scores on all parts of the TOEFL are considered, especially the score for listening comprehension. The TOEFL score must be no more than two years old; however, TOEFL tests are waived if a student has graduated from an accredited U.S. institution within the last 2 years.

An international student may not enroll as a non-degree seeking student.

International students who are seeking admission to the degree program of the School of Information Sciences should consult the application guide for international students, available from http://graduateadmissions.utk.edu/int-adm-guide.shtml. An estimate of expenses for international students can be found at http://international.utk.edu/iss/estimate-of-expenses/.
Financial Assistance

Academic Common Market

An agreement for sharing graduate programs among southern states allows legal residents of Arkansas, Delaware, Virginia, and West Virginia to enroll in SIS on an in-state tuition basis. The Academic Common Market is available to distance education students. For more information, contact Norma Harrington at nharring@utk.edu.

Assistantships and Hourly Student Positions

The School of Information Sciences has various assistantship positions available which are awarded on a competitive basis to qualified students (campus and distance). An assistantship is a financial award to a graduate student for part-time work while pursuing an advanced degree. Appointments are normally on a one-fourth to one-half time basis, usually requiring 10 – 20 hours of service per week. Positions include a waiver of tuition and maintenance fees for the period of the appointment in accordance with university policy.

Graduate Teaching Assistantships

Graduate teaching assistants normally assist faculty with their instruction and other responsibilities as necessary. The School awards graduate teaching assistantships to students who are fully admitted as degree candidates. Graduate teaching assistants (GTAs) serve for two consecutive semesters beginning in the fall semester of an academic year (Fall, Spring). Full-time enrollment (a minimum of 9 hours) and a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 are required during the two-semester appointment.

The stipend is paid in 12 monthly installments on the last working day of each month beginning August and ending in July.

The assistantship is a one-fourth-time academic year appointment that requires a normal work time of 10 hours per week for each week that the university is in session during the fall and spring semesters. In addition to the stipend, the graduate teaching assistantship provides a waiver of in-state or out-of-state maintenance/tuition fees for three semesters (Fall, Spring, Summer) and health insurance benefits.

The assistantship does not cover the in-state or out-of-state charges for the programs/services fee, the facilities fee or the technology fee, the cost of books and materials needed for courses, housing, or graduation fees. The student is responsible for these costs.

The deadline for submitting the SIS Graduate Teaching Assistantship Application (available at www.sis.utk.edu/forms) is March 1. New applicants may submit a GTA Application when applying for admission to the School. Applicants for a GTA will be notified in writing by mid-May. Applicants are ranked based on their undergraduate GPA, graduate GPA, or GRE verbal score.

Distance Education Support Graduate Assistantships

DE Support graduate assistants are appointed primarily to perform duties associated with the School’s distance education (DE). Our School awards DE support graduate assistantships to qualified students who are fully admitted as degree candidates with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 and who have completed at least one online course.

DE Support graduate teaching assistants are appointed for three consecutive semesters beginning the fall semester of an academic year (Fall, Spring, Summer). Full-time enrollment (a minimum of 9 hours) is required each semester and a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 is required during the three semester appointment. Applicants who begin the program prior to the appointment must have a minimum of 18 semester hours remaining to complete the degree program at the effective date of the appointment. Assistantships are not renewable; however, recipients may reapply in a subsequent year.

The assistantship is a one-fourth time academic year appointment that requires a normal work time of 10 hours per week for each week that the university is in session during the tenure of the assistantship.

The stipend is paid in 12 monthly installments on the last working day of each month beginning August and ending in July. The assistantship is a one-fourth-time academic year appointment that requires a normal work time of 10 hours per week for each week that the university is in session during the fall and spring semesters. In addition to the stipend, the graduate assistantship provides a waiver of in-state or out-of-state maintenance/tuition fees for three semesters (Fall, Spring, Summer) and health insurance benefits. The assistantship does not cover the in-state or out-of-state charges for the program/services fee, facilities fee, or technology fee, the cost of books and materials needed for courses, housing, or graduation fees.
Graduate Research Assistantship or Other Graduate Assistantships

Graduate research assistant positions and other graduate assistantships are nine or twelve-month appointments that vary greatly depending on the project.

Hourly Student Assistant Position

Other positions available through SIS include hourly jobs that require 10-20 hours a week. These positions do not include tuition waivers but provide beneficial experience to students looking to augment their studies and participate in research projects for special grants through the School, the Center for Information and Communication Studies, or the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Student Emergency Fund

The university’s Financial Aid Office maintains a student emergency fund; currently enrolled students who are in good financial standing with the university are eligible for consideration for use of this fund. Loans are interest-free and repayment is expected within three months. Contact the Financial Aid Office at (865) 974–3131 for more information.

University Fellowships & Other Funding Sources

ALA SPECTRUM INITIATIVE The American Library Association sponsors the Spectrum Initiative, which is a program designed to increase ethnic minority representation in the information professions. Contact ALA at 1-800-545-2433 ext. 5048 or http://www.ala.org/offices/diversity/spectrum; or spectrum@ala.org for more information. Application deadline is March 1.

The University of Tennessee Graduate School offers several graduate fellowships. Below is a sampling of available fellowships. Others can be found at http://gradschool.utk.edu/fellowships.shtml.

- GRADUATE DIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT FELLOWSHIPS This fellowship will provide financial support to first-time graduate students who come from different backgrounds and who have different life experiences, perspectives, and goals.

- GRADUATE SCHOOL FELLOWSHIPS This fellowship is open to graduate students in their first semester of graduate work who demonstrate successful academic and professional performance.

- LORI MAYER RE-ENTRY WOMEN’S GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS This fellowship is open to graduate women students who are U.S. citizens, 27 years of age or older, and who have been out of a formal educational program for at least five years.

- J. WALLACE & KATIE DEAN GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS Applicants must be a first-time enrollee in a graduate degree program at UT.

- Awards will be made to selected students who are nominated by academic departments.

- SIS SCHOLARSHIPS

SIS scholarships are disbursed through the Financial Aid Office each fall term. To learn more about the scholarship criteria and to find applications visit http://www.sis.utk.edu/scholarships. The deadline for submitting SIS scholarship applications is March 1. Below is a list of available SIS scholarships.

- GLENN E. ESTES SCHOLARSHIP The Estes Scholarship is offered to students who demonstrate promise as a leader, and who intend to pursue a career in children’s and young adult literature.

- INFORMATION INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATES SCHOLARSHIP This scholarship is given to students who intend to pursue a career that encompasses research, innovation, and creativity in information science and information technology.

- CARMEN L. MOULTON SCHOLARSHIP The Moulton Scholarship is named for the mother of two SIS alumnae to advance librarianship. Only Tennessee residents are eligible.

- GARY R. PURCELL SCHOLARSHIP The Purcell Scholarship is given yearly to a student who has proven academic excellence.

- JANE MOULTON RAY SCHOLARSHIP The Ray Scholarship selection is based on financial need. Only Tennessee residents are eligible. Preference given to those who are first-generation graduate students.

- MARCELLUS TURNER EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP The Marcellus Turner Excellence scholarship is given to a student enrolled in the School Library Specialist Program who has been determined to be the most deserving student of the year. Excellent academic performance and demonstrated determination are also considerations in this award.
JOHN C. TYSON MINORITY SCHOLARSHIP
The Tyson Scholarship is given yearly to a student of color who has proven academic excellence.

H.W. WILSON SCHOLARSHIP
The Wilson Scholarships are given to part-time and distance education students.

