

Pathway / Area of Emphasis

The MLIS degree prepares students to work in a variety of settings. The ODU MLIS program has developed a set of broad pathway options to help students explore diverse opportunities within the field. These pathways are intended as general guides, and while they offer useful direction, they do not encompass the full range of careers available. For example, the Academic Librarianship pathway covers many roles within academic libraries, but there are countless specialized positions that may not fall neatly within this category. Students are encouraged to select courses that align with their unique career goals, whether within these pathways or outside of them. The courses listed in each pathway are not required or mandatory but serve as suggestions to help students achieve their professional and educational aspirations. Please note, no special designation related to these pathways will appear on your transcript or diploma.

It is impossible to create a pathway for every possible career that someone with an MLIS can pursue, so if there isn't something you're interested in studying under the pathways listed, please ask about it. Our program is continually growing, and we are creating and adding new courses every year. Furthermore, students can also get permission to take a limited number of graduate-level courses outside the LIBS program to fulfill elective requirements, pending approval from the Graduate Program Director before enrolling. (Students must contact the department of the course they wish to take for additional information and permission to enroll).

Courses that may apply to various pathways/area of emphasis have an "x" marked under each. **Electives that are highly recommended for that pathway are highlighted in yellow.** Courses in red are required for that pathway/area of emphasis.

Course	Pathway						
	Academic	Public	Archives/Special Collections	School	Instructional Librarianship	Assessment & Evaluation	Youth Services
Core Courses							
LIBS 608: Foundations in Library & Information Science	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LIBS 658: Knowledge Resources: Planning, Selecting, and Managing Collections	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LIBS 674: Management and Leadership in LIS	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LIBS 677: Knowledge Organization and Access	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Internship							
LIBS 668: Internship in Libraries and Information Workspaces	x	x	x	x (In certain situations, may sub 669)	x	x	x
LIBS 669: Practicum in School Libraries				x			
Electives							
LIBS 601: STEM Education and Makerspaces in Libraries	x	x		x	x		x

LIBS 602: Production of Instructional Materials				x	x		
LIBS 603: Online Resources for Teaching	x	x		x	x		
LIBS 609: History of the Book			x				
LIBS 610: Preservation Management in Libraries and Archives	x	x	x				
LIBS 611: Community Archives		x	x				
LIBS 612: Research Methods	x	x	x		x	x	x
LIBS 614: Information Ethics	x	x	x	x	x		x
LIBS 615: Action Research for School Librarians				x			
LIBS 642: Children's Literature Across the Curriculum ***		x		x (this OR 644 required)			x
LIBS 644: Literature & Media for Young Adults ***		x		x (this OR 642 required)			x
LIBS 647: Reading and Literature for Adults ***		x					
LIBS 648: Graphic Novels ***		x		x			x
LIBS 649: Storytelling	x	x	x	x	x		x
LIBS 653: User-Centered Design	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LIBS 654: Information Literacy Instruction	x	x	x	x	x		x
LIBS 655: Methods and Strategies for the School Library	x			x (required for initial licensure ONLY)			
LIBS 656: User Services & Programming	x	x	x	x			x
LIBS 657: LGBTQIA+ Issues in Public Libraries		x					

LIBS 676: Library Media Services and the Curriculum				x			
LIBS 681: Assess and Evaluation in LIS	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LIBS 679: Theory and Management of Information Retrieval	x	x	x	x	x		x
LIBS 680: Culturally Responsive Librarianship	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LIBS 684: Advanced Library Management	x	x	x			x	x
LIBS 687: Advanced Cataloging	x	x	x	x			
LIBS 690: Seminar in Academic Libraries	x						
LIBS 691: Seminar in Public Libraries		x					
LIBS 693: Seminar in Archives and Special Collections			x				

*** **A note about literature courses:** While access to and knowledge of a wide variety of literature is one component of librarianship, the library profession is grounded in the ability to select, evaluate, and recommend literature to various users based on an information need. This knowledge, situated within the context of different types of literature, is introduced and practiced within each of the literature courses in the LIBS program, making them different from literature courses found in other disciplines. Because library principles are the focus of each literature course in the program, students are encouraged to **limit their selection to a maximum of two** in their plan of study. Additional literature courses will require a statement of rationale describing how the courses will benefit a specific career goal and the approval of the program director.