2020-2021 Exit Survey of Recent Graduates

1 - Please indicate your conferral date below (when you will have finished all coursework and will be receiving your degree).
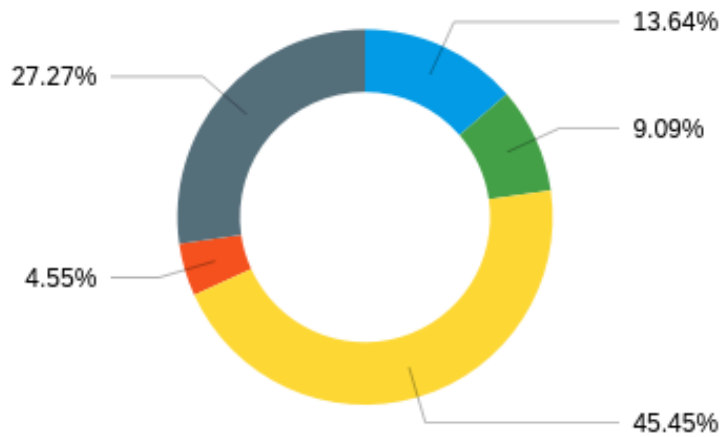
50.00% — 50.00%

- February 2021 conferral (last semester was Fall 2020)
- June 2021 conferral (last semester was Spring 2021)
- September 2021 conferral (last semester was Summer 2021)

4 - Please choose the status that most accurately reflects your situation.

13.64%

27.27%

9.09%

4.55%

45.45%

- 🟦 I accepted new employment relevant to my degree upon graduation.

- 🟩 I am continuing professional employment relevant to my degree.

- 🟨 I am seeking employment relevant to my degree.   🟧 I am pursuing continued education.

- ⬛ Other, please specify

Other, please specify - Text

I am currently employed in a field relevant to my degree, but will be seeking a higher position in the same field for which my degree is necessary.

I began employment while pursuing my degree.

Although I had previously been working in my degree area, I'll be continuing in the field of education pending a retirement in the library department.

Due to the Covid situation, I am staying in my current employment for the time being, which is not relevant to my degree (teaching).
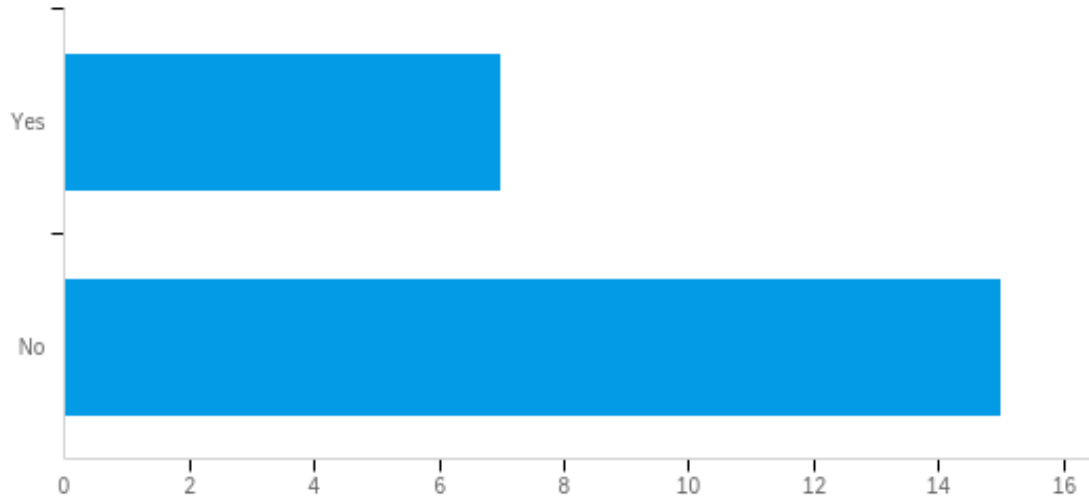
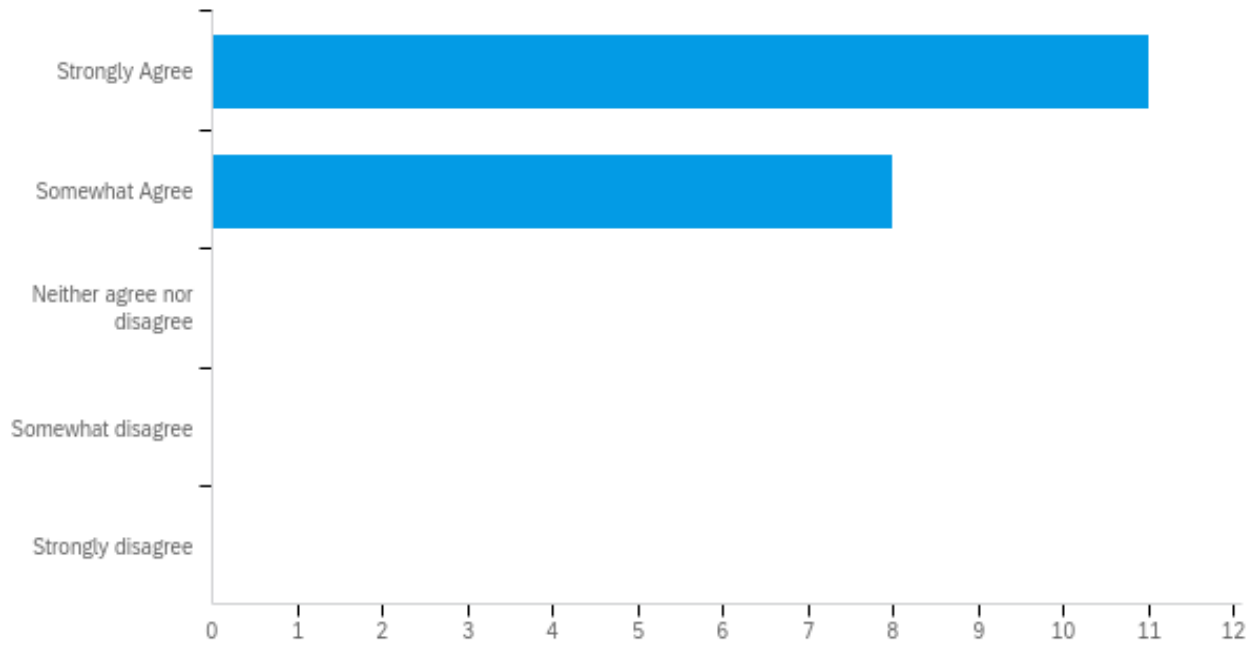Continuing working support staff position looking for a professional job

I have been working in the field while obtaining my degree. I worked under an internship certification.