Loans

To apply for a student loan, a student must be enrolled and complete the FAFSA form. Loan programs administered by the UT Financial Aid Office include the Federal Stafford Loans—Subsidized and Unsubsidized and Federal Perkins Loans. Processing time varies from one loan program to another. Students apply through the Financial Aid Office. Loans are limited to U.S. Citizens and certain permanent residents. Information on standards, applications, and additional information are available from the Financial Aid Office, University of Tennessee, 115 Student Services Bldg, Knoxville, TN 37996, (865) 974–3131, http://web.utk.edu/~finaid.

Work Opportunities

Campus technology, information, and administration offices offer several part-time positions. UT Libraries offers part-time positions through the Student Library Assistant program, www.lib.utk.edu/employ. These positions do not require financial need or previous library experience. Interested students should apply to the personnel office of the UT John Hodges Library at (865) 974–4424, http://www.lib.utk.edu/employ/student/apply/login1.php.

Fees

University fees are determined by the Board of Trustees and are subject to change. Contact the Bursar's Office for current maintenance and tuition fees, http://web.utk.edu/~bursar or 211 Student Services Bldg., (865) 974–4495.

Travel Support

We strongly encourage SIS students to submit their research for presentation at scholarly conferences. Whenever possible, the College of Communication and Information will provide some funding assistance to students who are presenting their work, especially at national conferences. The college makes every attempt to support travel if it meets the following two criteria: You are presenting peer-reviewed research that you authored or co-authored; and the director of the School indicates that the conference is a worthwhile scholarly endeavor. For more information visit http://www.sis.utk.edu/forms.

The Graduate Student Senate also awards funding for graduate students to travel, present work, and participate at scholarly conferences and events. Three travel award announcements are made throughout the year, designed to roughly coincide with the academic term periods. See http://web.utk.edu/~gss/travelfund/index.html.

Registration and Advising

SIS Course Registration Policy

The university, in its policies and procedures, distinguishes between students who attend classes in Knoxville using campus facilities and those who attend via distance education. For example, the fees paid by students vary according to whether or not they are registered as on-campus students.

The School, working with individual instructors, sets caps or ceilings on enrollment in courses and sections to meet facilities and workload needs. Different course delivery methods require different resources.

Types of Course Delivery

The School of Information Sciences offers a “blended” curriculum designed to provide flexibility and breadth of experience to students enrolled locally and at a distance. While courses are offered in real-time, some are face-to-face and most are virtual. There are two types of SIS courses: campus courses and virtual courses.

Campus Courses are typically taught during the day in a traditional classroom for students on the Knoxville campus. Information and instructional technology may or may not be used in the classroom.

Virtual Courses

These classes meet using online software, Blackboard Collaborate, to access and participate in the classroom at a distance. Students raise a virtual hand to get the instructor’s attention and speak into a microphone so that all students, wherever they are located, can participate equally in class activities.

SIS faculty is seasoned and comfortable using the software for online delivery of their courses, and students quickly become comfortable with this way to learn. A persuasive
benefit of taking virtual classes is the opportunity to collaborate with students in other places. Students working as paraprofessionals in a local library system, for example, will have the opportunity to chat with classmates working in a library or information center in another state with different policies and procedures and different cultures. This form of faculty-student interaction approximates communication methods used in many information environments. Virtual classes also ensure that specialized elective courses are offered to all students. Faculty uses the features of software to encourage student participation, interaction, and a sense of community resulting in high quality discussions with a rich diversity of perspectives.

Teaching and Learning Environment

SIS recognizes our students' diverse needs, and we offer a variety of curriculum delivery formats to provide a high quality learning experience. These include traditional face-to-face classroom instruction and virtual instruction via distance education (DE) technology.

As a result, nearly all elective courses are taught using virtual instruction and all students participate in the online classroom during their graduate study. Students studying on the Knoxville campus will begin their program with face-to-face classes for the three required courses (INSC 510, INSC 520, and INSC 530). They will then continue their studies and join distance students in the online classes to complete the program.

While students enrolled in the DE program are required to have access to hardware, software, and an Internet Service Provider, students taking courses on campus are encouraged to purchase equivalent hardware and software. The School offers a small computer lab in 440 Communications Building, affectionately known as Dewey’s Den and Commons. Several Apple i-Mac computers with large, flat screen displays, scanners, and printers are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Dewey’s Den and Commons is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and for extended hours, staff permitting.

We are proud that we provide quality education to meet student needs regardless of where the student may live.

Benefits of studying on campus:

- Face-to-face interaction with faculty and other campus students
- Opportunities to attend and/or participate in research forums, special lectures, sporting events, and other student activities
- Access to campus facilities, resources, and services such as student health services

Program Planning

The School has developed a course plan for the next three years (see http://www.sis.utk.edu/courses). Course availability depends upon student enrollment and faculty resources.

Individually Focused Curriculum

Students develop an individualized program of study in consultation with their advisors. We strongly encourage students to take an independent study, especially a Practicum, which allows students to experience a real-world position, which in turn helps bolster their preparation for their career. Students may want to align their course study with the following School strengths:

- Academic libraries
- Applied information technology
- Corporate information
- International issues and experiences
- Public librarianship, community informatics, rural librarianship
- School library media
- Science and technology information, data and communication

Whatever courses are taken, all students who complete the program receive the American Library Association (ALA) accredited Master of Science degree. The Timetable of Classes is the official notification of courses offered by the University of Tennessee for a specific semester and is available online several weeks prior to each semester at www.utk.edu/timetable.

COURSE LOAD

The maximum course load for a graduate student is 15 hours in the fall and spring semesters and 12 hours in the summer. A full load in all semesters, including summer, is 9 hours. Courses audited do not count toward minimum graduate hours required for SIS graduate assistantships or other financial assistance. Audited courses do not appear on transcripts.

ADVISING

An advisor is assigned to each student admitted to the program. The information sharing that takes place between the student and advisor is important for the success of the student’s curricular planning. The advisor approves courses of study, offers guidance about career
opportunities, and assists students in preparing for placement in the profession. Students must complete the Student Planning Form (see http://www.sis.utk.edu/courses) and submit it to their advisor in preparation for the advising session, which occurs before the registration period, and which may be done in person, by phone, or by e-mail.

Students may also seek advice from any faculty member at the School. Students may change assigned advisors via a request to the SIS coordinator of student services.

ACADEMIC ADVISING POLICY

The Coordinator of Student Services assigns an academic advisor to each new student based upon the student’s professional interests and advisor availability. In order to create reasonable faculty work loads, a reasonable effort will be made to insure that each full-time faculty member will have about the same number of advisees.

Using the advisee/adviser alert form, assigned academic advisers contact each new advisee in a timely manner, welcoming the new student to the School and establishing an advising relationship.

A student may seek advice from any member of the faculty, but the assigned advisor is primarily responsible for working with the student on such issues as course selection, academic challenges, and placement. Because courses may fill quickly, and some courses such as independent studies require additional preparation and permissions, students are encouraged to contact their advisor as soon as enrollment dates are announced. At the same time, faculty are encouraged to respond to any student advisement requests in a timely manner.

Students or academic advisers may request a change in advisor to better meet student needs. In order for this to happen, the current advisor must agree and sign off on the change, the new advisor must be willing to serve and must sign off on the change, and the Student Services Coordinator must be informed.

The Student’s Responsibility

Students should contact their advisor before each course registration period or when help is needed. Graduate students are expected to ask questions and partner with their academic advisor in selecting courses and preparing for placement. Students are responsible for understanding graduation and other University policies and procedures. Policies and procedures are found in the Graduate Catalog. Students must contact their advisor before they register each semester. Further, students should:
1. Devote considerable time and effort toward achieving academic excellence;
2. Read and be familiar with the UTK graduate study regulations and policies;
3. Take initiative in finding answers to questions;
4. Alert the adviser when encountering challenges likely to impact academic success;
5. Communicate regularly with their advisors.

