

A Checklist of Certification Requirements for School Library Media Candidates

Learning Outcomes of this Program meet the AASL Standards and the South Carolina ADEPT (Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Professional Teaching) Standards for School Library Media Specialists

Foundations in Library and Information Science

Candidates complete the core courses (SLIS 701, SLIS 705, and SLIS 707), the materials courses (SLIS 757 and SLIS 756), the curriculum and technology integration courses (SLIS 706, SLIS 742, and SLIS 761), the technical services course (SLIS 702), and the reference sources and services course (SLIS 703) before enrolling in SLIS 720. School Library Media Program Development (SLIS 720) is a pre-requisite or co-requisite for enrollment in SLIS 794 (the internship). Candidates seeking initial certification complete education course requirements before enrolling in SLIS 720 and SLIS 794. SLIS 720 and SLIS 794 are the last courses or capstone courses for candidates pursuing both a MLIS and certification in school library media and are offered in fall and spring semesters only. Enrollment in SLIS 794 is by permission of the school library media committee through an application process. It is strongly recommended that candidates complete SLIS 706 with SLIS 701 in the first semester or as a second course after completing SLIS 701, a first course requirement for the MLIS degree.

Requirements

Core (9 hours)

SLIS 701 Introduction to Library, Media, and Information Professions
SLIS 705 Introduction to Research in Library & Information Science
SLIS 707 Information Organization and Retrieval

Material Selection (6 hours)

SLIS 756* Children's Materials
SLIS 757 Young Adult Materials

Materials courses must not be more than six years old at the time candidates complete the school media certification program. Materials courses from other institutions will not be considered for transfer unless they cover multiple media and selection criteria. At least one of the two materials courses must be taken at the graduate level.

*Candidates who plan to work in prison libraries should enroll in SLIS 755 in lieu of SLIS 756.

Curriculum and Technology Integration (9 hours)

SLIS 706 Introduction to Information Technologies (students may exempt SLIS 706 and substitute another technology course, e.g. 740, 775, and 780.)
SLIS 742 Curricular Role of the School Media Library Specialist
SLIS 761 Information Technologies in the School Library Media Program

Technical Services (3 hours)

SLIS 702 Introduction to Technical Services

Reference Sources and Services (3 hours)

SLIS 703 Introduction to Information Sources & Services

Capstone Courses (6 or 9 hours)

SLIS 720 School Library Media Program Development.

SLIS 794 Internship in Library and Information Science (3 or 6 hours)

Portfolio Requirements

Successful completion of the End-of-Program Portfolio is a requirement for the master's degree and successful completion of the school library media preparation program. Portfolios are submitted twice during the program of study. "Portfolios in Progress" are submitted prior to enrolling in the capstone courses (SLIS 720 and SLIS 794). End-of-Program Portfolios are submitted prior to graduation. For more specific directions, please refer to the School Library Media Certification End of Program Portfolio Guidelines.

Foundations in Education

Candidates who hold a current and valid teaching license should submit a photocopy of their certificate to the SLIS Student Services Office. Candidates who hold a current and valid teaching certificate are not required to complete the education courses listed below.

Candidates who do not hold a current teaching certificate must complete all required education courses prior to enrolling in the capstone courses (SLIS 720 and SLIS 794). Candidates must earn a grade of "B" or better in all courses that are used to meet the "Foundations in Education" requirements. At least 6 hours of the required 12 hours of Foundations of Education courses must have been completed in the past ten years. Candidates seeking approval of prior education course work should submit transcripts and course descriptions for review by their advisor. Candidates who plan to complete education courses at institutions other than USC-Columbia must have prior written approval from their advisor as part of their student file in the SLIS Student Services Office before enrolling in the course.

Requirements

Contemporary Education: Principles & Issues

(one 3-hour course required)

EDFN 592 Historical Foundations of American Educational Thought

EDFN 744 Philosophy and Education

EDFN 749 The School in Modern Society

Other

Curriculum Development

(one 3-hour course required)

EDCS 725 Principles of Curriculum Construction Other

Psychology of Learning

(two 3-hour courses required)

EDPY 705 Human Growth and Development

EDPY 706 Human Development and Learning Situations

EDEX 523 Introduction to Exceptional Children
Other

Requirements for Certification

The USC School of Library and Information Science school library media preparation program is approved by the South Carolina State Department of Education and (as a member of the USC Professional Education Unit) accredited by NCATE. Students who complete the SLIS school media preparation program will be eligible for certification by the South Carolina Department of Education. Requirements for certification vary from state to state. Students who wish to qualify for certification in another state should contact the department of education in that state to inquire about certification requirements. Please make your SLIS advisor aware of any plans you may have to pursue school library media certification outside South Carolina.