5 - My degree is in the School Librarianship program

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	31.82%	7
2	No	68.18%	15
	Total	100%	22

6 - The quality of instruction in my program was excellent.

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly Agree	57.89%	11
2	Somewhat Agree	42.11%	8
3	Neither agree nor disagree	0.00%	0
4	Somewhat disagree	0.00%	0
5	Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	19

7 - Please comment on the above question.

n/a

I enjoyed the entire program for my 2.5 years there. It was a personal journey that I decided to take after doing my research on many institutions' LIS programs. UB's came highly regarded.

I felt I had access to a wide variety of courses that were all of very high quality.

My professors were very informative.

The quality of instruction in the majority of my courses was excellent.

The instruction was good.

Most of the classes were well organized, current and interesting.

Classes such as "Resources and Services for Children," "Resources and Services for Young Adults," "Teaching the Exceptional Learner," and "Management of School Libraries" were the most effective at teaching me how to be a school librarian because they were taught by school librarians and teachers relevant to the courses. Real people with real qualifications who could use real-life experiences and examples from their day jobs to enhance the lessons they were teaching. Classes such as "Introduction to Research Methods," "Information Users and Uses," and "Information Life Cycle," which were taught by "scholars" without any real-world experience other than the academic world, were a total waste of my time and money. The one exception was "Reference Sources and Services" because the instructor made the content approachable, relatable, and gave us the freedom to apply it to school libraries as well as other types of libraries.

My professors were all well-versed in their fields and I feel I learned much from them. I did not have any issues with any professors in the program.

Dr. B. was excellent, was very reasonable in terms of expectations, and responsive as a professor. I took 1/3 of my degree coursework with her.

Hit or miss with faculty. Some instructors were fantastic and a few were sub par.

I really liked all my professors and felt that the instruction was easy to understand and fair

There is a good amount of disparity in quality with full time professors and visiting ones. About half of classes I took with visiting professors included an inappropriate balance of assignments (lack of experience teaching college classes usually caused them to assign too many, not very sophisticated assignments). Further, I just felt as though they didn't conduct themselves in as professional or academic a manner.

8 - My interactions with faculty members were generally positive.
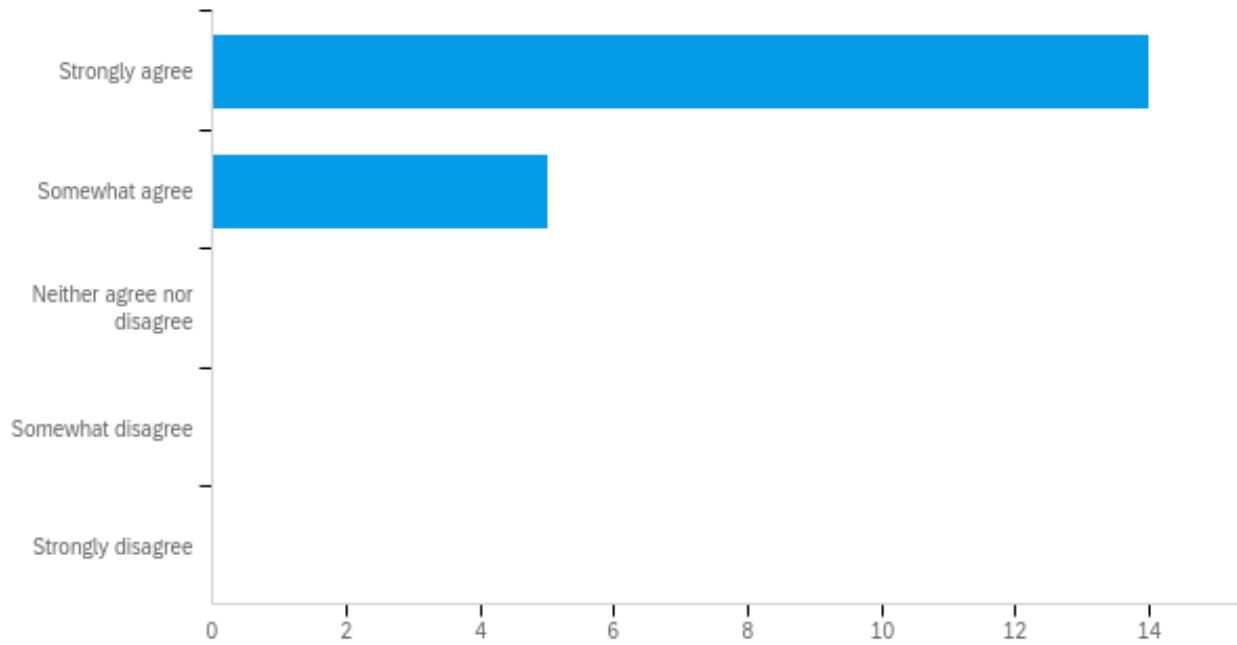
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly agree	73.68%	14
2	Somewhat agree	26.32%	5
3	Neither agree nor disagree	0.00%	0
4	Somewhat disagree	0.00%	0
5	Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	19

9 - Please comment on the above question.

Had an issue with one professor who was extremely condescending. I asked for further help with understanding a concept and she replied "if you read the text and watch the lectures there shouldn't be any confusion" this is a graduate level course, i had obviously read and watched before asking for help. dropped the course and retook it with a better professor.

I was fortunate to take all of the top professors in the department (Nesset, White, Tamarro, Olivas, and Poremski. Professor [NAME] was the only faculty member whose teachings were good but [their] personality was far too arrogant and unforgiving to students. [They] was very cold and pompous. I may have filled out a mid-semester favorable review of [them] back in 2019, but I have had time to reflect on my interactions with [them], and I now realize [they] was far from being supportive and kind to students.