The Academic Advisor’s Responsibility

Advisors assist and provide guidance with:
1. Questions that may arise before the student chooses to register;
2. Academic and career goals and objectives;
3. Creating an appropriate program of study;
4. Understanding and meeting degree requirements;
5. Understanding and meeting University, College, and School academic policies and procedures;
6. Monitoring progress toward degree completion;
7. Identifying campus services appropriate to student needs;
8. Responding to academic challenges and personal challenges likely to impact academic performance;
9. Placement activities such as resumes, cover letters, and interview preparation.

Class Cancellation Guidelines

1. If UT cancels classes, SIS will cancel classes as well. UT generally cancels classes due to bad weather; this impacts students, faculty and DE support.
2. If a class is delayed because of weather or software issues, students will not be expected to wait more than 60 minutes. So, if the class has not started after 60 minutes from the class start time, the class is automatically canceled and the students should not be expected to join class after 60 minutes. After 60 minutes, instructors should send out an email to students informing them that the class is canceled.
3. When a class is cancelled due to any of the above mentioned reasons the instructor should record a makeup class that can be attended asynchronously by students. Cancellation of class should not mean a smaller number of classes will be taught in the semester.

Course Wellness Guidelines

These guidelines address concerns from students as well as faculty. For the general wellbeing of the academic environment, it is important to have a designated procedure for instructors as well as students to raise their concerns.
If you are a student with a concern regarding a specific course in which you are enrolled, please follow the following steps to bring these concerns to the administration’s attention. If you do not feel comfortable in any of the following steps, please skip that step and go to the next step. In this entire process, if you wish, you may maintain anonymity. A request for anonymity at any level will ensure that you will remain anonymous.

For any course-related concerns, these guidelines are meant to help students and instructors identify and use the proper channels. As much as possible, please follow this sequence of reporting:

1. The first step to resolving class-related issues is to get in touch with the course instructor and ask for clarifications or explanations.
2. If you do not feel comfortable bringing this up to the class instructor, the next step is to get in touch with your advisor and discuss the situation with them. They will be the best person to advise you as to next steps
3. If you do not feel comfortable in bringing this up with your advisor and the instructor, then you can fill out an online form to bring the matter to the attention of SIS administration. This form will maintain your anonymity, if you choose to remain anonymous.

http://www.sis.utk.edu/webform/sis-course-student-comment-form

All these steps will trigger actions to address and resolve your concerns.

Graduate Courses

500 THESIS (1-15) Pass/No Pass only.

502 REGISTRATION FOR USE OF FACILITIES (3-15) Required for the student not otherwise registered during any semester when student uses university facilities and/or faculty time before degree is completed. May not be used toward degree requirements. May be repeated. S/NC only.

504 RESEARCH METHODS FOR INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS (3) Research methods in a variety of information environments; primary and secondary research; research project design; research results interpretation; analysis of published research; techniques supporting research process. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED COURSE

505 ePORTFOLIO (3) Builds an environment for capstone learning experiences. Integrates core knowledge of information science and related fields to build a strong knowledge base. Develops necessary IT skills for ePortfolios.

To showcase learning outcomes and professional growth. Identifies and fosters competences for career success.

510 INFORMATION ENVIRONMENT (3) Generation, production, management, dissemination, and use of information. Roles of information in society, information seeking and user behavior, information industry, economics of information products and services, technological and organizational change, information professions, and issues. REQUIRED COURSE

520 INFORMATION REPRESENTATION AND ORGANIZATION (3) The structure and organization of intellectual content regardless of format. Emphasis on how content is created, exchanged, and stored so it can be found. Includes standards and best practice for describing and characterizing intellectual content. REQUIRED COURSE

521 CATALOGING AND CLASSIFICATION (3) Basic library-oriented cataloging and classification techniques, tools, and supporting operations. Descriptive cataloging, choice and form of non-subject entries, subject heading work, general classification, authority control, bibliographic utilities, online library catalogs.

522 CATALOGING OF NON-PRINT MATERIALS (3) Cataloging of all non-book materials using RDA rules and OCLC’s Biobliographic Formats and Standards to create machine readable catalog records for maps, videos, recorded music, realia, graphic materials, electronic resources, continuing resources, microforms and threedimensional artifacts.


530 INFORMATION ACCESS AND RETRIEVAL (3) Information access, retrieval, and use. Information seeking, user interfaces, information services and tools. Database structure, search engines, query logic, and evaluation of retrieval system performance. REQUIRED COURSE

531 SOURCES AND SERVICES FOR THE SOCIAL SCIENCES (3) Information sources in political science, sociology, psychology, geography, history, anthropology, business, and education.

532 SOURCES AND SERVICES FOR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (3) Information sources in engineering, physical, and life sciences.
533 SOURCES AND SERVICES FOR THE HUMANITIES (3) Information sources in philosophy, religion, fine arts, performing arts, literature, and language. Organization and management of regional collections.

534 GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SOURCES (3) Selection, acquisition, organization, and utilization of government information in variety of formats from legislative, judicial and executive branches of federal, state, local, and international government and inter-governmental agencies.

535 ADVANCED INFORMATION RETRIEVAL (3) Bibliographic, non-bibliographic, full-text databases, e.g., non-bibliographic formula and structure databases, contents-page/full-text databases, patents; document delivery alternatives, evaluation, and testing.

541 KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT FOR INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS (3) Covers classic theories of knowledge and theories of first and second-generation knowledge management paradigms. Introduces related disciplines and the knowledge lifecycle, types of knowledge, organizational learning, intellectual capital, communities of practice, knowledge ecologies, knowledge audits, knowledge sharing repurposing of information, uses of information technology, and roles of information professionals in developing knowledge management initiatives.

542 SOCIAL INFORMATICS (3) Social consequences of information and communication technologies (ICT) at micro (e.g., personal level), meso(e.g., organizational level) and at macro level (e.g., information society studies), and applications of ICT for businesses, government, and society are covered by the umbrella term “social informatics.” It is a highly multi-disciplinary area worth exploring, since it will expose you to a range of contemporary global issues and phenomena shaped by ICT-mediated information.

544 BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE FOR INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS (3) Principles and practice of gathering and synthesizing business intelligence, including competitive intelligence, environmental scanning, and issues management: information evaluation and synthesis; role of strategic information in modern organizations.

545 SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMUNICATIONS (3) Evolution of scientific and technical communication; current trends; role of formal and informal communications; major STI organizations and their roles.

546 ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATICS (3) Focuses on the interdisciplinary field of environmental informatics. Explores collection, classification, storage, retrieval, dissemination, integration and visualization of environmental information. Reviews the role of computer technology including geographic information systems.

547 HEALTH SCIENCES INFORMATION CENTERS (3) An overview of health sciences libraries, including management, collection development, reference, and current trends. Topics include the role of health sciences libraries/information specialists, relevant management and administrative issues, collection development and related matters, reference and information sources and services, consumer health and literacy, the process of evidence-based practice, and current information trends related to biomedical science.

548 FEDERAL LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTERS (3) Mission, status, and history of federal libraries and federal information center work in various settings across the three branches of government; trends in employment, government dissemination efforts, information policy, information technology, and government’s impact on services in other types of libraries/information centers.

550 MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION ORGANIZATIONS (3) Supervisory and management concepts, strategies, and techniques applicable to information professionals working in libraries, archives, records management, and other information organizations. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED COURSE

551 SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS (3) Planning, implementing, and evaluating school library programs. Curricular involvement, role of technology, site-based management, relationships with district and state services.

552 ACADEMIC LIBRARIES (3) Mission, status, and history of academic libraries and academic librarianship in community colleges, colleges, and universities; trends in higher ed., information technology, and government’s impact on public, technical, and administrative services. PREREQUISITE: 550 or consent of instructor.

