Submitted by: Keith E. Whitfield, Provost

ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the establishment of a graduate certificate in Library and Information Science (GCLIS), effective Fall 2016.

Background

The graduate certificate in Library and Information Science (GCLIS) is designed to equip paraprofessionals, current master's degree students, and master's degree graduates with specialized competencies and problem-solving abilities in a particular area of librarianship or information studies. For example, if GCLIS students would like to update their skills in a particular area, they may select courses that offer training in recent technologies, techniques, or skills that either were not obtained or had become outdated in a previous degree program. Additionally, students may obtain the GCLIS in order to acquire the requisite training for new employment opportunities.

The School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) will use the new GCLIS to offer students a five-course series in various specialized areas. SLIS also envisions using the GCLIS for important, cutting-edge specializations devised in the future. This open-ended, generic GCLIS will not have any absolute requirements so students will be able to draw upon the full catalog of courses in the School.

Program Description

Students who successfully complete the graduate certificate in Library and Information Science (GCLIS) at the Wayne State University School of Library and Information Science will be able to:
1. Demonstrate competence in a specialized area of librarianship or information studies.
2. Demonstrate up-to-date knowledge in the rapidly-changing field of librarianship and information studies: chiefly the organization, storage, retrieval, and dissemination of the human record.
3. Use problem-solving and decision-making skills to plan, implement, and evaluate specialized library or information services.
4. Develop a specialized competence responsive to the changing economic, technological, or social climate.

Admission Requirements

Applicants to the School of Library and Information Science must satisfy the following criteria:
1. Possess an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university.

2. Have an undergraduate GPA of 3.00 or better or possess another degree beyond the bachelor's. Applicants with an undergraduate grade point average between 2.50 and 2.99 can satisfy this requirement through one of the Alternative Admissions methods.
3. Meet the SLIS Technology Requirements.
4. Submit a personal statement reflecting relevant personal and academic background and experience. The statement should be a minimum of 250 words and a maximum of 500 words (1-2 pages).
5. Submit a current resume or curriculum vitae.

Curriculum Requirements

The15-credit GCLIS program includes 15 hours of coursework. For students completing the certificate only, LIS 6080—Information Technology or equivalent knowledge and skills are required as a pre-requisite. Students must maintain a 3.0 average and meet all School requirements for ongoing enrollment including a completed Plan of Work. Students in the GCLIS program prior to a master's program can apply up to 9 credits toward a master's degree.

Graduation Requirements

All coursework must be completed in accordance with Graduate School and the regulations governing graduate scholarship and degrees. Students may enroll on a full-time or part-time basis but must complete requirements within three years of admission.

Program Administration

The GCLIS will be administered by the SLIS Associate Dean, who will oversee admission, advising, and program evaluation. All SLIS program and University requirements for academic programs will be followed.

Budget and Resource Requirements

None. The GCLIS will use existing courses taught by existing faculty.

Accreditation

The GCLIS program will not be accredited. The American Library Association does not accredit certificate programs.

Approvals

The proposal for the GCLIS was approved by the Faculty and Dean of the School of Library and Information Science, the Graduate Council, Dean of the Graduate School, and the Provost.