

MS/LIS Website FAQ

Last Updated: 08-13-2018

1. Who is my advisor?

Students are assigned an advisor based on their last name. Students whose last name begins with letters **A-La** are assigned [Karla Lucht](#) and **Le-Z** are assigned [Colin Van Orman](#). If you previously worked with the advisor not assigned to your last name, you may continue to do so.

2. How often should I meet with advising staff?

Academic Advising holds multiple advising sessions weeks before course registration begins. Students are encouraged to attend these advising sessions. Students should meet with their advisors as they make decisions about planning their program, course selection, and other academic-related concerns. [Consult the calendar](#) for scheduled group advising sessions and other student affairs programs.

3. How do I schedule an appointment to meet with an advisor?

Advisors post their availability on an online web form. You can sign up for a meeting with your advisors by visiting:

- Karla - https://go.illinois.edu/Karla_Advising
- Colin - https://go.illinois.edu/Colin_Advising

If none of the times listed are convenient or there are no times listed, send an e-mail to ischool-advising@illinois.edu to arrange a time.

4. How can I get practical experience?

Students can gain practical experience in a variety of ways during their time at the iSchool, such as through the Practicum course, internships, job shadowing opportunities, graduate assistantships, or hourly positions. Explore the [Careers](#) section of our website to find resources that will help you identify opportunities for practical experience. To learn more about gaining practical experience or to discuss these opportunities, contact Rebecca Hodson in Career Services.

5. Is a thesis required for master's students?

No, master's students are not required to complete a thesis. However, interested students can complete a master's thesis through research in LIS 599 in consultation with a faculty advisor. Up to 8 hours of graduate level work can be used for a master's thesis.

6. What are variable-credit courses? How do I decide which credit amount to enroll for?

Variable-credit courses are select courses that students can choose to enroll in for either 2 or 4 credit hours. When registering for a variable-credit course, please verify the number of credit hours enrolled. You can expect to spend anywhere from 10-15 hours per week for a 4-credit hour class (including class time), while the 2-credit hour version can be counted on to require 8-12 hours per week. This is due to the fact that 2-credit

hour courses still require attendance to all class meetings, participation, readings, and small assignments. Generally, a student enrolled in a 2-credit hour course can expect not to have to complete a large research paper or project.

7. Can on-campus students take online classes?

Yes. There is no limit to the number of online classes an on-campus student can take. In fact, on-campus students should expect to take at least two online classes while enrolled. However, it is required that MS/LIS students take the two required courses for the MS/LIS degree (LIS 501 and LIS 502) in the mode in which they were admitted (i.e., Leep or on-campus). Exceptions must be approved by your advisor.

Note: International students may take online courses as well; however the majority of courses registered for each semester must be on-campus per [ISSS policy](#). Please contact an advisor if you have questions.

8. What is a time ticket and where do I find mine?

"All eligible continuing and re-entering students are assigned a registration time ticket, according to priorities established by campus policy. The time ticket indicates the first time a student can register for the term." [Office of the Registrar](#)

9. A class I am interested in is full, what are my options?

It is best to check with your advisor as options change from course to course.

10. How am I billed?

Students are billed according to on-campus or Leep status. Billing does not depend on the types of classes students take but rather on how students were admitted to the program. For example, students admitted as on-campus students will be billed as on-campus students, regardless of any online courses they may take.

Leep students are billed per credit hour. Find more information about billing from [Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning](#).

On-campus students are billed for tuition and fees according to credit hour ranges. See the [Tuition & Fee Rate](#) page to learn more about on-campus tuition, fees, and rates.

For other tuition and financial aid information, see [Tuition and Financial Aid](#).

11. How does financial aid work?

All students can apply for federal financial aid based on eligibility. The [Office of Student Financial Aid](#) can provide more information.

The School offers small scholarships funded by donors to help supplement other funding sources (loans, assistantships, etc.) for MS/LIS and CAS students. More information about scholarship and fellowships, including application deadlines, can be found on the [Tuition and Financial Aid](#) page.

12. Can I transfer courses from other departments at Illinois, or from another university?

Other Illinois department: Yes, up to 12 hours of graduate course credit from several other departments can be applied to the 40 required credit hours for the master's degree. Enrollment in other courses is subject to department approval.

Other university: Yes. Up to 8 hours of ALA-accredited graduate coursework can be applied to your degree. Of those 8, a maximum of 4 graduate credit hours of non-ALA-accredited coursework can be applied. You may have a combination of ALA-accredited coursework and non-ALA-accredited coursework applied to your degree. However, you cannot exceed 8 hours of total credit from another school, and you cannot apply more than 4 credit hours from a non-ALA-accredited institution. For more information, see the [transfer of credit information in the Graduate College Handbook](#).

13. What if I am struggling (academically, personally, etc.) during my time at the School?

If a student is struggling academically, he or she is encouraged to please reach out to an advisor sooner rather than later. Advising staff are part of [a group of staff](#) who are receptive to various student concerns.