553 SPECIALIZED INFORMATION AGENCIES AND SERVICES (3) Specialized information agencies and services, with emphasis on client-centered systems in the profit and not-for-profit sectors. Examines evolving role of special librarians with attention given to methodology for associating information services with the particular requirements of organizations. Virtual field visits are an integral part of the course. PREREQUISITE: 550 or consent of instructor.

554 PUBLIC LIBRARY MANAGEMENT AND SERVICES (3) Development, roles, political environment, governance,
organization, fiscal management, services, marketing, and performance evaluations. PREREQUISITE: 550 or consent of instructor.

557 USER INSTRUCTION (3) Theory, strategy, design, and practice in providing instructional services and technology for end users of information and information systems. Includes practical experience.

559 GRANT DEVELOPMENT FOR INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS (3) Develops grant-writing and strategic relationship management skills for information professionals who may benefit from external funding opportunities and proposals. Creates and manages community partnerships to provide innovative information services to various constituencies such as underserved populations, public libraries, special libraries, and others in diverse information-related environments.

560 DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF COLLECTIONS (3) Selecting and preserving a variety of items (tangible and intangible) to meet needs of particular users; community analysis; policies and procedures; evaluation; purchasing. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED COURSE

564 ARCHIVES AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT (3) Objectives and functional elements of records systems, archival programs, management information systems and techniques within various types of organizations. Management of information internal to organizations.

565 DIGITAL LIBRARIES (3) Technological and social aspects of electronic publishing and digital libraries. Technologies and standards that enable electronic publishing and digital libraries. History of electronic publishing and digital libraries and their impact on user needs and information provision.


572 RESOURCES AND SERVICES FOR YOUNG ADULTS (3) Critical survey of books and related materials for young adults; personal, vocational, and recreational needs and interests. Evaluation, selection, and utilization for school and public libraries.

573 PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS (3) Philosophy and objectives of public and school library services for children and young adults. Reading, listening, and viewing guidance for individuals and groups. Program planning, implementation, and evaluation. PREREQUISITE: 571 or 572.

574 RESOURCES AND SERVICES FOR ADULTS (3) Examines strategies and procedures for developing programs in libraries. The course provides public service librarians with the knowledge and skills to create, evaluate, and improve programs with some emphasis on reader’s advisory. PREREQUISITE: 560.

575 VALUING DIVERSITY: INTERNATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL RESOURCES FOR YOUTH (3) Examines texts and materials for youth that reflect the contemporary settings and lives of young people from all over the world. This course will review the scholarship of literature and film to determine how to recognize stereotypes; how to understand publishing worlds; and how to recognize universal themes that transcend ethnicity, religion, gender, class, and nationhood.

576 STORYTELLING IN LIBRARIES AND CLASSROOMS (3) Examines the history of those who influenced the programming and styles of storytelling. Additionally, the course will offer techniques and sources for selecting, preparing and telling stories to library and classroom audiences.

577 PICTURE BOOKS ACROSS THE CURRICULUM (3) Provides guidance for selecting and using quality picture books, wordless books, graphic novels and other media for teachers and librarians. Will focus on cross-curricular with an emphasis on using these materials in traditional and nontraditional ways to enhance student learning for grades k-12.

581 INFORMATION NETWORK APPLICATIONS (3) Scholarly and community-based electronic communications. National and international standards, tools, resources; identification, analysis, evaluation, and management of tools and resources; construction of local technologies as developed and applicable.

582 INFORMATION SYSTEMS DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION (3) Information systems used in libraries and information agencies. System development life cycle (SDLC), usability engineering, human computer interaction, and project management.

584 DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (3) Defining data needs, data structures, role of operating systems in data management, file organization, database management systems, logical data models, internal data models, database administration and evaluation. Design and implementation of application using database management system.
585 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES (3) Evolution, trends, capabilities, and limitations of technologies applied to information capture, storage, preservation, access, and distribution.

587 MINING THE WEB (3) Covers strategies for mining the Web, Web engines and directories, cognitive accessibility, Web design and development, and usability engineering.

588 HUMAN-COMPUTER INTERACTION (3) Survey of human-computer interaction and introduction to human and technological factors of importance to design of usable information systems. Basic phenomena of human perception, cognition, memory, and problem solving, and relationship to user-centered design. Methods and techniques for interaction design and evaluation.


590 PROBLEMS IN INFORMATION SCIENCES (3-6) PREREQUISITE: Consent of instructor. May be repeated. Maximum 18 hrs.

591 INDEPENDENT PROJECT OR RESEARCH (3-6) PREREQUISITE: Consent of instructor. May be repeated. Maximum 6 hrs.

592 BIG DATA ANALYTICS (3) Introduces the concepts big data and data analytics as an emerging field. To address the opportunities and challenges of big data in academics, businesses, sciences, the Web, etc. To understand the nature of big data analytics and their various contexts. To master basic concepts and process of data analytics. To design analytics initiatives/proposals. To practice data mining techniques and skills (ETL). To explore data modeling and visualization.

594 GRADUATE RESEARCH PARTICIPATION (3) Advanced research techniques under supervision of staff research director whose area coincides with interests of student. PREREQUISITE: Consent of advisor and research director. May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours. Satisfactory/No Credit grading only.

595 STUDENT TEACHING IN SCHOOL LIBRARY INFORMATION CENTER (9) Planned professional semester; full day school library work and classroom observation activities. S/NC only.

596 FIELD-BASED EXPERIENCE IN SCHOOL LIBRARY INFORMATION CENTERS (2) Prescribed activities to gain competencies in a school library information center setting. Must be taken twice. May be repeated. Maximum 6 hrs. S/NC only.

597 INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE (3) Introduces fundamental concepts, methods, and practices in information architecture for virtual space. Focuses on organization, navigation, labeling, and searching of Web sites and intranets, as well as user experiences.

598 WEB DESIGN (3) Provides hands-on experience with creating websites using latest website design tools and techniques as well as a theoretical insight into emerging trends and techniques. Emphasizes understanding the basics of web design, website creation and evaluation. Covers basics of usability testing and search engine optimization.

599 PRACTICUM (3-6) Opportunity to translate theory into practice under guidance of qualified information professionals. PREREQUISITE: Completion of required and pertinent advanced courses relevant to student’s practicum design. Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA. Written consent of advisor and approval of practicum coordinator. May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours. S/NC only.

Undergraduate Courses

CCI 150 COMMUNICATION IN AN INFORMATION AGE (3) Overview of human, mass, and mediated communication. Introduction to finding, organizing, and evaluating information.

102 TECHNOLOGIES FOR INFORMATION RETRIEVAL (3) Principles, selection and use of computer-based information management applications; software identification and task appropriate uses; telecommunications, utilities, and memory management systems; multiple operating systems and technology for national network connections. Information services via computers.

301 INTRODUCTION TO WEB TECHNOLOGIES (3) Introduction to the Internet and World Wide Web technologies and practices. Topics include the history and development of the World Wide Web and the Internet; standards-compliant markup and tools for creation of markup (e.g., XHTML and style sheets); introductory Web page and Web site design.

310 INFORMATION SEEKING: RESOURCES AND STRATEGIES (3) Information as critical resource for research and decision making; emphasis on planning, executing, and evaluating information searches, with a focus on the student’s major academic area.
330 **BOOKS AND RELATED MATERIALS FOR CHILDREN**  
(3) Materials for children in leisure time or classroom activities; criteria for selecting books, magazines, recordings, films and related materials; storytelling and other devices for encouraging reading.

