PROGRAM PLANNING GUIDE FOR School Library Media Specialist

The school library media program planning guide is more explanatory and prescriptive than others in the MLIS degree program because it also supports Oklahoma standards and regulations for teaching certification as a school library media (SLM) specialist. Therefore, this guide includes

I. OPTIONS FOR THE MLIS DEGREE PROGRAM

II. REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CERTIFICATION

III. STATE EXAMINATIONS REQUIRED FOR CERTIFICATION

IV. ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION

V. OU PROCEDURES FOR CERTIFICATION

VI. PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT

Courses that address the AASL/NCATE standards are listed below within the structure of the MLIS curriculum, which includes four required courses and at least one guided elective for each specific content area, and general electives. Beyond the required courses and one guided elective per content area, students (in consultation with an advisor) may select courses from the Guided Electives level or select electives from the General Electives or from other University of Oklahoma departments.

I. SLM OPTIONS FOR THE MLIS DEGREE

REQUIRED (15 hours)

LIS 5033 Information and Knowledge Society
LIS 5023 Management of Information and Knowledge Organizations
LIS 5043 Organization of Information and Knowledge Resources
LIS 5053 Information Users in the Knowledge Society
LIS 5063 Information and Communication Technology

GUIDED ELECTIVES (12 hours)

Organizational Development and Management (prerequisites: LIS 5023, LIS 5033)
LIS 5283 School Library Media Center Administration

Content Management (prerequisites: LIS 5033, LIS 5043)
LIS 5403 Cataloging and Classification or
LIS 5443 Collection Development and Management
Access to Knowledge Structures (prerequisites: LIS 5033, LIS 5053)
LIS 5513 Information Sources and Services or
LIS 5503 Information Literacy and Instruction

Research, Development, and Evaluation (prerequisite: LIS 5033)
LIS 5713 Research Methods or
LIS 5733 Evaluation Methods

GENERAL ELECTIVES (9 hours)
LIS 5183 Books and Materials for Children
LIS 5193 Books and Materials for Young Adults
LIS 5253 Community Relations and Advocacy

II. REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CERTIFICATION

Courses that address AASL/NCATE standards (accepted by the state of Oklahoma) for the preparation
of school library media specialists are:
1. LIS 5033 Information and Knowledge Society
2. LIS 5023 Management of Information and Knowledge Organizations
3. LIS 5043 Organization of Information and Knowledge Resources
4. LIS 5053 Information Users in the Knowledge Society
5. LIS 5063 Information and Communication Technology
6. LIS 5183 Books and Materials for Children
7. LIS 5193 Books and Materials for Young Adults
8. LIS 5253 Community Relations and Advocacy
9. LIS 5283 School Library Media Center Administration
10. LIS 5403 Cataloging and Classification or LIS 5443 Collection Development and Management
11. LIS 5513 Information Sources and Services or LIS 5503 Information Literacy and Instruction
12. LIS 5713 Research Methods or LIS 5733 Evaluation Methods (option for non-thesis students)

III. STATE EXAMINATIONS REQUIRED FOR CERTIFICATION

Before applying for any kind of teaching license in the state of Oklahoma, all teacher candidates are required
to take three exams:
1. Oklahoma General Education Test (OGET)
2. Oklahoma Subject Area Test (OSAT)
3. Oklahoma Professional Teaching Examination (OPTE).

Because school library media certification is an advanced certification (to be added on to a standard teaching
certificate), candidates completing the SLIS certification program typically hold a standard teaching
certificate and need to take one more exam, the OSAT for the content area of school library media. Regarding
these tests, students should see the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation.
IV. ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION

Because there is a shortage of school library media specialists in Oklahoma, the state supports a process of alternative certification. Therefore, students who hold the MLIS degree with a focus on SLM may be considered for a non-traditional credential upon completion of the OGET, OSAT (for the area of school library media), and the OPTE. Students considering Oklahoma’s non-traditional teacher licensure program should consult the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

V. OU PROCEDURES FOR AN APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION

All students pursuing school library media certification should consult a SLIS advisor each semester of enrollment. For students who hold a standard teaching certificate, universities may make recommendations for licensure to the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Therefore, a SLIS SLM candidate should consult a SLIS advisor as well as a College of Education certification representative (405-325-2108) when applying for certification.

VI. PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT

Within the school library media program, students are mandated by the state of Oklahoma to produce a portfolio. There is a second potential purpose of student portfolio—that of end-of-program assessment, which is required by the OU Graduate College. Within SLIS, a portfolio is one of three end-of-assessment options; the other two are the thesis and the comprehensive examination. Most SLM candidates choose to complete the comprehensive exam and the state required portfolio. However, students who are seeking SLM specialist certification may develop a portfolio that meets requirements of the state of Oklahoma and of the OU Graduate College.

A student, who is seeking certification as a school library media specialist, should consult with an academic advisor about the development of a portfolio during the first semester of enrollment. Students who choose portfolio development and defense as an end-of-program assessment for the MLIS degree must carefully comply with the SLIS Student Guide to the Portfolio for the Master’s Degree and formally declare the portfolio option during the first semester.
The following documents will be helpful in the development of a school library media portfolio that meets the requirements of the State of Oklahoma for library media specialist certification and of the OU Graduate College for the MLIS degree (the documents are downloadable PDF files).

**Portfolio Development** explains the portfolio’s requirements, benefits, possible contents, method of organization, and evaluation.

**ALA/AASL Standards for Initial School Library Media Programs** defines standards and indicators for library media specialist preparation. It is the official document of the American Library Association (ALA) and its division, the American Association of School Libraries (AASL).

**An Overview of the ALA/AASL Standards** is an outline of the ALA/AASL standards and indicators. The outline format may be copied as a Word file and used in an electronic portfolio as the structure for entering reflections and placing links to artifacts.

**The Pre-Assessment**, based on the ALA/AASL competencies, should be taken early in the program and included as a baseline artifact. It is also useful in focusing school library media specialist candidates’ attention on MLIS program elements that support their professional goals.

**The Post-Assessment**, which has the same statements as the pre-assessment, should be taken during the last semester of the program. Because it can inform students’ personal reflections regarding the attainment of professional competencies that support library media specialist certification, it should also be included as an artifact in the portfolio.

Across the multiple tasks of earning the MLIS degree and Oklahoma SLM certification, a SLIS graduate student is encouraged to consult an advisor each semester of enrollment.

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