I ended up with several very strong relationships with faculty members who I believe will continue to be mentors for me in my future academic and professional career. I felt all of my instructors were enthusiastic and well versed in their field.

Professors were very professional and responsive.

The majority of the interactions I had with faculty members were positive.

Yes, interactions were generally positive

Only one professor out of the entire degree program had an online presence that came across as condescending and abrasive.

For the most part, my interactions with instructors was positive. The one exception was the instructor for [COURSE]. Dr. [NAME] was dismissive, lazy, and sometimes downright rude. When I reached out to [them] for help on an assignment I was struggling with, [they] stated that I wasn't putting in the work. And, when we met in an optional Zoom call to discuss the assignment, [they] added new requirements that were nowhere in the assignment instructions.

For the most part my professors were extremely kind and very responsive when I had questions, something that is particularly important when you are in an fully online program. I would like to mention Kathy Jaccarino and Molly Poremski specifically because I felt so comfortable and heard with them.

I had 1 professor that expected me to know more than I did when taking his class but in the end I continued to ask questions and finished strong. Other than that all item all of my professors were kind, understanding, knowledgeable, and able to answer questions.

I felt comfortable emailing my professors when I wasn't sure about an assignment or didn't understand something. They were all very accommodating and helpful.

10 - My interactions with my fellow students were generally positive.
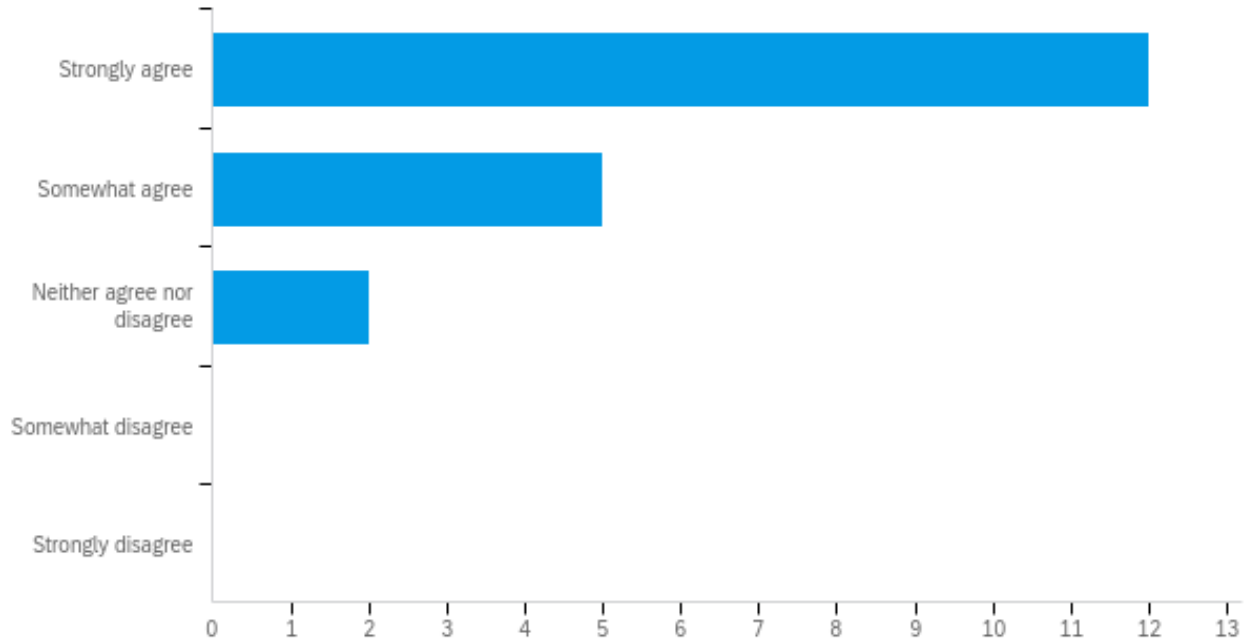
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly agree	63.16%	12
2	Somewhat agree	26.32%	5
3	Neither agree nor disagree	10.53%	2
4	Somewhat disagree	0.00%	0
5	Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	19

11 - Please comment on the above question.

never really had classmate interaction outside courses

All students were mostly wonderful indivduals.

I didn't feel like I ended up engaging with my classmates as much as I would have liked, so I don't feel like I can really answers this question particularly well.

Students were engaged. I came into a couple of students who were not pleased with their experience and this was apparent.

All of the interactions I had with fellow students were positive.

Yes, there were plenty of interesting people to interact with, and the ones that I did group projects with generally did well in communicating and collaborating.

I have made friends in the degree program.

Even in an online environment, my classmates and I found ways to connect with one another to complain about teachers, help each other with assignments, and encourage each other throughout the program.
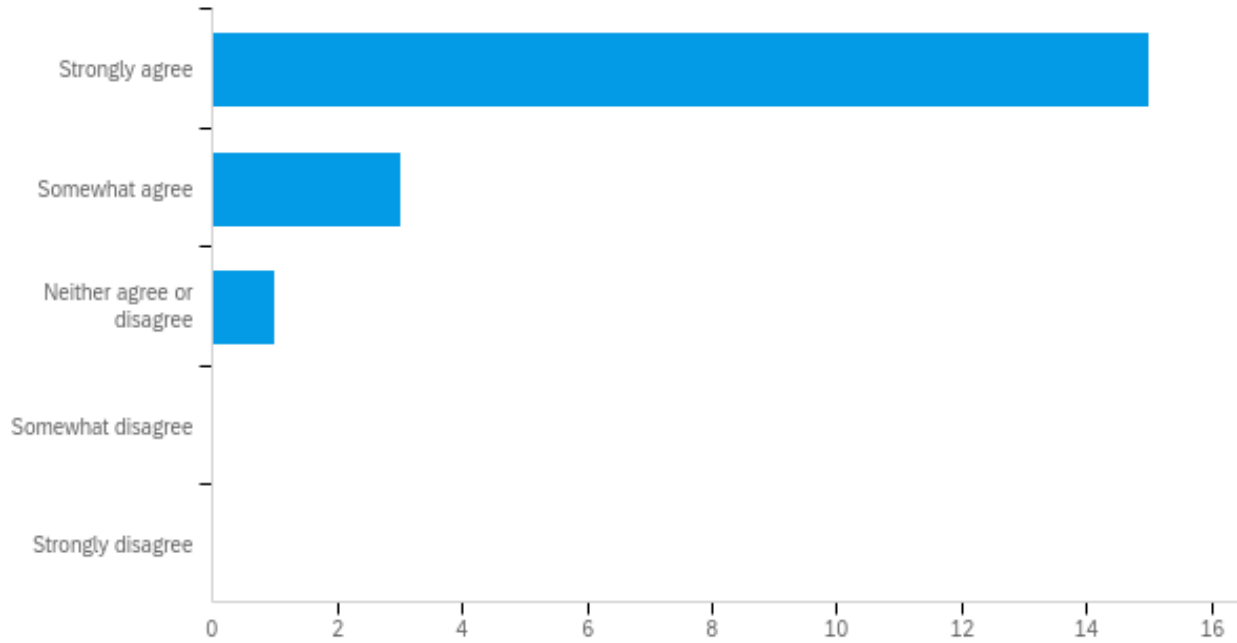
This is a bit hard to comment on with online only interactions, but all discussion boards were always pleasant and professional.

