University at Buffalo
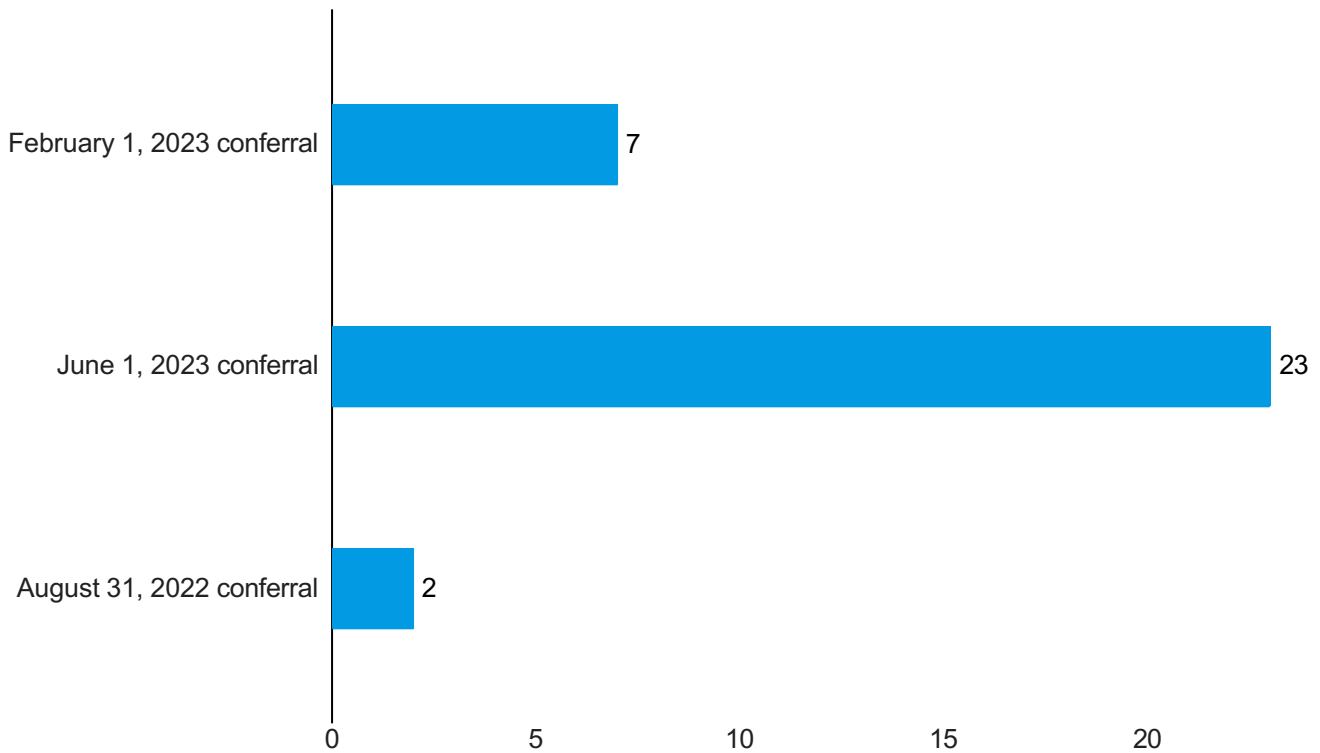**Department of Information Science**

2022-2023 Exit Survey of Recent Graduates

Exit survey results for students graduating in summer 2022, fall 2022, and spring 2023.

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

Conferral Date	Choice Count
February 1, 2023 conferral	7
June 1, 2023 conferral	23
August 31, 2022 conferral	2

● Choice Count

Please choose the status that most accurately reflects your situation.
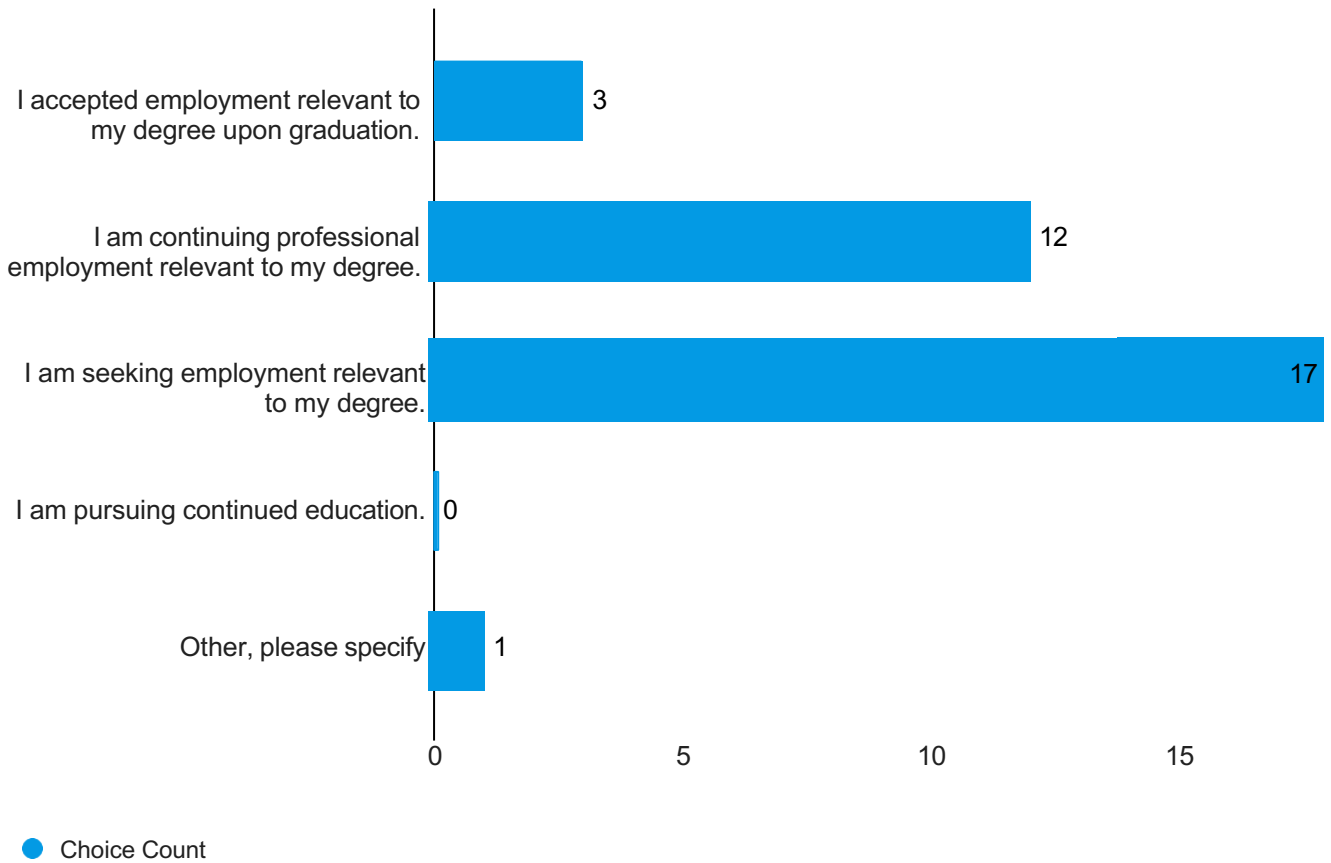
● Choice Count