350 **INFORMATION CONSUMER**  
(3) The impact of the Information Age on society and the everyday lives of individuals, in the contexts of worklife, health, finance, and social interaction. Emphasizes information literacy skills and personal information management techniques to cope effectively with information overload, disinformation, propaganda, and fraud. Concepts include managing one’s online presence, social media use, information privacy, the economics of information, individuals as content creators, self-publishing, environmental scanning, evaluating online information, and gatekeeping.

351 **RACE, GENDER, AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**  
(3) Examines how expression of gender and race affect, and are affected by, information technologies. Course considers how information technologies interact with race and gender in various contexts: high-technology workplaces; classification and information organization; cultures of computing; and library and information-centered environments. Course is framed by two broad, interrelated concepts—the expression of identity (individual and group) in cyberspace and the “digital divide,” and reviews theoretical background in the social studies of gender, race, technology, and knowledge.

450 **WRITING ABOUT SCIENCE AND MEDICINE**  
(3) Writing workshops to analyze examples of successful science writing and write series of articles for general public based on scientific journals, news conferences, technical meetings and interviews.

451 **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT IN ORGANIZATIONS**  
(3) Introduces concepts and techniques for the interdisciplinary study of information, organizations, technology, and individuals, sometimes referred to as knowledge management. Topics include characteristics of data, information and knowledge; introduction to knowledge management; sense making in organizations; organizational learning; intellectual capital; communities of practice; ecological approaches; knowledge acquisition, representation and sharing; uses of information technology for information and knowledge management; and roles of professionals in managing information management initiatives. PREREQUISITE: 310. With consent of instructor, prior knowledge may satisfy prerequisite.

460 **INTERNET APPLICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGIES**  
(3) Introduces World Wide Web and related Internet technologies (e.g., XHTML, XML, CSS) and how they are used to solve organizational, individual, discipline-specific and social problems. Topics include the history of and the role of Internet standards in the design of information systems; metadata; principles and practices of standards-compliant, accessible Web design; informatics. PREREQUISITE: 301. With consent of instructor, prior knowledge may satisfy prerequisite.

461 **INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE AND THE USER EXPERIENCE**  
(3) Introduction to the design of the representational systems and interaction paradigms required of effective information systems. Topics include taxonomy creation; interface design; and techniques for design testing. PREREQUISITE: 301. With consent of instructor, prior knowledge may satisfy prerequisite.

470 **ADVANCED INTERNET APPLICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGIES**  
(3) Principles and practices of applying advanced techniques and standards to organizational, individual, discipline-specific, and social information problems; applications in discipline specific branches of informatics. Topics include semantic Web technologies; server- and client-side scripting; and the use of databases in Web-based information systems. With consent of instructor, prior knowledge may satisfy prerequisite.

490 **ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION**  
The role of information technology and best practices for data management in the context of environmental science. The nature of the scientific method and research, emphasizing techniques for informing scientific research. How data quality and access affect environmental decision making, policy creation, and large-scale problem solving, such as for climate change or environmental disasters. Concepts include data collection, management, and sharing; the data life cycle; environmental modeling and data visualization; metadata creation; big data, citizen science.

493 **INDEPENDENT PROJECT OR RESEARCH**

495 **SPECIAL TOPICS**  
(3) Detailed study of a specialized area of information studies or information technology. Topics vary by semester.

### Degree Requirements

The program for the Master of Science degree requires 42 semester hours of graduate courses, including three courses (9 hours) required of all students. [See the Required Courses section below for more details.] Students must take at least 33 hours of courses in the School of Information Sciences curriculum. Students may take up to
9 hours of graduate courses outside the School; no more than 6 of these hours may be taken outside the college. No more than 6 hours may be taken from another university.

Students may choose either the thesis or non-thesis option as the culminating experience for their studies. There are 6 hours available for thesis credit. To graduate, students must take a written comprehensive examination, create an online portfolio, or write a thesis. See Graduation Requirements on pages 26 for more information. This manual provides you the details that you need to select the path right for you. Don’t hesitate to contact us for more information.

**Required Courses**

Three courses are required of all students:
- INSC 510: Information Environment
- INSC 520: Information Representation & Organization
- INSC 530: Information Access and Retrieval

These three courses—INSC 510, INSC 520, and INSC 530—are prerequisite to all elective courses for students enrolled in the M.S. degree program. Students receiving a grade of D or F in one of the three required classes will be dismissed from the program.

**Highly Recommended Courses**

The faculty regards these courses as vital to professional success:
- INSC 504: Research Methods for Information Professionals
- INSC 550: Management of Information Organizations
- INSC 560: Development and Management of Collections

These courses address the creation and use of research, management, and leadership in information organizations, and the development and management of collections.

**Independent Project or Research**

Students are encouraged to develop research competencies through INSC 591, Independent Project or Research, which offers in-depth collaboration with a faculty member with the subject knowledge and interest to direct the study. Students may consult faculty members about the possibility of an independent study or may consult their advisor for suggestions first. A written proposal for the study is required, and the proposal must be approved by the advisor the semester before enrollment in INSC 591. Forms are available at www.sis.utk.edu/forms.

Another possibility for independent and small group study is INSC 594: Graduate Research Participation. After consulting with an advisor, one may petition a member of the faculty to assist him or her with an ongoing faculty research project. This plan must be approved the semester prior to enrollment in the course.

A total of 6 hours credit for any combination of INSC 591 and INSC 594 is allowable in the 42-hour degree program, or each course may be repeated once. Students may take no more than a total of 12 hours of 591, 594, and 599. The number of satisfactory/no credit hour courses cannot exceed 10 credit hours.

**Transfer and Substitution of Credits**

At least 33 hours must be taken within the School of Information Sciences curriculum, and up to 9 hours can be taken outside of the School, including a maximum of 6 hours outside the college. No more than 6 hours may be taken from another university. Graduate hours in library and information science from programs not accredited by the American Library Association are not accepted for transfer credit. Courses taken at another academic institution must be approved by the advisor and demonstrate strong linkage to an information science career.

To be transferred into a master’s program at the University of Tennessee, a course must:
1. Be taken for graduate credit.
2. Carry a grade of B or better.
3. Be a part of a graduate program in which the student had a B average.
4. Not have been used for a previous degree.
5. Be specifically related to the student’s career objectives.
6. Be approved by the student’s graduate committee and the director of the School on the Admission to Candidacy form.
7. Must be taken within six calendar years of graduation.

Credits transferred will not be counted in the student’s UT grade point average.

**Procedures**

1. The student submits a Request to Transfer or Substitution of Credits form (see www.sis.utk.edu/forms) to their advisor. The request must include a written rationale for the transfer and a course syllabus that clearly indicates topics covered, assigned readings, and course assignments. Students who request substitution for a required course must also
specify the SIS course for which the substitution will apply. Students must submit a separate form for each course they desire to transfer or substitute.

2. Advisors consult with an appropriate faculty member or the director to determine if the course qualifies for transfer.

3. The Request for Transfer or Substitution of Credits form must be signed by the student’s advisor, the consulting faculty member, and the director. This form goes into the student’s file.

4. When approved, students include the transfer courses on their Admission to Candidacy Form.

**PRACTICUM PROGRAM**

The Practicum Program is an essential way for students to gain relevant, professional work experience in preparation for launching their careers. The Practicum, also known by its course number – INSC 599, is available every semester to all students.

Graduating students often say during their exit interviews that their Practicum experience is invaluable to their career success since it allows them to directly apply their knowledge and training in a hands-on work environment.

Students apply their classroom understanding of tasks and responsibilities to the daily workflow in their chosen information agency under the supervision of a seasoned information professional. By developing familiarity with the culture and values of a specific type of organizational climate, practicums often confirm a student’s interest in a possible career path. The Practicum experience expands a student’s professional network and often provides an invaluable recommendation from the Practicum supervisor.