My classmates were respectful and helpful in our online discussions

12 - My interactions with department administrative staff were generally positive.

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly agree	78.95%	15
2	Somewhat agree	15.79%	3
3	Neither agree or disagree	5.26%	1
4	Somewhat disagree	0.00%	0
5	Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	19

13 - Please comment on the above question.

n/a

N/A

The administrative staff was always very responsive and kind - they're wonderful!

Staff were helpful and responsive.

I did not have a lot of interaction with the department administrative staff but what I did was positive.

Yes, administrative staff were rather supportive in those times where I needed to go to them about something.

I didn't really have contact.

Mary Jo Sicurella was always very responsive to any questions, always willing to help, even if she sometimes left answers vague. Still, I loved that I had someone I could rely on to help me navigate the program and my certification process.
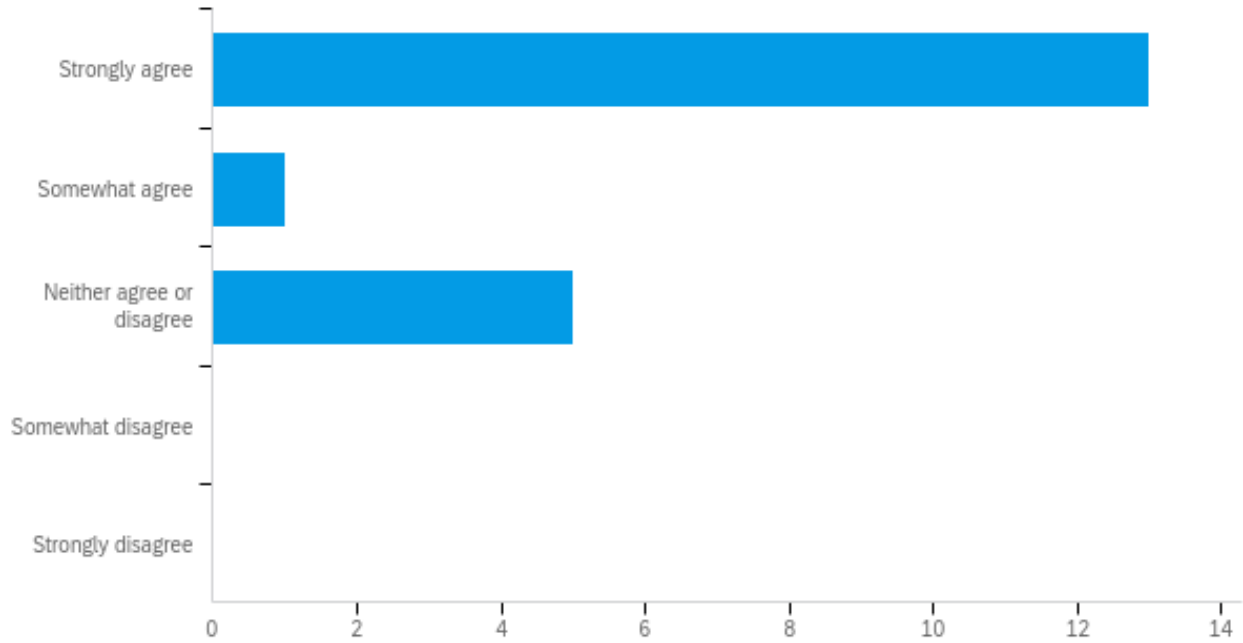
I did not have too much interaction with this, but I did always appreciate the informative emails to keep us all in the loop and connected.

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14 - My interactions with the Department Chair were generally positive.

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly agree	68.42%	13
2	Somewhat agree	5.26%	1
3	Neither agree or disagree	26.32%	5
4	Somewhat disagree	0.00%	0
5	Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	19

15 - Please comment on the above question.

Always positive and helpful.

N/A

Dr. Albertson is great and very supportive.

I was very pleased with my interactions with the department chair who was very helpful and responsive.

I did not have a lot of interaction with the department chair but what I did was positive.

Yes

I didn't really have contact.