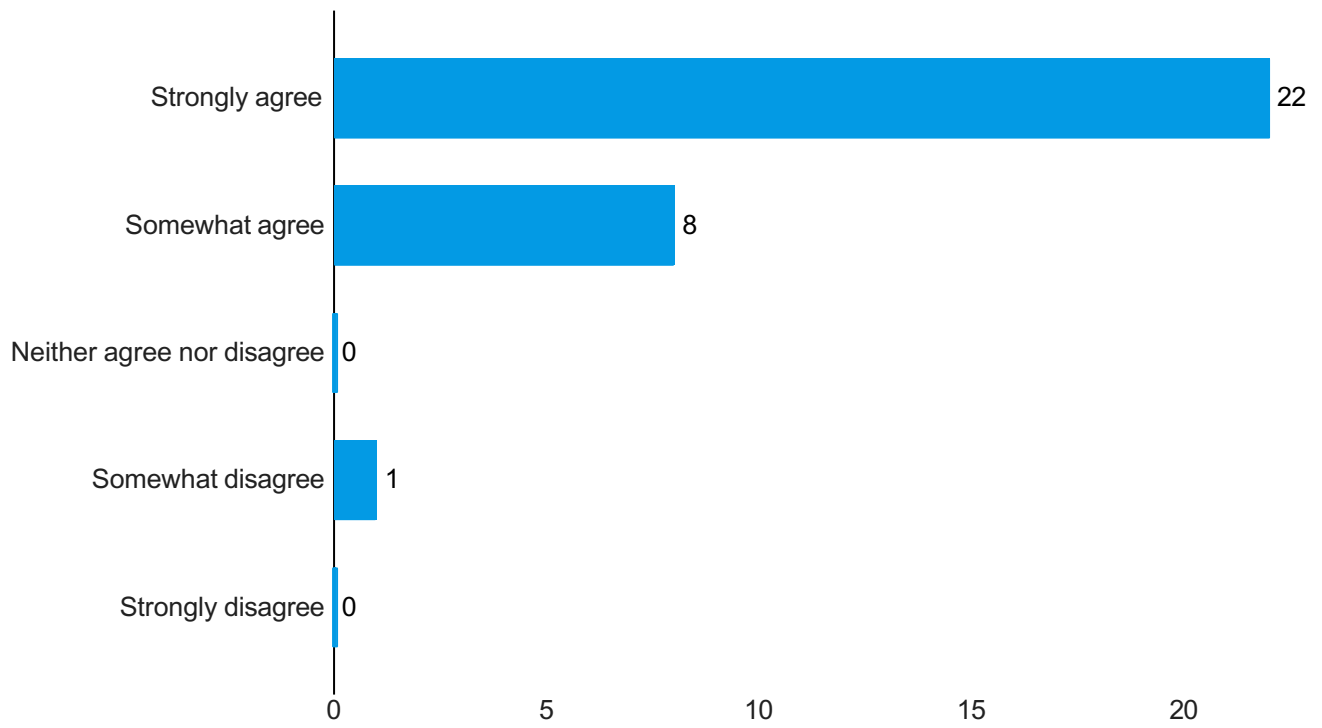| Field	Choice Count	
I accepted new employment relevant to my degree upon graduation.	9.09%	3
I am continuing professional employment relevant to my degree.	36.36%	12
I am seeking employment relevant to my degree.	51.52%	17
I am pursuing continued education.	0.00%	0
Other, please specify	3.03%	1
Total		33

My degree is in the School Librarianship program.
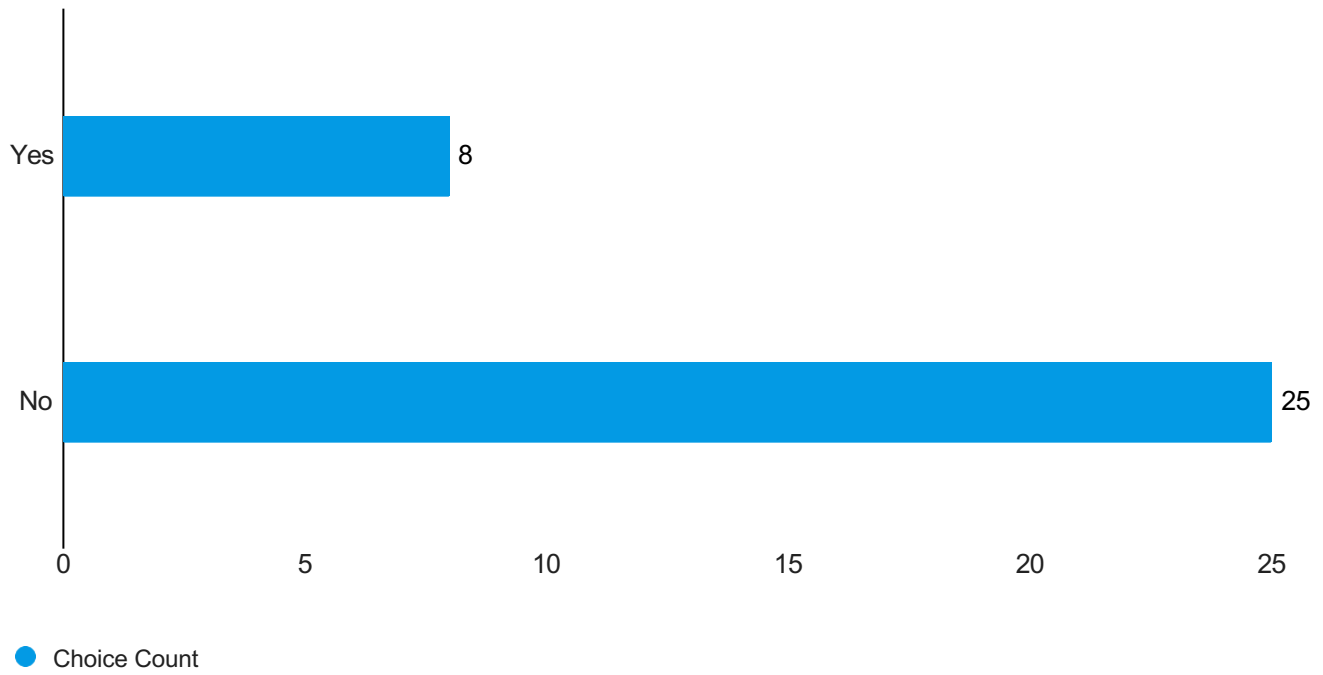
Field	Choice Count	
Yes	24.24%	8
No	75.76%	25
Total		33

