Master of Library Science

Why would I want to earn a Master of Library Science degree?
Librarians use the latest information technology to perform research, classify materials, and help students and library patrons seek information. The traditional concept of a library is being redefined from a place to one that also houses the most advanced electronic resources, including the Internet, digital libraries, and remote access to a wide range of information sources.

Why would I want to be an ECU MLS student?
Being an online program, adult students are able to manage their studies while meeting family and work obligations. The program is accredited by the American Library Association (ALA) and recognized by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL). More than 72 percent of program graduates rate their overall ECU MLS program experience as excellent.

What does it take to earn the degree?
The program requires the completion of 39 graduate credit hours (13 courses). The curriculum is highly-structured and sequenced to build upon previously-mastered knowledge and skills. It covers subjects you may know familiarly as foundations, reference, cataloging, technology, and collection development, as well as advanced courses in children’s and young adult literature, information literacy, and public librarianship.

What are the admission requirements?
The ECU Graduate School minimum undergraduate GPA for admissions is 2.7. Admissions decisions are based on consideration of undergraduate academic record, graduate record if applicable, test scores on either the GRE or MAT, the prospective student’s written statement of purpose, and letters of recommendation.

“ECU’s MLS program was the experience of a lifetime. I loved being able to take all of my courses online and only went to campus once, for graduation! The professors are encouraging, knowledgeable and always available.”

“The ECU MLS program did so much more than simply prepare me to be a school librarian. I met people who continue to inspire and teach me, learned to find my voice and became empowered to use that voice to be a change agent for my students and my colleagues.”

“Even though I do not consider myself “tech savvy,” I was able to take and complete all the required courses online while still working my full-time job. The professors provided prompt feedback to any questions or concerns I asked.”
The ALA accredited master of library science (MLS) graduate program is the largest producer of school library media coordinator graduates in the state and is the largest graduate program in the College of Education at ECU. The library science program at ECU has prepared library professionals since 1939 with a high-tech and hands-on emphasis, providing a web-based course of study using new and emerging technologies.

Our online program is especially attuned to the needs of nontraditional students. Both online and on-campus programs are designed for students seeking employment as librarians and information professionals in pre-K-12 schools, universities, community colleges, and public libraries, and related settings. All students are eligible for NC Public Librarian Certification upon completion of the MLS degree requirements.

The MLS requires a minimum of 39 semester hours of credit. Eight core courses (24 s.h.) are required of all students. Students may choose to specialize in one of three concentrations: school, public, or academic librarianship. Each concentration includes a specific curriculum that also includes electives of the student’s choice to create a personalized plan of study.

The MLS Program at East Carolina University was granted full ALA accreditation in February 2015. The program offers a school library focused set of courses that meets the requirements of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction for licensure as a school library media coordinator. The MLS program is nationally recognized by the American Association of School Librarians of the American Library Association (ALA/AASL). The College of Education is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, now the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

For more information on the Master of Library Science degree program, contact:

Department of Interdisciplinary Professions
College of Education
dotsonl@ecu.edu
252-328-6856

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