I don't believe I had any interaction with the department chair.
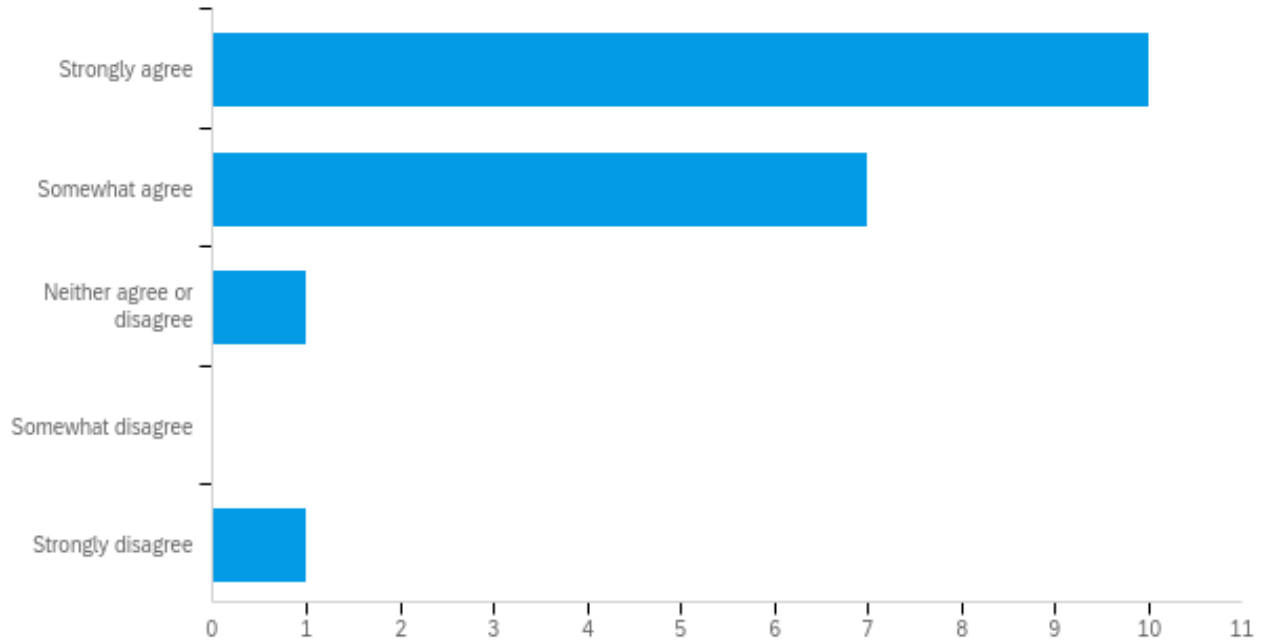
Same as above.

did not have interaction with dept chair

16 - I received useful information from my faculty advisor.

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly agree	52.63%	10
2	Somewhat agree	36.84%	7
3	Neither agree or disagree	5.26%	1
4	Somewhat disagree	0.00%	0
5	Strongly disagree	5.26%	1
	Total	100%	19

17 - Please comment on the above question.

Talked to them once.

N/A

I ended up with other faculty acting as mentors for me more so than my academic advisor and ended up using them as my primary source of information.

She was very helpful.

My faculty advisor was extremely helpful and always available to help.

Yes, they provided me with important information and were available when needed.

Mary Jo has been so incredibly helpful throughout this entire process.

If my faculty advisor was Mary Jo Sicurella, she was always helpful. However, I sometimes felt like I needed to reach out to her to obtain information about my next steps forward.

Mary Jo Sicurella is an absolutely incredible advisor and person. She ALWAYS was there for me; she was happy to email and talk on the phone as frequently as possible. She gave great advice and is an amazing advocate for all of her students, particularly during this difficult pandemic time. I truly cannot say enough positive things about her and hope that the department realizes what a valuable member of their team she is!

He had me take a class that, I felt, needed an prerequisite/into class and he didn't think I should take one class in the last semester but I found it very helpful. He didn't push back too much and helped me check all of the boxes to get things done to graduate.

Mostly agree. My advisor didn't respond to my last two emails but was helpful most of the time I was at UB

Mary Jo Sicurella was a lifesaver throughout the process. She was constantly available and replies quickly to my questions

18 - I had access to appropriate specialized library software and related technology to support my educational needs.
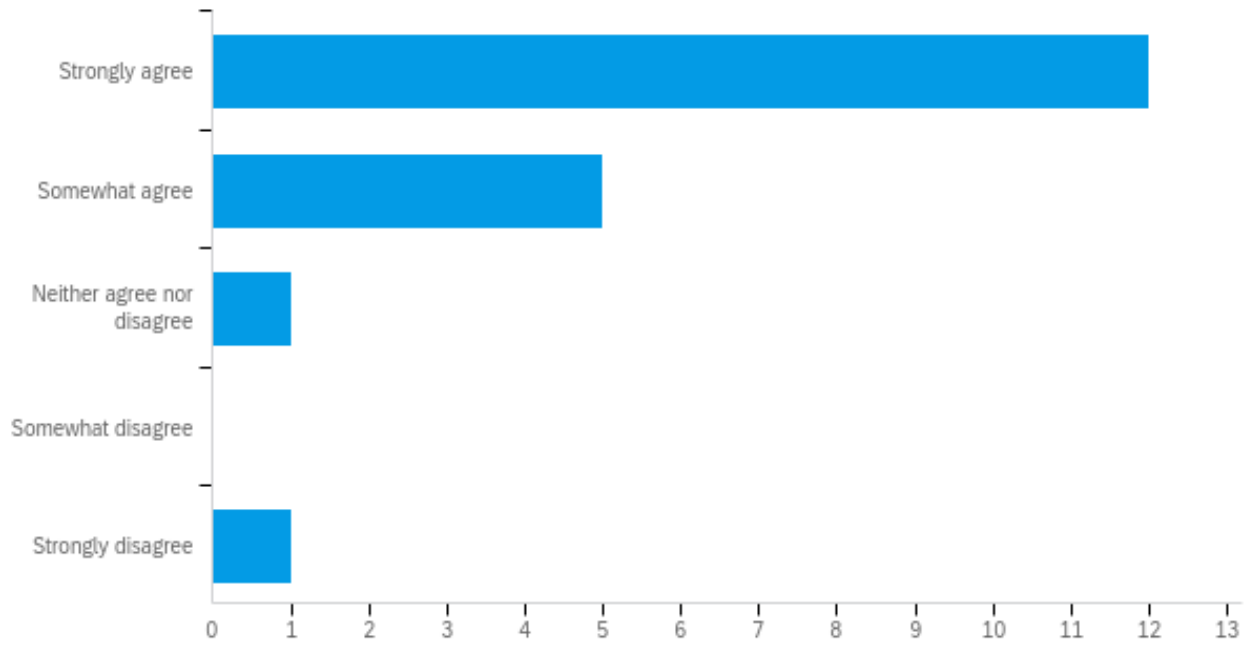
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly agree	63.16%	12
2	Somewhat agree	26.32%	5
3	Neither agree nor disagree	5.26%	1
4	Somewhat disagree	0.00%	0
5	Strongly disagree	5.26%	1
	Total	100%	19

19 - Please comment on the above question.

n/a

N/A

I felt that I had the appropriate access to technology to support my education.