My interactions with faculty members were generally positive.

● Choice Count

Field	Choice Count	
Strongly agree	70.97%	22
Somewhat agree	25.81%	8
Neither agree nor disagree	0.00%	0
Somewhat disagree	3.23%	1
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
Total		31

Please comment on the above question.

Please comment on the above question.

Everyone was helpful and willing to meet if there were any questions.

I had many professors during my time here that I enjoyed thoroughly, and only a couple who I felt were disappointing as educators. Standouts included Amy Vanscoy, Sam Abramovich, Sara Manus, and Brenda White.

Most faculty members I interacted with were a pleasure to work with.

I had excellent experiences with all Faculty minus one experience. It did not cloud my vision about the program though. I was incredibly grateful for all the Faculty who impacted my time in a positive way!

I always had positive interactions with faculty members.

Everyone at UB has been wonderful.

Overall, professors were available and helpful. They seemed passionate about what they do.

My interactions with GSE staff and ILS faculty were generally positive. If a situation arose where bad news was coming my way, it was my fault and I earned it one way or another. Never did I once consider complaining nor did it occur to me that they were anything but even handed and fair minded. I did not have a perfect GPA but as stated above that is my fault not theirs.

Never had any issues with any faculty.

All of the faculty were really strong, supportive, and were generally solid. I only struggled with one instructor's style, but the rest were just great.

Most of them were fine, but some professors treated students in an aloof or cold manner. Some professors did not seem to understand that before we are students, we are humans.

as expected

There is one specific faculty member with whom my interactions were overwhelmingly negative, but that is an outlier and otherwise interactions were generally positive.

No comment

Faculty were professional and helpful

Faculty provided valuable feedback and prompt responses to my questions about course materials, the portfolio, and general LIS questions. Reflecting back on the start of the program, I learned so much!

Dr. [name] is rude; many students complain about [them] to the Chair, and nothing is done about it.

All professors were nice. Albeit some were a little less warm and fuzzy than others but I never encountered any major issues

Most faculty members were great, but there have been a few professors who were not.

Some faculty members had heavier course-loads and higher expectations than others, which made the difficulty level of each class vary significantly.

I had positive interactions with the majority of professors. The only outliers were those who did not consistently answer emails (I'm fully online student) or answered with only short responses.

All professors were professional.

All of my professors responded to my emails, questions and concerns in a positive manner.

Most faculty were positive and helpful

All my interactions with my professors were helpful.

They were usually well informed and usually quick to respond

I really appreciated the professionalism of faculty members and their responsiveness. When this was not the case, I did provide adequate feedback on the specific course.

During a medical emergency faculty were supportive and accommodating, some of my professors wrote letters of recommendation, and feedback was always timely and constructive.

Each professor was kind, understanding, and helpful. They understand majority of us are working adults and just trying to finish certification and understood with any extensions, family medical issues, etc. The staff is amazing.

Overwhelmingly, faculty were kind, helpful, and respectful.

The faculty members were competent.

My interactions with department administrative staff were generally positive.
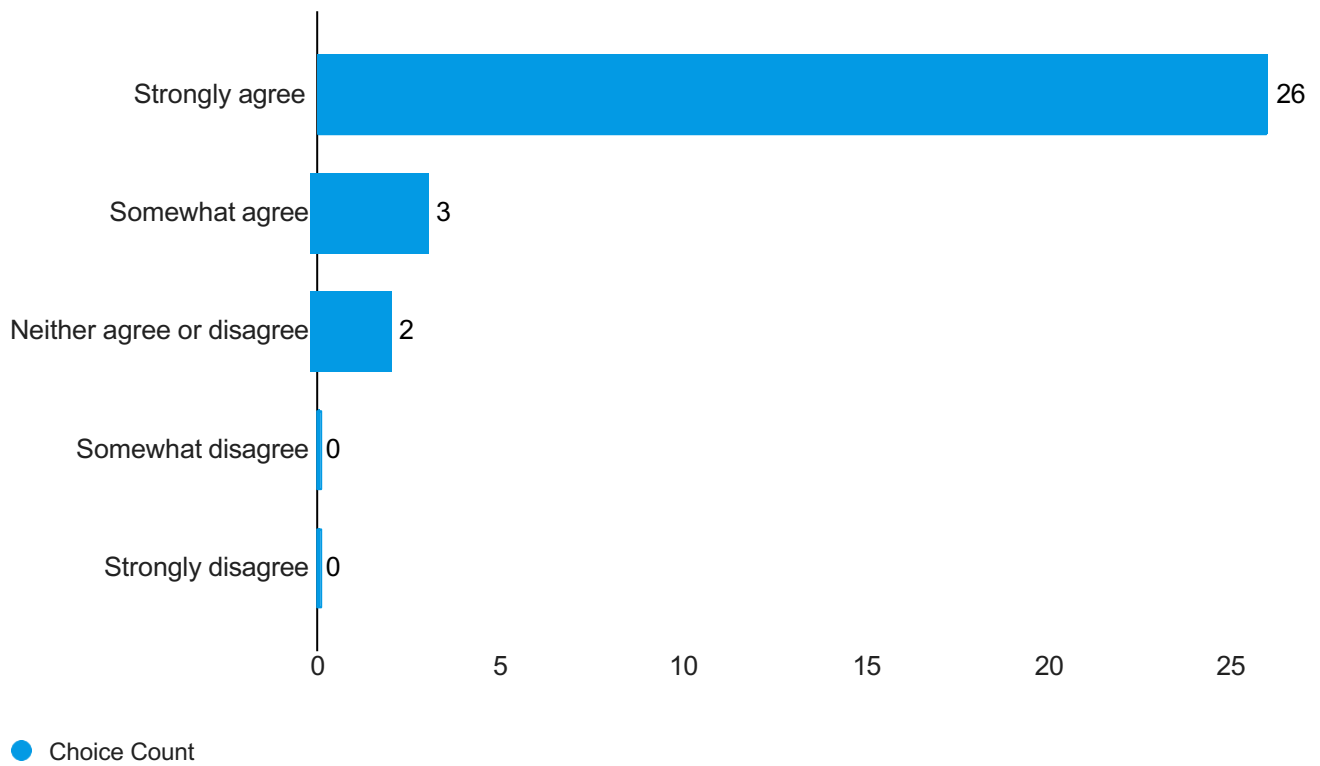
Field		Choice Count
Strongly agree	83.87%	26
Somewhat agree	9.68%	3
Neither agree or disagree	6.45%	2
Somewhat disagree	0.00%	0
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
Total		31

