

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors establish a Master of Science in Information Management (MSIM) effective Fall 2017.

Background

The proposed MSIM expands the school's current Graduate Certificate in Information Management (GCIM) into a degree that complements the school's Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree. The MSIM will appeal to prospective graduate students with an interest in working as information professionals in organizations and industries outside the typical venues for MLIS degree holders (e.g., libraries, archives, or school media centers) where a foundational core of library science coursework is not required.

Information Management is a growing field with a bright future. Information managers work in all industries and all sectors at the intersection of people, technology, processes, and data that enable our data-driven society to function. Information managers use leading-edge technology solutions, oversee people and processes, and manage large datasets to support data-driven decision-making in all types of businesses, government agencies, and non-profit organizations. Information managers act as data stewards to ensure that information is accurate, current, complete, and secure. The MSIM will prepare students for entry-level positions managing information. By focusing on the data/information, with the necessary technologies viewed as a means to an end, graduate students who complete this degree will be well prepared to work as information managers in any industry or sector. This new degree program, although unique to WSU, will be similar to degree programs offered at many other schools of library and information science.

Program Description

The MS in Information Management (MSIM) uniquely prepares students and information professionals to be successful in data-intensive and user-centric environments. The program prepares students to support data-driven problem solving and decision-making in diverse fields. With this degree, students will develop the skills necessary to assess, adopt, and utilize information technologies to design for positive user experiences and obtain insights.

Today, information is a crucial resource – be it social, mobile, cloud or big data. Information professionals with the expertise to find, capture, master, and deliver information are in higher demand than ever before. The MSIM provides the core analytical and problem-solving skills necessary to be competitive and excel in today's information-intensive, data-driven environments.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must meet requirements for admission to the Graduate School. Applicants must possess an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university, have an undergraduate grade point average of 3.00 or better, or possess another degree beyond the bachelor's degree.

Submitted by: Keith E. Whitfield, Provost

Applicants with an undergraduate grade point average between 2.50 and 2.99 may be eligible for admission under alternative admissions criteria.

Applicants must also: a. Demonstrate pre-requisite technology skills through successful completion of LIS 6050 or equivalent knowledge; b. Submit a personal statement reflecting relevant personal and academic background and experience; c. Submit a current resume or curriculum vitae.

Curriculum Requirements

The 30-credit MSIM degree includes five required courses (4 courses plus a capstone practicum) and five elective courses, organized into specializations. Students work with an advisor to select elective courses in a Plan of Work that satisfies the student's particular needs.

Graduation Requirements

All coursework must be completed in accordance with Graduate School and the regulations governing graduate scholarship and degrees. This includes maintaining a 3.0 grade point average throughout the degree program of study. Students may enroll on a full-time or part-time basis but must complete requirements within six years of admission.

Program Administration

The Associate Dean of the School of Library and Information Science will administer the MSIM.

Budget and Resource Requirements

The degree will rely on resources, courses and faculty currently available in the School of Library and Information Science.

Accreditation

There is no disciplinary accrediting body for information management.

Approvals

The proposal for the MSIM was approved by the Faculty, the Associate Dean, Dean Sandra Yee of the School of Library and Information Science, the Graduate Council, the Dean of the Graduate School and the Office of the Provost.