To my understanding I had access to the software and technology that I needed.

I never had an issue with specialized software or technology. I will say, however, that the Blackboard app is cumbersome.

Yes

I had everything needed as an online student.

This was an online program. We weren't able to use library software or related technology. Instead, we were expected to find our own when necessary.

I felt very supported in my classroom endeavors.

20 - I am prepared to enter the workforce in my chosen field.
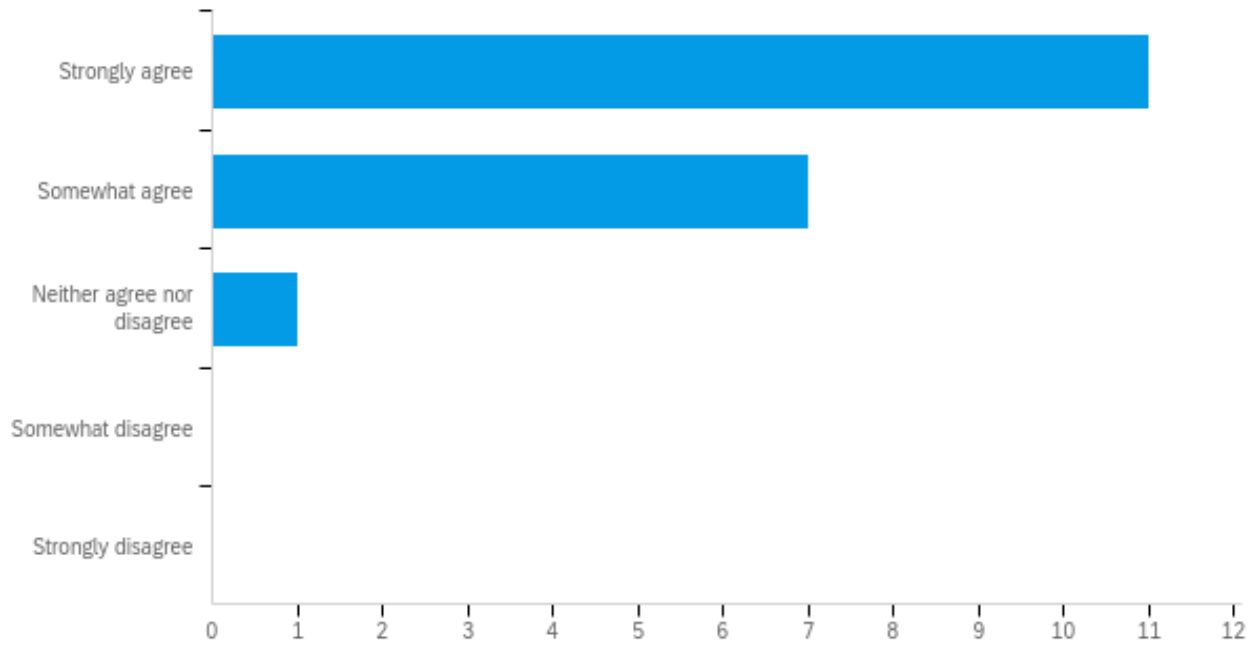
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly agree	57.89%	11
2	Somewhat agree	36.84%	7
3	Neither agree nor disagree	5.26%	1
4	Somewhat disagree	0.00%	0
5	Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	19

21 - Please comment on the above question.

n/a

N/A

I will be continuing on to a PhD, but I feel prepared for that transition.

I was not able to take some of the classes that I was interested in because they were not offered. I would have liked the opportunity to take more archive classes.

I was recently reflecting on the program and strongly agree that the School Librarianship program greatly prepared me for my position as a school library media specialist. I learned a lot about all aspects of my job and feel very prepared.

I think I learned plenty of important information and skills. I hope that the job opppurtunities widen as we recover from the pandemic.

I feel doubly prepared, having been working in the field while earning the degree.

To be honest, I was probably prepared to enter the field after working in the field for two years now, even without my degree. But the state needs a degree, so here I am.

It is hard to ever be fully prepared without just doing the job itself, but I think the program was successful overall, and I would certainly recommend it.

Library school programs need to catch up with current day practices. It would have been nice to have more practical application of coursework and "life outside the class" assignments in all classes, not just with one professor.

I feel like I'm any profession the more experience the better. No one knows what is needed until you get there. We are as prepared as possible after school.

Taking the practicum was really helpful. The experience I got there was huge in making me feel comfortable at my new job and it definitely elevated my skill set

22 - I am confident that I will be professionally successful.
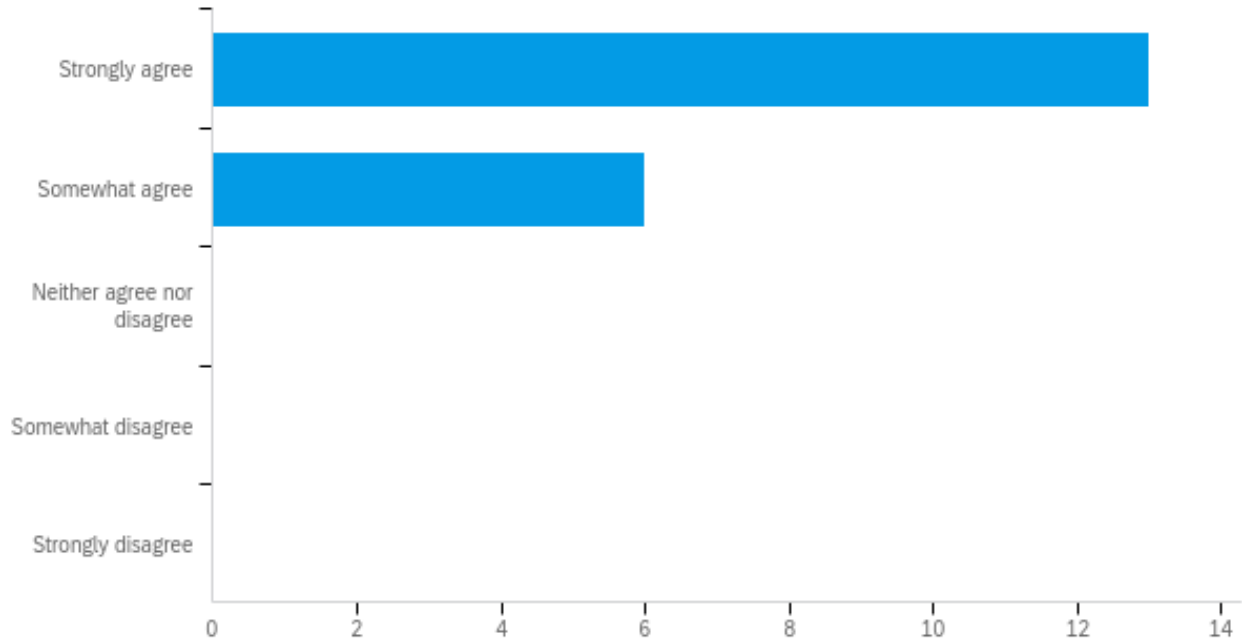
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly agree	68.42%	13
2	Somewhat agree	31.58%	6
3	Neither agree nor disagree	0.00%	0
4	Somewhat disagree	0.00%	0
5	Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	19