In short, the Practicum gives SIS students an opportunity to “try out” a position and type of workplace, gain professional work experience, earn academic credit and valuable professional contacts. Eligibility for a practicum experience requires a 3.0 cumulative grade-point average at the time of application. Students apply the semester prior to the proposed Practicum.

A 3-hour credit Practicum requires on-site work experience of 150 hours (an average of 10 hours per week in a 15-week semester). Students may take a maximum of 6 hours Practicum credit. The following restrictions apply:

1. a student may not be paid for a Practicum experience,
2. a student cannot be involved in a Practicum in an information agency where he or she is or has been employed unless the Practicum is in a different department within the agency, and involves different activities,
3. a student who seeks teacher certification may not substitute the Practicum for student teaching, and
4. a student cannot undertake a Practicum for more than 3 hours of credit if he or she is employed more than 20 hours per week.

For information about the Practicum, visit http://www.sis.utk.edu/practicum or contact Dr. Kitty McClanahan, Practicum Coordinator at sispracticum@utk.edu or (865) 974-8942. See also Graduate Courses for INSC 599: Practicum.

For information about School Library Media Practicums, contact Dr. Cindy Welch at cwelch11@utk.edu or (865) 974–7918 or Marion Vose at mcvose@ci.maryville.tn.us or (865) 681–6298. See also Graduate Courses for INSC 595: Student Teaching in School Library Information Center, and INSC 596: Field-Based Experience in School Library Information Centers.

**THE SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST LICENSURE**

The School Library Media Specialist Program is accredited by NCATE, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, through the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences. The Tennessee State Department of Education requires School Library Media Specialists to hold the master’s degree. To complete the licensing requirements for the state, students must pass the PRAXIS examination, which assesses the skills of beginning teachers in classroom settings. The School of Information Sciences offers four options for the School Library Media Specialist endorsement.

**Option 1: Endorsement for non-licensed teachers with no master’s degree in library or information sciences.**

Choose this option if you do not have a teaching license AND do not hold a master’s degree in library or information sciences. For those students who do not hold the master’s degree, the requirements for initial endorsement include the three required courses (INSC 510, 520, and 530) plus INSC 551, 560, 571, 572, 573, 581, 585, 595 and one elective (upon approval of faculty advisor). In addition, students must complete two corequisite courses from the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences (six credit hours) that do not count toward the master’s degree requirements. These courses include:

- **Educational Psychology 401** (3 hours) Professional studies: applied educational psychology. Application
of concepts, principles, techniques and models from Educational Psychology to facilitate student learning and creation of effective classroom environments.

- **Special Education 402** (3 hours) Characteristics and needs of students with disabilities and diverse learners with emphasis on educational implications. Techniques, strategies and resources for teaching students with special learning, behavioral or medical needs, and the requirements of special education laws.

Students pursuing the initial endorsement must follow the non-theses option. Upon completion of the requirements, students will earn a master’s degree and a Tennessee State Department of Education license as a School Library Information Specialist.

**Option 2: Endorsement for licensed teachers without a master’s degree in library or information sciences.**

Choose this option if you are a state-licensed teacher but do not hold a master’s degree in library or information sciences. The requirements include the three required courses plus INSC 551, 560, 571, 572, 581, 585, and 596 (which must be taken twice) plus 4 electives (upon approval of the faculty advisor). Upon completion of the requirements, students will earn a master’s degree in information sciences and a Tennessee State Department of Education Additional Endorsement as a School Library Information Specialist.

**Option 3: Endorsement for non-licensed teachers with a master’s degree in library or information sciences.**

Choose this option if you hold a master’s degree in library or information sciences but are not a licensed teacher. For those students who hold an ALA-accredited master’s degree and have approval of the faculty advisor, the requirements are a maximum of 24 hours within the School’s program, including the required Information Sciences 595. In addition, students must complete two corequisite courses from the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences (6 credit hours) beyond the required 24 hours. These courses are listed under Option 1. Upon completion of the requirements, students will earn a Tennessee State Department of Education license as a School Library Information Specialist. The School Media Certification is transferable to over 30 states across the country. To transfer your certification, simply send your Tennessee license to your “new” home state’s department of education with accompanying transcripts and any relevant information that is required. A new certification should be granted with no additional courses demanded. Applicants who seek licensure and who hold a current Tennessee teaching license should contact Dr. Cindy Welch at c welch11@utk.edu; (865) 974-7918 for further information.

**Option 4: Endorsement for licensed teachers not seeking a master’s degree in library or information sciences.**

Choose this option ONLY if you are a currently licensed Tennessee classroom teacher who just wants to add the PreK-12 School Library Endorsement to your existing license. The requirements include the three required courses plus INSC 551, 560, 571, 572, 581 or 585, and 596 (which must be taken twice). Upon completion of the requirements, students will earn a Tennessee State Department of Education Additional Endorsement as a School Library Information Specialist.

**Resources & Opportunities @ SIS**

SIS offers many unique opportunities for students to study the information environment. Our faculty members are committed teachers and top researchers who bring this experience to the classroom. We offer versatile, integrated program delivery anywhere. Here are a few programs and relationships that should interest students:

- **Center for Children’s and Young Adult Literature**

  The Center for Children’s and Young Adult Literature (CCYAL) hosts a robust lecture series of children’s and young adult authors and illustrators, including public presentations and hands-on interactive sessions with children throughout the Knox County School system. The Center invites librarians, teachers, students, and the public to review copies of the most recently published books thanks to participating publishers of children’s and young adult books. The Center has hosted highly acclaimed authors such as Suzanne Fisher Staples, Jack Gantos, Emily Arnold McCully, Robert Sabuda, Nikki Giovanni, and Mo Willems. Visit [http://www.sis.utk.edu/ccyal](http://www.sis.utk.edu/ccyal) for more information.

- **Center for Information and Communication Studies**

  The Center for Information and Communication Studies (CICS) brings faculty and interested students together to facilitate and administer world-class research in the areas of national health care, homeland security, bioinformatics, environmental and information management, and information technologies. Organized to respond quickly to shifting needs and developments, the Center works with private and public organizations, governmental agencies,
and corporations. Visit http://www.cci.utk.edu/cics for more information. For work opportunities, contact the Center at (865) 974–2156 or bsuttles@utk.edu.

Oak Ridge National Laboratory

SIS has a strong relationship with Oak Ridge National Laboratory, located approximately 17 miles from campus. Student internships and practica provide opportunities for valuable experience in a high-tech science research environment. ORNL professionals serve as guest instructors in some SIS classes and SIS faculty and research center staff work with ORNL scientists on many information-related research projects.

SIS Advisory Board

The SIS Advisory Board consults with faculty and administration of the School concerning the livelihood and direction of the program. The Board helps the school set its priorities using the School’s Strategic Plan and Vision as guides. The Board is a group of distinguished information professionals who exemplify the library and information professions. For more information, visit http://www.sis.utk.edu/advisoryboard.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete their credit hours for the M.S. degree within six years from the date of the earliest course applied to the degree.

Non-Thesis Option: Comprehensive Exam

M.S. degree candidates who elect the non-thesis option take a four-hour examination that integrates and focuses the knowledge and experience gained from courses and professional reading. Questions reflect broad educational experiences and require students to integrate knowledge gained from the program.

The comprehensive examination must be taken in a student’s final semester. There is no exception to this policy. Graduation forms must be completed and approved during the preceding semester. The comprehensive examination committee is composed of three SIS faculty members who serve on a rotating basis. Students register for the examination with the SIS coordinator of student services in the semester prior to their final semester. Students then receive notice of examination details, including the date, time, building, and room number.