Please comment on the above question.

Please comment on the above question.

No complaints and everything was very timely!

I didn't have many interactions with admin, but my questions were always answered.

Department administrative staff I encountered were a pleasure to work with.

Whenever I had questions, they were always accessible and helpful.

My advisor was great, she always responded to my questions and was always very helpful.

Everyone has been wonderful. Especially Mary Jo Sicurella.

My advisor was excellent.

I did not have much interaction with administration, at least not which stands out as memorably good or bad.

Anytime I need led administrative help, someone friendly was there to assist me.

the folks in the office and Dr. Nesset were super helpful. I really appreciate the timely responses and the problem solving they provided me.

Limited interaction, but fine

as expected

no complaints!

No comment

Administrative staff were always helpful and courteous.

Administrative staff were helpful in answering my questions, especially when I was learning about the program and applying.

n/a

I didn't interact with any admin staff outside of my advisor

I have not had many interactions, but in the ones I have had everyone has been very helpful and friendly.

Department administration was quick to answer questions and very helpful.

responsive

Mary Jo is the best! Always willing to answer my questions.

Administrative staff helped me solve any issues I had with my degree/courses.

MaryJo was amazing!

I had few interactions with administrative staff, but when I did they were extremely helpful.

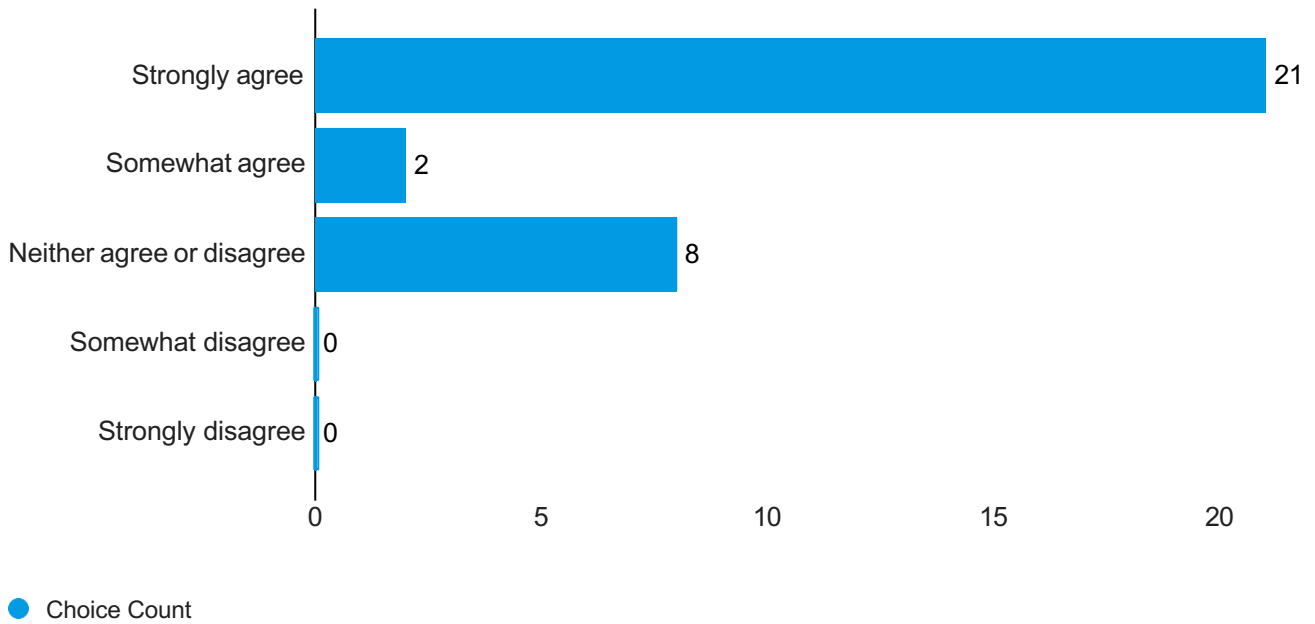They were good

Fairly decent responsiveness

Everything went smoothly in our interactions

Everyone was kind and helpful. Mary Jo especially. She made my life so much easier.

These were limited for me, but positive.

The admin staff were helpful.

My interactions with the Department Chair were generally positive.

Strongly agree	21
Somewhat agree	2
Neither agree or disagree	8
Somewhat disagree	0
Strongly disagree	0

● Choice Count

Field	Choice Count	
Strongly agree	67.74%	21
Somewhat agree	6.45%	2
Neither agree or disagree	25.81%	8
Somewhat disagree	0.00%	0
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
Total		31

Please comment on the above question.

Please comment on the above question.

Willing to work with me and understanding.