23 - Please comment on the above question.

n/a

N/A

I believe that UB has prepared me to be successful professionally.

I feel like my previous experience, my coursework, and my professors recommendations/ suggestions will be effective/ helpful.

Again, I am very confidence that I am ready to be successful in my position.

Generally yes. Though I am somewhat worried about getting a job in the nearterm, due to the effects of the coronavirus on the economy.

As an older student, I feel ill be successful whichever path I take.

I'm already doing the job.

See above.

I got a job a few days before my last semester ended.

24 - I would recommend this program to others.
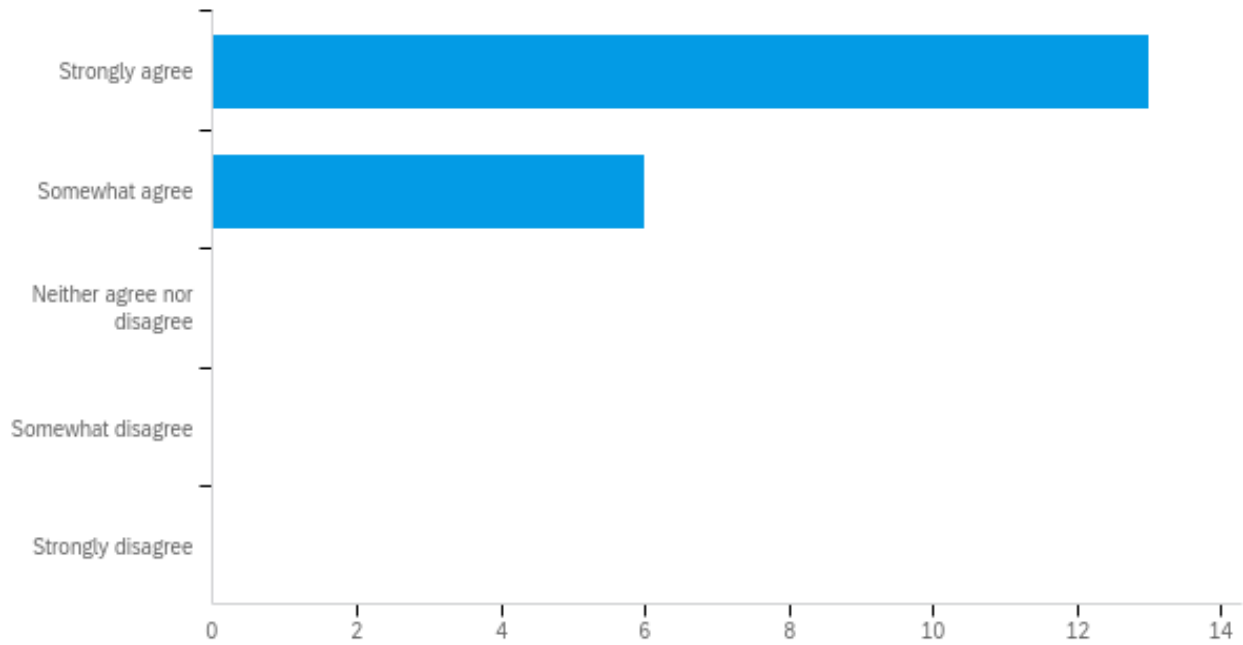
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Strongly agree	68.42%	13
2	Somewhat agree	31.58%	6
3	Neither agree nor disagree	0.00%	0
4	Somewhat disagree	0.00%	0
5	Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	19

25 - Please comment on the above question.

n/a

N/A

I had a great experience and I would recommend the program for its flexibility and the strength of its faculty and the kindness of its staff.

It would depend on what their needs are. Online courses may not work for everyone.

I have already recommended the program to those who are interested in school librarianship.

Yes, for those who are interested in studying library and information science.

I would recommend the program.

This program was a lot of theory and not a lot of practical application, which would have been more effective.

See above.

I have recommended this program to one of my friends and she is currently in her second semester at UB

26 - What were the major strengths of your program?

What were the major strengths of your program?

The variety of details covered and the relevant issues current to the field that was covered.

The faculty is a major strength of the department, as is the fact that the program is completely online.

The professors were accessible and willing to help.

I felt that all aspects of school librarianship were covered. This prepared me well for my career. I also am happy that the program was available online.

The content of classes.

Hands on courses.

Instructors who were current school librarians using projects, assignments, and examples that pertained to the job.

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The responsiveness and expertise of the faculty, the ability to complete this degree fully online, the very manageable coursework.

The ability to do it 100% online Good communication from professors List serv emails about potential internships, professional memberships, etc. Practical, relevant work products & assignments that can be used to show potential employers

Affordability, asynchronous learning

I enjoyed that I was able to have a couple of professors multiple times so we got to know each other. I enjoyed the pace and the availability of the professors.

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Having the flexibility of an online program with the expertise of experienced faculty was great.

The 100% online program was a huge plus.