Students taking the examination have access to an orientation website that discusses faculty expectations regarding answers, grading, and how to prepare for and take the examination. An orientation to the comprehensive exam is held one month before the examination and reviews the procedures for completing the examination, provides information concerning its evaluation, and consequences if the examination is not passed. Previous exam questions are posted on the School’s website.

ePortfolio Option

The ePortfolio, which is a presentation of its author’s professional self, will be a “culminating experience” in the SIS program, comparable to the comprehensive examination or thesis. The objectives of the portfolio presentation and defense are to give students an opportunity to organize and synthesize knowledge in specific subject areas, to demonstrate that they can solve problems, and to establish and defend positions on current issues, trends, and problems in library and information studies.

Thesis Option Overview

Students electing the thesis option write a master’s thesis under close supervision of a thesis committee. Thesis option students must take INSC 504: Research Methods for Information Professionals prior to collecting research data, unless they have already successfully completed a thesis or dissertation in another discipline or have completed an equivalent course.

Six hours of Thesis, INSC 500, are taken within the 42 hours required for graduation and is taken as Pass-Fail. (Students may register for more than 6 hours of INSC 500, but only 6 hours will count towards graduation.)

Students must be registered for INSC 500 in the semester they complete and defend their thesis. The oral defense of the thesis substitutes for the written comprehensive examination taken by non-thesis students. For more information and to review the full Thesis Guidelines visit http://www.sis.utk.edu/programs/components/thesis.

Requirements for Admission to Candidacy and Graduation

Application for admission to candidacy for the M.S. degree should be completed when the student registers for the final semester. The Admission to Candidacy Master’s Degree form must be submitted with appropriate signatures to the UT Graduate School.

A graduation packet can be obtained from the coordinator of student services. The student is responsible for
completing the Admission to Candidacy Master’s Degree form and submitting the form to the SIS coordinator of student services who gathers the appropriate signatures and forwards it to the Graduate School. The Graduation application for diploma must also be completed and submitted online through MyUTK.

Commencement and Graduation Activities

Each spring, all graduating students for the school year are encouraged to participate in the university graduate hooding ceremony, the College of Communication and Information commencement, and the School’s annual Hooding and Awards Ceremony. The ceremony is a long-standing tradition at SIS where graduates are hooded, recognized, and honored for their accomplishments.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

The University of Tennessee’s Ph.D. interdisciplinary doctoral program in Communication and Information prepares you to be an innovative leader in academe and the professions. Ours is an innovative program that combines rigorous scholarship with cutting-edge societal engagement.

The Ph.D. experience in our college features an integrated, interdisciplinary curriculum that provides in-depth study of information sciences and holistic views of associated areas of study. The degree features faculty from the four schools in the college: Advertising & Public Relations, Communication Studies, Information Sciences, Journalism and Electronic Media. Our faculty’s body of research and presentations are distinguished, and we invite you to see for yourself at http://www.cci.utk.edu/biblio.

Our interdisciplinary program has four focus areas:

- knowledge/organizational management
- science, technology and health
- international and intercultural information issues
- law, policy and ethics

For further information contact Dr. Ed Cortez at (865) 974–2148 or ecortez@utk.edu. See also the College of Communication and Information Graduate Student Handbook and the college website at www.cci.utk.edu/gradstudies.

INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE MINOR IN COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE

Masters and doctoral students may pursue a 9-hour (Masters) Interdisciplinary Graduate Minor in Computational Sciences, which requires coursework in three areas: Computer and Information Sciences, Applied Mathematics, and a selected discipline outside of Information Sciences.

Computational modeling and simulation are indispensable tools in nearly every field of science and engineering. People trained in Computational Science find themselves in very high demand, especially for the most exciting, leading-edge work. Computational science integrates elements that are normally studied in different parts of the traditional curriculum, but which are not fully covered or combined by any one of them.

SIS courses that support the Minor include human-centered computing, knowledge discovery and data mining, and digital libraries, among other topics. Ph.D. students must take 15 hours to earn a Minor. For information about the benefits, requirements, and application process, visit http://igmcs.utk.edu.

UNDERGRADUATE INFORMATION STUDIES & TECHNOLOGY MINOR

The IS&T Minor teaches undergraduate students about the impact of information and information technology on society, individuals and organizations. Students in the Minor acquire information and technology literacy skills enabling them to know how and where to find information, how to use it strategically, and how to design information containers and access systems in a variety of settings. Students also learn how policies governing access and control of information resources are set and how policy affects organizations, individuals, and society.

The Minor in IS&T complements majors in all fields, including liberal arts and sciences, engineering, applied life sciences, commerce, business administration, education, and human ecology.

The IS&T Minor requires 18 credit hours, consisting of nine required credit hours and nine elective credit hours. All courses in the IS&T Minor draw from a body of interdisciplinary knowledge. Required courses are:

CCI 150 COMMUNICATION IN AN INFORMATION AGE (3) Overview of human, mass, and mediated communication. Introduction to finding, organizing, and evaluating information.

INSC 102 TECHNOLOGIES FOR INFORMATION RETRIEVAL (3) Principles, selection and use of computer-based information management applications;
INSC 310 INFORMATION SEEKING: RESOURCES AND STRATEGIES (3) Information as critical resource for research and decision making; emphasis on planning, executing, and evaluating information searches, with a focus on the student’s major academic area.

Students should declare their intent to complete the IS&T Minor as early as possible by contacting Dr. Kitty McClanahan, the IS&T Minor program coordinator, at sis-istminor@utk.edu, and completing a student IS&T Minor Planning Form. Students must declare their intent to complete the Minor when they submit the application for a degree, if they wish the Minor to be listed on their transcript. For more information about the IS&T Minor, visit http://www.sis.utk.edu/minor.

Standards, Problems, and Appeals

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Graduate education requires continuous student evaluation. This includes not only periodic objective evaluation, such as the cumulative grade point average, but also judgment by the faculty of the student’s progress and potential.

Students should review their academic status during and after each term to verify that academic standards are being met. Graduate students must maintain a cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 in all graduate courses taken for a letter grade of A–F. Grades of S (Satisfactory), NC (No Credit), P (Pass), or NP (No Pass), and I (Incomplete), which have no numerical equivalent, are excluded from this computation. A course for which a graduate student receives a grade below C cannot be used towards the student’s degree.

Incompletes

An incomplete (I) is a temporary grade indicating that a student has performed satisfactorily in the course but, due to unforeseen circumstances of a serious nature, has been unable to finish all requirements. An I is not given to enable a student to do additional work to raise a deficient grade. An incomplete must be removed within one year. If the incomplete is not removed, the I changes to an F. The course will not be counted in the cumulative grade point average until a final grade is assigned.

A student must request an incomplete in writing from the instructor using a standard form available online at http://www.sis.utk.edu/forms. The request form must contain a persuasive rationale, and may require supporting evidence, and the projected date for completion of the work. The form must be approved and signed by the instructor. The instructor’s decision to accept or reject the petition is final.

Academic Probation

A graduate student is placed on academic probation when his or her cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 on completion of nine hours of graduate coursework. In the subsequent semester(s), these provisions apply:

1. If the GPA in the probationary semester is below 3.0, the student will be dismissed from the program;
2. If the GPA in the probationary semester is 3.0 or above, but the cumulative GPA is still below 3.0, the student will be granted a second probationary semester;
3. If the GPA in the second probationary semester is below 3.0, or if the cumulative GPA is still below 3.0, the student will be dismissed from the program;
4. If the cumulative GPA after the first or second probationary semester is 3.0 or above, the student returns to regular, non-probationary status;
5. No student is granted more than two probationary semesters. A student who has been cleared of probation after one probationary semester and falls below 3.0 in later semesters will be considered in his or her second probationary semester. A student who has been cleared of probation after two semesters and falls below 3.0 in any later semester will be dismissed from the program.

If a student receives a grade of D or F in one of the three required classes, he or she will be dismissed from the program.

