MSLIS Program Learning Objectives and Curriculum Reform

As part of the College’s ongoing effort to improve its degree programs, LIS faculty has extensively discussed the future direction of the MSLIS program and the core competencies needed by LIS graduates. The faculty undertook a complete MSLIS program revision during the last three academic years. Faculty working on the degree revision committee interviewed regional employers, reviewed ALA accreditation requirements, and surveyed equivalent degree programs at peer institutions before making revisions to our program.

In January of 2017 the MSLIS Revision Committee submitted a program revision proposal to the university’s Senate Committee on Academic Affairs, currently pending approval. The LIS program plans to offer the new degree program to students starting with fall AY2017/18 admissions.

The revised program learning outcomes were approved by the faculty in June of 2016. The current approved program learning outcomes are available in the University program/course catalog.

They read as follows:

Graduates of the MSLIS program are prepared to assume leadership positions in designing, executing, and evaluating information services and products and in managing organizations that facilitate access to recorded knowledge. Their preparation enables them to gain the knowledge and abilities required to:

- Explain the foundational principles, professional ethics and values, and social and technological contexts within which various information professionals work.

- Identify and analyze the information needs of various communities (e.g., academic institutions, local neighborhoods, workplaces, schools) and design and implement library/information programs and services to meet those needs.

- Analyze and apply information policies and information-related laws (including the standards and guidelines of pertinent professional organizations) that advance the creative and ethical applications of information technologies and the delivery of information resources throughout society.

- Foster the core values of the profession (e.g., access, equity, intellectual freedom, privacy, social justice) in all programs and services offered in these communities.

- Encourage the development of information literacy in support of all areas of individuals’ and communities’ needs (e.g., in formal and informal education, career development, healthcare and financial planning, research innovation, political and social engagement, etc.).
• Lead and manage information agencies, projects, and people through creative and effective approaches to planning, budgeting, policy making, fundraising, communication, and advocacy.

• Use research and data in sophisticated ways to demonstrate the value of the library and to help individuals and communities address community challenges (e.g., poverty and hunger, population shifts, economic development, preservation of cultural heritage, etc.).

• Help individuals and communities to understand, appraise, organize, manage, and preserve digital assets available through a variety of formal and informal sources and to create and manage their own digital identities and materials effectively.