Well rounded and balanced offerings for various information science career paths, some excellent professors, very active LIS community, clear and present opportunities for advancement (jobs, internships, conferences, other academic opportunities)

professors

The layout of the program being online.

27 - Do you have any suggestions for improvement?

Do you have any suggestions for improvement?

I would suggest marketing this program to more minority populations and underserved communities to create an interest for that community and create a more diverse program of students and faculty too.

I don't have any specific suggestions for improvement.

I would suggest more archival options.

My only suggestion is an improved Blackboard app.

Make your notifications for important things regarding the portfolio and signing up for graduation more noticeable.

Group work is a struggle. Discussion boards most times feel like checking boxes, not authentic work/discussion.

Cut back on the theoretical courses. Add in courses about how to teach. I felt like my first class on how to teach effectively was in one of my final semesters. Things like knowing how to engage students, how to build connections with students, classroom management. These are all things that the classes barely touched upon as an afterthought, but the things that I struggled with the most in employment.

With this program you are also required to take a NYS exam, however, when taking this exam, there were many questions that arose that weren't necessarily covered within the program. Having a closer alignment of what we could see on the exam within the program would be beneficial.

The number one aspect of the program that is commented on when I have interacted with professionals in the field is confusion over the fact that we do not have a course specifically for cataloging. I think a cataloging course would've been more beneficial than Information Life Cycle or Intro to Research Methods. Or perhaps reworking the courses so you get elements from all three, but less in depth to accommodate.

At least two professors had posted only 15 or 20% of our grade by Week 14 of the semester. The timely feedback was lacking and frustrating

The program could do better at creating community through opportunities outside the classroom with the distance learners.   Some instructors used good pedagogy and employed multiple intelligences in their teaching...some didn't. Even in an online program, there are better ways to create engagement.

Since the program is all online it would be easier for the students if the 'week' started on the same day for all of the classes.

More school based classes less "core" junk that does not help you work with children

I do feel like I did not learn as much about actually working in a library as much as I would have liked. The required core classes were more abstract and about theory rather than really useful, relevant job skills. The most relevant courses seemed to be reference courses, but they were offered only every other semester and because of pre-requisites, I only had one real opportunity to take them but ended up missing it when it filled up. I wish that those directly relevant courses either had more seats or more sections so every potential librarian could make sure they can take those courses.

I wish I knew more information about what to do after getting my degree. Not one of professors talked about the public librarian certification I needed to apply for or the civil service exam we need to do to get a job. I heard these things from friends in the field and co workers.

More flexibility in class requirement groupings (where we had to fulfill certain subcategories and pick from classes offered within them). With such a short time in the program, I often wondered what classes of great interest I might be missing out on to fulfill those requirements. I feel I may have been able to tailor my education to my intended career just slightly better.

better classroom interaction simulation

The library management course was difficult at times because some assignments needed to be done in a library setting. At times, I was in a local school library more than the syllabus portrayed.

28 - How did you find out about the MS/MLS program at UB?

How did you find out about the MS/MLS program at UB?

A coworker of mine completed her program in 2016.

ALA website

The graduate school website.

I found the program my researching school librarianship programs myself.

From a professor at UB when I was previously studying for my master's in history.

Through colleagues.

Google.

I found out about the program from a school media specialist, that I substitute teach for, who also had completed this program and said that she enjoyed it.

A generic Google search combined with word of mouth.

I looked up ALA accredited programs online and filtered for 100%, then narrowed down my choices from there

A coworker.

Elizabeth (Marcellus) Witkowski - alumni

School librarian

I researched MLIS programs and found it on a list of well-regarded fully online programs.

My friend told me they had an online library and information science program

A Google search of online LIS programs in NY.

talked with alum

Online. It was one of two schools in the state offering the program.

29 - Why did you choose UB for the MS/MLS program?

Why did you choose UB for the MS/MLS program?

Based on the cost and reviews of the program and reviews of UB's IPEDS stats.

I needed a fully online program, and was interested in the research areas of the faculty.

I attended UB for undergrad.

It came down to the UB program and the Albany program and I felt that the UB program was better for me. I also asked the recommendation of a school librarian and she was impressed with the UB program.

It was convenient and seemed like a good program.

Cost

It was close by.

I chose this program because it was offered completely on-line and with my busy day to day schedule, it made things much easier for me.

Two factors: the ability to take the program fully online and the SUNY tuition rate.

It seemed to offer a wide variety of coursework, to be completed in a reasonable amount of time. It seemed flexible and fit what I was looking for in a program. It was also one of the most affordable per class.

Completely online, allowed.me to work full time.

I was working full time and I loved that the program was all online. And being a SUNY school appeals to me

Price and online availability

It was a highly ranked program that I could do fully online while I worked a full time job, and very affordable because I could pay SUNY prices as a NY resident.

It was 100% online and tuition was not bad for New York residents.

Completely online program, cost

well regarded, convenience

To continue a career in education.

30 - Please provide any additional feedback for us below.

Please provide any additional feedback for us below.

It was a pleasure to be a part of the department!

I just want to say thank you for a great program that I feel greatly prepared me for my job as a school librarian.

During my first semester, I was so overwhelmed with the theoretical aspects of the program (none of which that I use in my job) that I was seriously considering transferring schools to a more practical application approach. So perhaps you should alter the program to allow that.

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Overall I had a very positive experience with the program and share that with others!

I enjoyed this program, which was my second Master's degree. I would recommend this program to other people because I had a very good experience at UB overall.

I think it would be helpful to have more librarians and support staff who work at UB libraries involved in course creation and instruction.

I just want to say that Dr. White is a wonderful professor, mentor, librarian, and person. She is kind to all of the students, understands that life can get crazy, and is logical and knowledgable. Any students are lucky to have her.

More information/guidance on setting up TEACH account and NYS ED requirements.

Most of the courses were very interesting and the professors were very helpful and clearly cared about their students. I kind of wish that there was more variety or more options for classes, I felt that each required category of electives only had a small amount of choices.

I think it was a really great program and I would do it again

I enjoyed my time in the LIS department at UB and will look back on it fondly. I am pursuing this career path because I am passionate about it, but even if I was less so, I think this program would have ignited a love for this profession in me nonetheless.

NA