The actual recommendation for certification comes from the USC Professional Education Unit and is administered by the Office of Teacher Certification, Office of Student Affairs in the College of Education. At the candidate's request, the School of Library and Information Science submits a letter stating that all requirements for certification have been completed. The Office of Certification assembles the candidate's application packet and forwards it to the South Carolina Department of Education and/or any other state or department of education to which the candidate may be making application for certification.

Individuals who have earned a MLIS degree who are interested in pursuing certification as a school library media specialist, must be enrolled in one of the School's post-master's degree programs, either the Certificate of Graduate Study or the Specialist in Library and Information Science. Please contact the Coordinator of School Library Media Field Experiences for advisement as to which program would be most appropriate.

Certification Applications

Certification application packets for initial certification must be submitted to the USC-COE Office of Student Affairs approximately one year in advance of an internship placement. Deadlines for submission are:

Spring semester interns - deadline for certification applications is April 15 of preceding spring semester

Fall semester interns - deadline for certification application is December 1 of preceding fall semester

Initial certification applications are available online at: <http://www.ed.sc.edu/SA/InitCert.pdf>

Deadlines for Applications for Candidates Applying for Advanced Certification:

All students who have been previously certified in South Carolina and are pursuing additional certification in school library media, must apply for Advanced certification in order to be recommended for certification. SLIS recommends that May graduates apply by March 1 and December graduates apply by October 1.

Advanced certification applications are available online at:
<http://www.ed.sc.edu/SA/AdvCert.pdf>

PRAXIS

Candidates who apply for certification in South Carolina are required to take the PRAXIS II specialty area test for Media Specialist/Library Science (0311). However, if there is any possibility of applying to other states, the candidate should contact those states to determine if other parts of the PRAXIS are required. PRAXIS scores should be submitted to the Office of Student Affairs USC-College of Education (Code 5818) and the South Carolina Department of Education (Code 8108). The score on the PRAXIS specialty area examination must equal or exceed the South Carolina-mandated passing score of 151 on the new scoring system before a recommendation for certification to the State Department of Education will be made. (Prior to the fall of 2009, the passing score was 620.) Information concerning the PRAXIS II test may be obtained from the Educational Testing Service (<http://www.ets.org>) and the South Carolina Department of Education (<http://www.scteachers.org/Cert/exam.cfm>)

Internships in School Library Media

Candidates who are currently certified as classroom teachers or who have successfully completed a semester of student teaching in a classroom setting prior to admission to the SLIS are required to complete one three-credit hour internship in a school library media center. Candidates seeking initial certification must complete two three-credit hour internships in two school library media centers, elementary and secondary, planned over two separate fall and spring semesters. Candidates who have worked in libraries as paraprofessionals, aides, graduate assistants, or school library media specialists without certification will not receive credit for an internship based on previous experience. Candidates may not complete internships in schools where they are employed.

Internships are offered during fall and spring semesters. Students should notify the Coordinator of School Library Media Field Experiences at least one year prior to applying for an internship. Each three-credit hour internship requires a minimum of 135 hours working in a school library during the USC fall or spring semester, planned as two full days a week over 10-12 weeks. Internship dates and times are scheduled prior to the internship semester in coordination with the candidate, the cooperating school librarian who supervises the internship, and the SLIS faculty internship supervisor. In addition, candidates must complete activities and hands-on experiences as outlined by the faculty internship supervisor, attend at least one national or state-level professional conference (e.g. SCASL), visit other school libraries, and participate at onsites scheduled for SLIS 794. Fall internships usually begin the end of August and end the first of November with end of program portfolios due November 15th. Spring internships usually begin the middle of January and end the first of April with end of program portfolios due April 15th.

In addition to the certification application sent to the USC-COE Office of Student Affairs, a **separate application for internship placement must be submitted to the SLIS Student Services Office**. Internship application packets are available online.

Deadlines for submitting internship applications to the SLIS Student Services Office are:

- The end of the first week in March for Fall internships
- The end of the first week in October for Spring internships

Candidates applying for internships (SLIS 794) will be contacted by the Coordinator of School

Library Media Field Experiences before placements are made in K-12 school library media centers. Placements for spring are made in November and December and placements for fall are made in April and May. Once placements are made, the SLIS Student Services Offices will register candidates for SLIS 794. Candidates should confirm their registration in SLIS 794 using VIP and pay fees before the deadline so that enrollment is not cancelled for non-payment.

For further information please contact:
Student Services Office
School of Library and Information Science
University of South Carolina,
Columbia, SC 29208
phone: (803) 777-3887
toll free: 1-800-304-3153
email: slisss@mailbox.sc.edu