Dismissal

If a student is on academic probation, degree status will be terminated by the UT Graduate School if the student’s semester GPA falls below a 3.0 in a subsequent semester. When the particular circumstances may be deemed to justify continuation, and or recommendation of the SIS director and approval of the UT Graduate School, a student on probation may be allowed to continue on a semester-by-semester basis. Dismissal of a graduate student is accomplished by written notice to the student and to the
UT Graduate School. Registration for SIS courses will not be permitted except by written authorization from the SIS director.

Appeals Procedure

The student handbook, Hilltopics, published and distributed annually by the Office of the Dean of Students, contains the University of Tennessee standards of conduct and disciplinary regulations and procedures. Hilltopics is available online at http://dos.utk.edu/hilltopics.

Academic grievances are handled within the School through the student’s advisor, the faculty member involved, and then the director. Further appeal may be made as outlined in the Appeals Procedure from the UT Graduate School office.

Readmission After Period of Nonattendance

A student who has not registered for a consecutive term must apply for readmission to the Graduate School. To continue in the program, the student must submit a readmission application and pay a $30 readmission fee. A readmission application should be submitted to the office of Graduate Admissions at least two weeks prior to the desired re-entry date. If the student does not register for course work the semester subsequent to receipt of the letter, the file will be withdrawn and it will be necessary to seek readmission to both the UT Graduate School and SIS.

Appendices

SIS RESOURCES

School of Information Sciences
(865) 974–2148 or sis@utk.edu www.sis.utk.edu

SIS Coordinator of Student Services
Tanya Arnold, 451 Communications Bldg.
(865) 974–2858 or tnarnold@utk.edu

School Library Media Specialist Program
Dr. Cindy Welch, 445 Communications Bldg.
(865) 974–7918 or cwelch11@utk.edu

SIS Director
Dr. Ed Cortez, 453 Communications Bldg
(865) 974–2148 or ecortez@utk.edu

Practicum
Dr. Kitty McClanahan, (865) 974–8942; sispracticum@utk.edu

Center for Information and Communication Studies
Dr. Suzie Allard, Director; (865) 974–1369, sallard@utk.edu or sis-cis@utk.edu; http://www.cci.utk.edu/cics

College of Communication and Information
http://www.cci.utk.edu

UT RESOURCES

Graduate School & Graduate Catalog
http://gradschool.utk.edu

Graduate and International Admissions
http://graduateadmissions.utk.edu/

University of Tennessee Libraries
http://www.lib.utk.edu/

Hilltopics: UT Student Handbook
http://dos.utk.edu/publications/hilltopics/index.html

Office of Disability Services
http://ods.utk.edu/

One Stop - Express Student Services
Source for answers on financial aid, student accounts, registration, and records. http://onestop.utk.edu/

Student Success Center
http://studentsuccess.utk.edu/

Center for International Education
http://international.utk.edu

Counseling Center
http://counselingcenter.utk.edu/

Funding, Fellowships, Assistantships for Graduate Students
http://gradschool.utk.edu/gradfund.shtml

Graduate Student Appeals and Complaints Resources
http://gradschool.utk.edu/studappresrce.shtml

Graduate Student Senate
http://web.utk.edu/~gss

International House
http://web.utk.edu/~ihouse

Judicial Affairs
http://judicialaffairs.utk.edu

Office of Equity and Diversity

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Office of Equity and Diversity
Q: How can I check the status of my admission application?
A: The Office of Graduate Admissions will notify you by email of your application number. Please allow seven to ten business days to receive the notification after you have submitted your online application and fee. To check your application, go to http://graduateadmissions.utk.edu/check.shtml.

Q: As a DE student, will I be able to attend school events and programs?
A: Full-time, on-campus students have the greatest opportunity to participate in student life at the School, such as student organization meetings and socials, informal gatherings in our student lounge, and attending presentations, though all students are welcome. We webcast as many public research forums and lectures as possible for DE students and the general public. Many students, however, attend part-time, and so it is natural that these students—whether on-campus or at a distance—feel that they miss out on some aspects of life in the program.

We ask all of our students to understand each other’s position as students and recognize that we all have to make compromises in order to make this program work to its fullest capability.

Q: Will I have problems getting into classes?
A: Sign up for classes as soon as the registration period begins each semester. Required courses and some electives may fill up quickly. Online wait lists are available for most sections, and you can sign up through the registration system.

Q: If I’m admitted into the program as an on-campus student, can I switch to the distance education (DE) program at any time?
A: Yes. Students must submit a written request to the student services coordinator with the rationale for changing to the DE program.

Q: What if I have trouble contacting my advisor or a course instructor?
A: Contact the coordinator of student services.

Q: I’m a DE student and the section of a course I want to take is full. Can I register for the campus section instead?
A: Students must register for the appropriate section of each course. DE students who register for the campus section of a course will be charged additional fees that apply to campus students, unless the student is switched to the appropriate section. If a course section is closed, please add your name to the wait list. If seats are available in the other section, they will be shifted to accommodate the demand for a closed section. Campus students who register for the DE section of a course will be switched to the campus section.

Q: What assistantships are available on campus?
A: Assistantships are available in other departments on campus, such as UT Libraries, Graduate Student Services,
Announcements for open positions are posted to the SIS listserv.

Q: What if I’m not subscribed to the UTKSIS-L listserv?
A: The SIS discussion list is the primary vehicle for school faculty and staff to transmit information critical to a student’s success in the program. All students must subscribe. To subscribe, visit http://www.sis.utk.edu/resources/listservs or contact Cindy Lancaster at lancast@utk.edu if you need help.

Q: Who do I notify if my name or address changes?
A: Contact the coordinator of student services to have your file updated. To change your address in the university system, go to MyUTK. For a change of name visit the Registrar’s website at http://onestop.utk.edu/your-info/student-records.

Q: What courses are required for the School Library Media Specialist Program?
A: Required courses for the School Library Media Specialist Program are listed in this manual. See also the licensure section on the School’s website at http://www.sis.utk.edu/programs/licensure. Questions about the School Library Program should be directed to Dr. Cindy Welch.

Q: What kind of tracks can I take?
A: Rather than tracks, which can be confining, the school has an individualized program and your advisor will work with you to help you choose courses appropriate to your career pathway. Career pathways provide you with the flexibility to take courses that best meet your career objectives and to build your professional competencies. To comply with strict state licensure requirements there is a formal “track” for School Library Media Specialists.

Q: How many credits per semester are full-time?
A: The UT Graduate School considers 9 credits to be full-time. The maximum credits per semester for graduate students are 15 hours (12 hours during the summer semester). Registration for more than 15 hours during any semester, or for more than 12 hours in the summer term, is not permissible without prior approval.

Q: When do I complete paperwork to graduate from the program?
A: Graduation paperwork must be completed in the semester prior to the student’s final semester. The coordinator of student services posts an announcement to the student listserv each term, signaling students who plan to graduate that they can complete and submit the required forms to the School to begin the graduation process.

SIS Deadlines

Graduate Application Deadline

Applications are accepted as early as October of the year ahead of fall admission (ex: October 2014 for classes starting in August 2015.) Applications for spring admission are accepted as early as May of the year ahead. Review of applications begins in January for fall admissions, but applications continue to be accepted through mid-July of the year of admission with two exceptions.

1. International applications must be submitted by February 1 for fall admission and June 15 for spring admission.
2. Applications for prospective students who are applying for SIS graduate assistantships or scholarships must be submitted by March 1.

Admission to MS Candidacy Application

Paperwork is due the semester prior to a student’s graduation. Watch the SIS listserv for the announcement.
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College of Communication and Information  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
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Knoxville, TN 37996-0341  
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sis@utk.edu  
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