I had many positive interactions with Dr. Albertson, and he was my advisor for the last year of the program. I found him to be incredibly responsive, fair, and enthusiastic.

The department chair was a pleasure to work with.

I don't think I ever talked with our Department Chair person. This question may be N/A for me!

While I didn't have any one-on-one interactions with the department chair, I appreciated the emails that were sent regularly about the department.

Everyone has been so helpful.

I didn't have many interactions beyond taking LIS 575, but I enjoyed the class with him.

I took a class with Dr. Albertson and got the grade I deserved.

Never really had an interaction with him.

I mostly worked with Dr. Nesset, who was superb!

Limited interaction, but fine

as expected

no complaints!

Never interacted

My only interactions with the department chair were as a professor. Dr. Albertson was always encouraging and knowledgeable.

I don't think I corresponded directly with the Department Chair, but department-wide list-serv emails from the Department Chair that we received were welcome and a nice way to stay connected in this online program.

n/a

the chair was a polite and helpful person when I needed assistance

I did not have any interaction with him.

Department Chair was receptive, understanding, and communicative.

not sure who it is tbh

I haven't had any interactions with him.

The department chair was always helpful and polite.

I never interacted with the department chair

I did not have any interactions with the Department Chair.

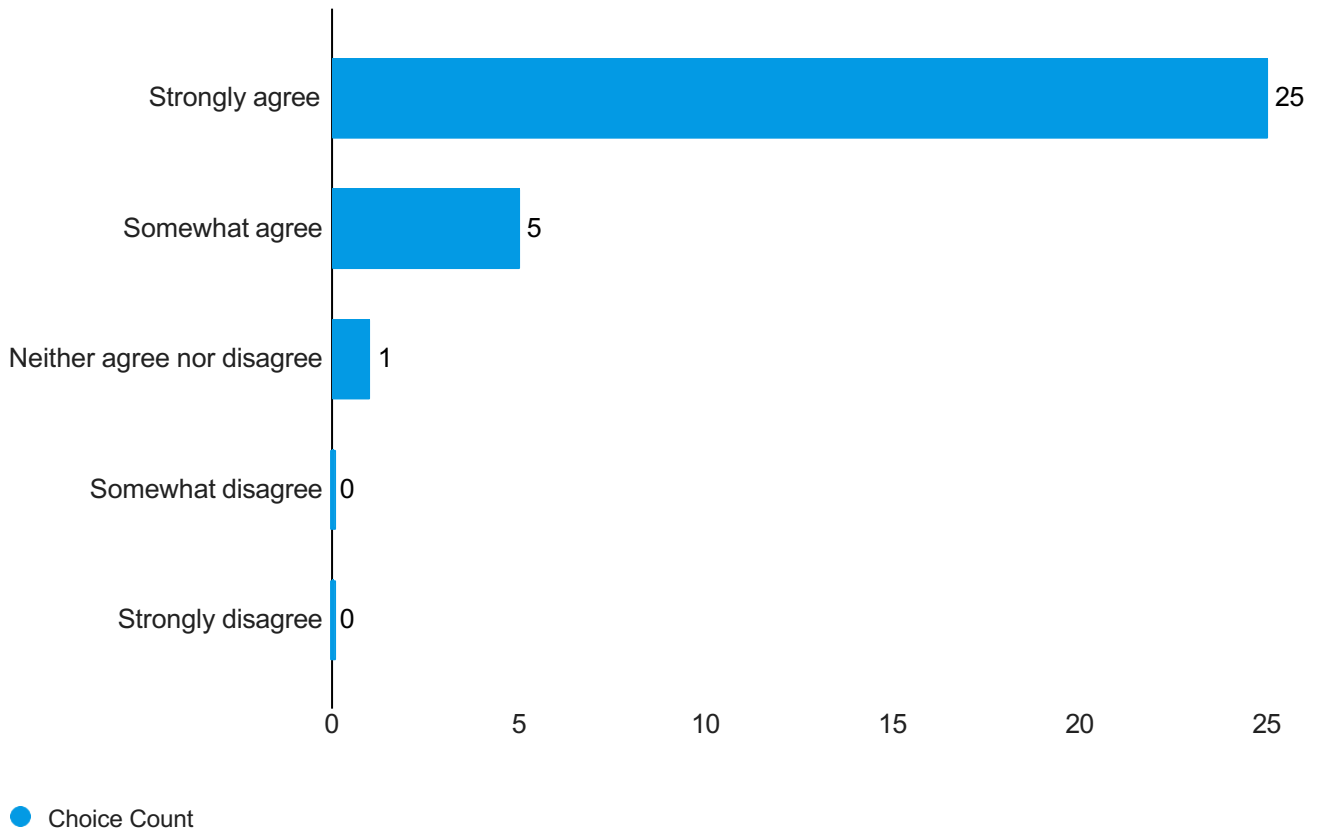N/A

I think we interacted once or twice

All communications were positive

Other than one class, I didn't really associate with the Chair aside from emails but he was always wonderful.

I has only maybe 2 of these but they were positive.

The DC was fine.

My interactions with my fellow students were generally positive.

Field	Choice Count	
Strongly agree	80.65%	25
Somewhat agree	16.13%	5
Neither agree nor disagree	3.23%	1
Somewhat disagree	0.00%	0
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
Total		31

Please comment on the above question.

Please comment on the above question.

Wish I had more virtual classroom interaction with more of my peers, but the few I did get to interact with over virtual meetings and groupwork were great!

I became friendly outside of class with several people during the course of the program.

I appreciated being able to get to know so many students in this program despite the online format.

During group projects, I loved working with everyone! It was great to meet others in the program and the collaborative work was related to the field.

I met some great people in the program and also developed some friendships along the way.

I have loved being in classes with my fellow future Library Media Specialists. Everyone as been so fun and uplifting to work with in class. I have really enjoyed all that I have gained at UB.

As an online student, my interactions were often based on discussion board posts, a few emails, and collaborative projects. Students were professional in presenting opinions and most often timely in meeting team goals.

Interactions were generally positive, with the understanding that in a politically sensitive field or in academia in general people often have and are willing to express their strong opinions. I don't recall a situation ever getting out of hand, which is good enough for me.

Got along with all my peers on our group projects and discussion board posts.

really great classmates when I had the ability to connect.

