

## **School Library Media Specialist Pathway**

A specialization within the Master of Library and Information Science Program  
St. Catherine University

Spring 2017

### **Introduction**

School library media specialists are teachers, instructional partners, information specialists, and program administrators. They manage the school library media center and deliver the school library media program. This involves collaboration with classroom teachers to teach and integrate information and technology skills into the curriculum. Partnering with teachers, school library media specialists also promote literature appreciation and teach and reinforce reading skills. In order to become lifelong learners, students need to become effective users of ideas and information. School library media specialists teach students how to find and evaluate information in electronic and print resources. As leaders in their school communities, they introduce new technology and instruct both students and teachers in its effective use.

### **Competencies**

School library media specialists should have the ability to work with K-12 students as well as teachers and administrators. Communication and leadership skills are necessary as well as the ability to work respectfully with diverse groups. Strong teaching, administrative, and organizational skills are essential. It also helps to have a sense of humor. While they possess a depth of knowledge of literature and expertise in information/technology skills, school library media specialists are lifelong learners. The American Association of School Librarians (AASL), a division of the American Library Association is a valuable resource for students interested in this field (<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/index.cfm>). Students working toward certification in Minnesota should refer to the Minnesota Board of Teaching Library Media Specialist Standards (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/?id=8710.4550>). ITEM, the Information and Technology Educators of Minnesota (<http://mnitem.org/>) is the state professional organization for school librarians.

### **Courses**

In addition to the successful completion of the core courses and the MLIS portfolio requirement, a student wishing to complete specialization as a school media specialist and to be licensed by the state of Minnesota should complete the following course work:

#### Core Requirements:

- LIS 7010 Introduction to Library and Information Science
- LIS 7030 Organization of Knowledge
- LIS 7040 Information Access Services
- LIS 7050 Research Methods
- LIS 7730 School Libraries

#### Additional Required Courses:

LIS 7160 Leadership in Theory and Practice  
LIS 7210 Library Materials for Children  
LIS 7220 Library Materials for Young Adults  
LIS 7240 Technology for Teaching and Learning  
LIS 7250 Curriculum and School Libraries  
LIS 7283 or LIS 7286 Clinical Experience/Student Teaching

Suggested Elective Courses:

LIS 7180 Storytelling for Adults and Children  
LIS 7190 Social Justice and Children's/YA Literature  
LIS 7230 Services for Children and Young Adults  
LIS 7480 Collection Management  
LIS 7530 Internet Fundamentals and Design  
LIS 7610 Public Relations  
LIS 7680 Libraries and Emerging Technologies

Student must also pass the Minnesota Teaching Licensure Exam [MTLE] test for Library Media Specialist (K-12).

Students without Minnesota teaching credentials must also complete six additional required courses, in order to be licensed by the state of Minnesota. These should be completed prior to registering for SLMS electives:

EDUC 5070 Teachers as Leaders in a Changing Society  
EDUC 5090 General Methods: K-12, Secondary  
EDUC 5490 School Health and Chemical Health  
EDUC 7551 Literacy in the Content Areas  
PSYC 1001 General Psychology  
PSYC 2025 Lifespan Developmental Psychology

They must also submit a Teacher Performance Assessment [edTPA] portfolio and pass the Minnesota Teaching Licensure Exam [MTLE] tests including basic skills, pedagogy, and Library Media Specialist (K-12).