

HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARIANSHIP

*A Specialization in the Masters in Library and Information Science Degree
Graduate School of Library and Information Science
Dominican University*

Introduction

The MLIS degree offered at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Dominican University prepares graduates for professional positions in the field of library and information science. Students may focus their study in a variety of specializations in order to acquire expertise in a specific aspect of the profession. The faculty has prepared descriptions of several different career paths along with suggested groups of courses from which students may select. These samples are not substitutes for faculty advising, but are representative examples. Students should always consult their advisor when outlining a specific course of study.

Health sciences librarians, often referred to as medical librarians, work in all types of libraries whose clientele require biomedical information. These may be academic libraries, association or corporate libraries, government libraries, or large public libraries. Historically, many health sciences librarians have worked in hospital libraries, but current trends indicate that this is not an expanding job market. A good source of information about health sciences librarianship is the website of the Medical Library Association <http://www.mlahq.org>. Health sciences librarianship is defined by its content and its clientele; most typical functions in a medical library are those found in all types of libraries.

Competencies

It is not necessary to have taken biomedical or life sciences courses but they are useful; an inquiring and open mind ready to learn is essential. Knowledge of medical terminology, easily acquired through independent study is extremely useful. The Medical Library Association's educational policy statement **Platform for Change** (<http://www.mlanet.org/education/platform/>) emphasizes lifelong learning, which is essential in field in which knowledge is expanding and changing at a rapid pace. The knowledge and skills health sciences librarians should possess are similar to those of other special librarians, which are available at <http://www.sla.org/content/learn/comp2003/index.cfm>

Courses

GSLIS CORE (12 CREDITS-4 CLASSES)

LIS 701 Introduction to Library and Information Science
LIS 703 Organization of Knowledge
LIS 704 Reference and Online Services
LIS 899 Capstone Course

REQUIRED MANAGEMENT COURSE (3 CREDITS-1 CLASS)

LIS 770 Management of Libraries and Information Centers

HEALTH SCIENCES COURSES (18 CREDITS-SIX CLASSES)

In addition, a student wishing to complete specialization in health sciences librarianship should complete coursework as follows:

LIS 745 Searching Electronic Databases

LIS 753 Internet Fundamentals and Design

LIS 764 Library User Instruction

LIS 781 Reference Sources in Health Sciences

LIS 780 Health Sciences Librarianship

LIS 799 Practicum

ELECTIVES (6 CREDITS-2 CLASSES, STRONGLY RECOMMENDED):

LIS 742 Reference Sources in the Sciences

LIS 752 Networks

LIS 880 Knowledge Management

LIS 882 Metadata for Internet Resources