Students were respectful and generally kind

as expected

no complaints!

No comment

My fellow students were fantastic!

I had positive interactions with fellow students. I learned a lot from the experiences and ideas shared from fellow students in discussion boards. I enjoyed small group discussion boards in which we could discuss topics in-depth.

n/a

everyopne was kind ans welcoming

Student groups have been great.

Never had a bad group experience.

fine

Most interactions were positive. Learning always occurred.

The students in this program have been a big part of my success and has made my courses run smoother because of advice and help they have offered me.

Most students in the program were positive and pleasant

Librarians are kind and helpful people!

I loved working with the other students

A couple of times where I felt a different student was not cooperating or interacting negatively, I felt that faculty addressed this adequately.
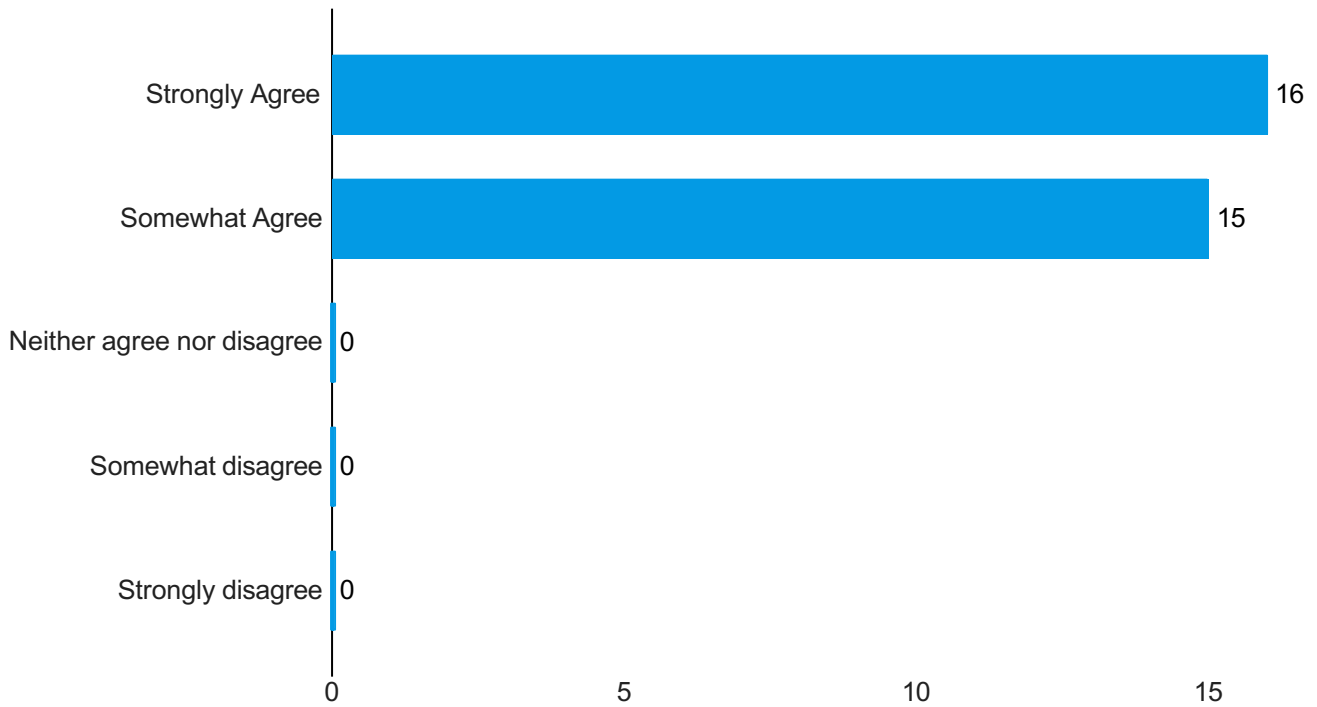
I felt like I was part of a community even if we were all virtual

Students were kind during discussion posts.

For the most part, my fellow students were pleasant.

I think group projects were difficult. Everyone thought they were doing the project alone when they rarely contributed.

The quality of instruction in my program was excellent.

● Choice Count

Field	Choice Count	
Strongly Agree	51.61%	16
Somewhat Agree	48.39%	15
Neither agree nor disagree	0.00%	0
Somewhat disagree	0.00%	0
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
Total		31

Please comment on the above question.

Please comment on the above question.

I really felt I learned so much about how expansive the field is and different specializations you can get into within the field. I also really appreciate that most if not all of my classes included some elements on diversity, equity, inclusion, and access and/or ethical concerns within the topic of the class.

This varied. It was overwhelmingly positive. But there were some professors who I felt fell short and I left class feeling like I didn't get a lot out of it.

Earlier, I forgot to mention Marie Elia as one of my standout professors. She is excellent.

Most classes were great and informative and well put together by instructors.

It was a good experience

I really enjoyed the classes.

My professors go above and beyond.

I appreciated the detailed syllabi and clarity given at the start of each class. I enjoyed the variety of instructors, but found most helpful those currently practicing in the field.

I definitely thank my instructors for the work and effort they put into lesson planning and assignment design. I found things challenging that I took for granted and was introduced to MANY things I did not realize were part of teaching or librarianship. Personal anecdotes and experiences from instructors definitely added to the program.

I could have used a bit more instructional experience as it will be important for both public and academic library work.

Overall, the curriculum was relevant, helpful, and engaging. I grew a lot, professionally.

Pretty good

lots of info, could've been organized a little better

Some of the courses were indeed excellent; a few of the courses could have been better, and two of them had very poor instruction (though the value of the information within the courses is still present; it was just obfuscated by the poor instruction).

Most professors were great

The program has been wonderful.

I enjoyed the combination of readings, videos, recorded lectures, other multimedia course materials, virtual office hours/meetings, asynchronous instruction, and important LIS topics/resources shared in many courses. I especially enjoyed assignments that connected with real-world LIS scenarios that we will likely encounter in our careers (like creating a collection management policy). While I didn't always feel that every assignment was applicable to the career path I plan, I learned about other types of library environments/services and there was a high quality of instruction.

I was not satisfied with the professor who taught [course] – [instructor]. The class lacked substance, and the material was geared towards [audience].

it was great, even for remote learning

Most classes I have taken were great and well organized.

Most of the instruction was excellent. Some outliers that either used other professor's work or had unclear instruction for assignments.

good

Most classes were fantastic with a variety of learning experiences.

I think some courses there should have been more explanations for assignments/lectures.

Some instruction was was very repetitive, and some was not relevant to my course of study

My programs were well organized and well taught.

A couple teachers could be improved upon in their response times and methods of constructive criticism

Most coursework was rigorous, engaging and applicable to LIS field

I feel I learned and I could tell effort thought and conviction were present throughout the teaching

Many courses didn't apply directly to our program in my opinion as a school librarian media specialist but overall instruction itself was good.

With one or two exceptions, all of my classes were very useful and well-taught.

I felt that some of the courses were repetitive. The work at times seemed to be busy work.

I received useful information from my faculty advisor.
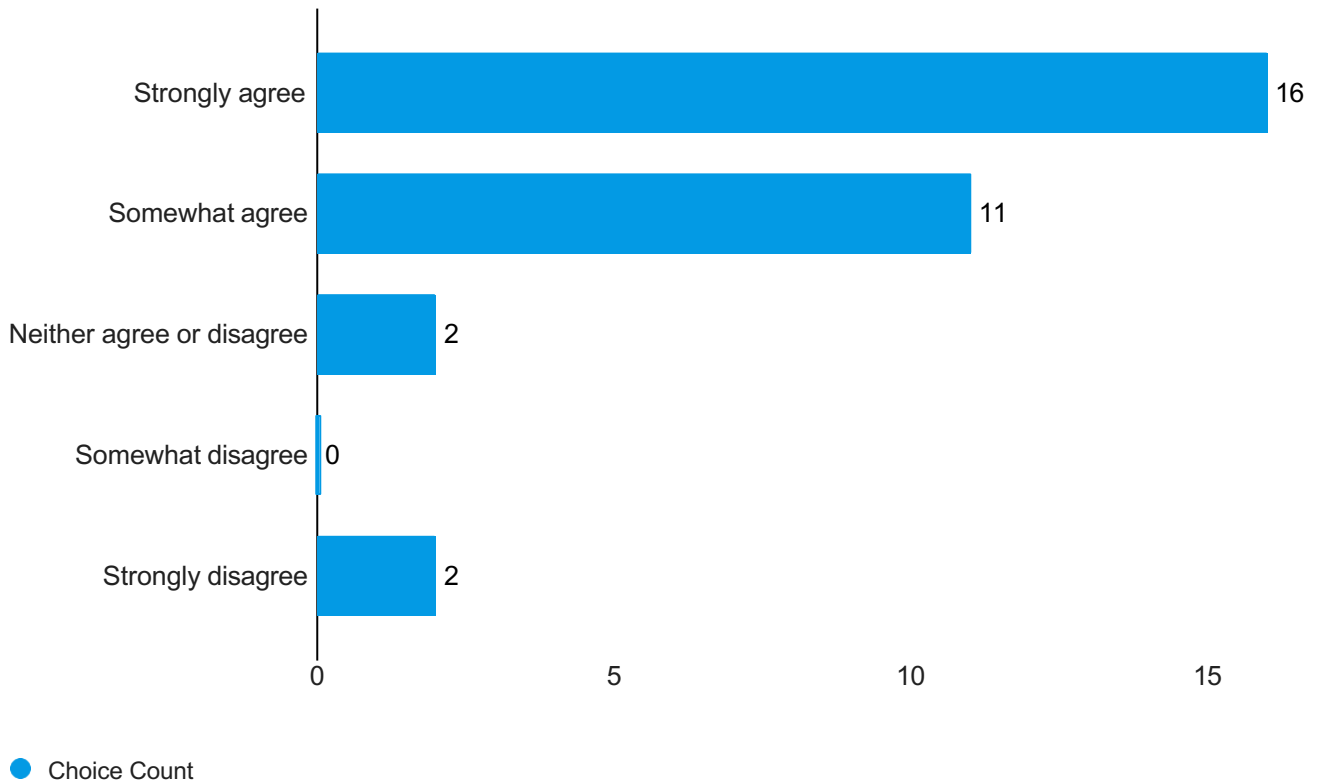
Choice Count

Field		Choice Count
Strongly agree	52%	16
Somewhat agree	35%	11
Neither agree or disagree	6%	2
Somewhat disagree	0%	0
Strongly disagree	6%	2
Total		31

Please comment on the above question.

Please comment on the above question.

I felt like I was pretty well set up by my advisor and other information provided by the program pathways UBLearns module in the beginning and more or less was able to figure out my path with courses on my own and based of my interests, likes, and dislikes from the previous courses I took and was taking. That said, I knew if I had a question I could reach out, and all my forms were signed in a timely manner, so I appreciated that.

Dr. Wang and Dr. Albertson were both excellent advisors.

My advisor provided good advice for my plan of study.

Dr. B is amazing! She is so knowledgable, encouraging and a great resource. I was so thankful to have her as my advisor and she helped me navigate the program easily! A great mentor and educator.

Mary Jo is an awesome advisor, she was always very helpful.

Mary Jo Sicurella is excellent.

My advisor always responded to email in a timely manner and was open to virtual or phone meetings.

I have no issue admitting that I would not be here without my advisor. She pulled my bacon out of the fire at least once every semester and deserves a raise and a corner office with a view of the city skyline. Despite personal and family difficulties, and me being somewhat more needy than I assume other students are, she always had an answer in a timely manner and they worked.

The plan of study put together worked very well.

Dr. Soergel was my faculty advisor and he was very responsive and shared a lot of opportunities. Hie approach to learning was mixed. A brilliant guy, open to many methods of success, but I struggled with the construction of the course materials.

My questions were answered

as expected

Dr. Brenda Battleson White for president!

No comment

Dr. Julien was always very prompt in responding and was very helpful when I needed to change my plan of study or find classes to substitute.

My advisor provided a lot of helpful information, especially by helping me navigate a few different versions of my portfolio. I was glad to take a few courses instructed by this advisor!

Dr. VanScoy was thoughtful with her response and gave good feedback.

I didn't go to them often, but they were helpful when I did

My advisor is new to the program as well, so sometimes it took a while to get a response or he would need to check with someone else. However, he was always willing to meet.

My first faculty advisor was older and did the bare minimum and not very communicative, but when I switched to a new faculty advisor, my new faculty advisor was much better. I'm glad I was able to switch.

my advisor responded to emails promptly but always very succinctly and it felt like I was an inconvenience. I had to reach out for information

I have not talked to my advisor since the first semester. Once I switched to School Librarianship, Mary Jo answered all my questions.

My advisor was helpful throughout my time in the program, however, I think it would be good for advisers to check in with their students progress more..

I did not have many questions, but when I did she was helpful

I probably did not use my advisor as a resource often enough. But they were always quick to respond with answers to my questions.

Thank you!

Dr Wang was very responsive, supportive and provided up-to-date information
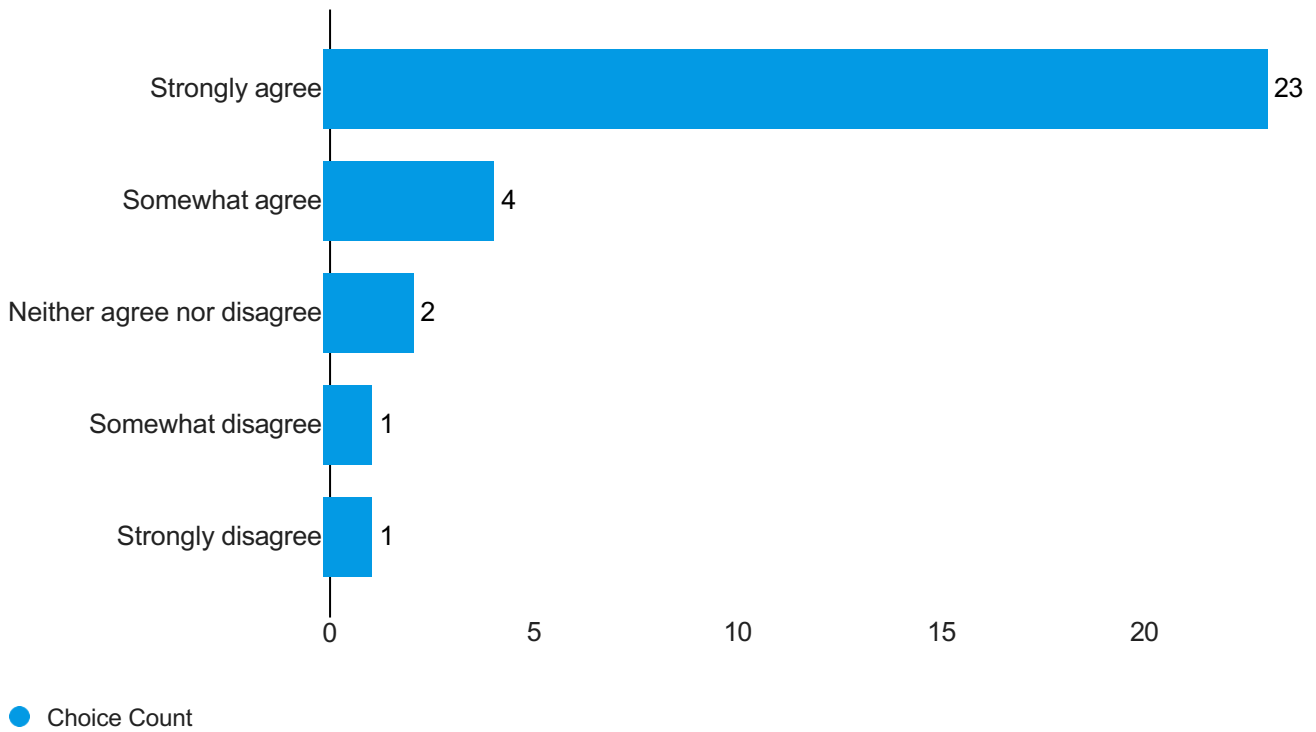
I was taken into account as an individual and encouraged

Mary Jo is a SAINT.

I didn't receive much guidance from my advisor, but did receive some from other faculty.

My faculty advisor basically signed my program study and nothing else.

I had access to appropriate specialized library software and related technology to support my educational needs.

Choice Count

Field	Choice Count	
Strongly agree	74.19%	23
Somewhat agree	12.90%	4
Neither agree nor disagree	6.45%	2
Somewhat disagree	3.23%	1
Strongly disagree	3.23%	1
Total		31

Please comment on the above question.

Please comment on the above question.

Either the software needed was provided by UB or was free-to-download in terms of what courses required.

Agree. I appreciated getting to use some of the various software programs like ArchivesSpace.

Certain classes provided really great learning tools to make sure I learned how to use library technology.

I learned MS Access for the first time in 27 years! It was unique.

I had access to EndNote through UB and I found it to be very helpful for one of my classes.

Anything that was required, the professor ensured student access.

I'm remote, but I had access to databases, UB chat functions, and zoom when that was necessary due to covid. Microsoft office software was definitely useful. A subscription to Follett or Mackin or both, and an example collection, as well as Sora and maybe Hoopla would be good examples for students who haven't observed or done field work yet, though I can understand how Hoopla could break the library budget. I think students of any discipline who have access to the UB library's fiction collection would benefit from Hoopla though, not just ILS. UB might be able to negotiate an institutional deal as part of the whole SUNY system, the volume of which would justify lower prices to individual schools.

Never needed anything specialized.

Kudos!

they supplied everything for mac as well as windows

no complaints!

Occasionally had to use free trials or subscribe to certain services to complete projects

I never had issues getting what I needed.

Instructors provided clear instruction and assistance for required and additional software or technology. I enjoyed the UB Learns platform. My technology skills definitely developed during this program.

n/a

I don't know exactly, I never needed access to special software outside of library sdatabases

Many tools were provided to use for classes.

The softwares were free and good.

in one class I had to use microsoft access which was the only challenge for me to find and use

Anything and everything I needed was provided or explained where to obtain.

No comment.

I did not need much technology other than websites, which were provided

Software was easy to access and use.

The material was always available in the ub libraries

I felt like we got to use a lot of software and it was helpful

I learned to use new programs and access journals

I was able to use things from my district to help with courses.

I probably had access to things that I didn't need.

I knew where to find what I needed and since I teach at a college if UB did not have it I could find it.

I am prepared to enter the workforce in my chosen field.
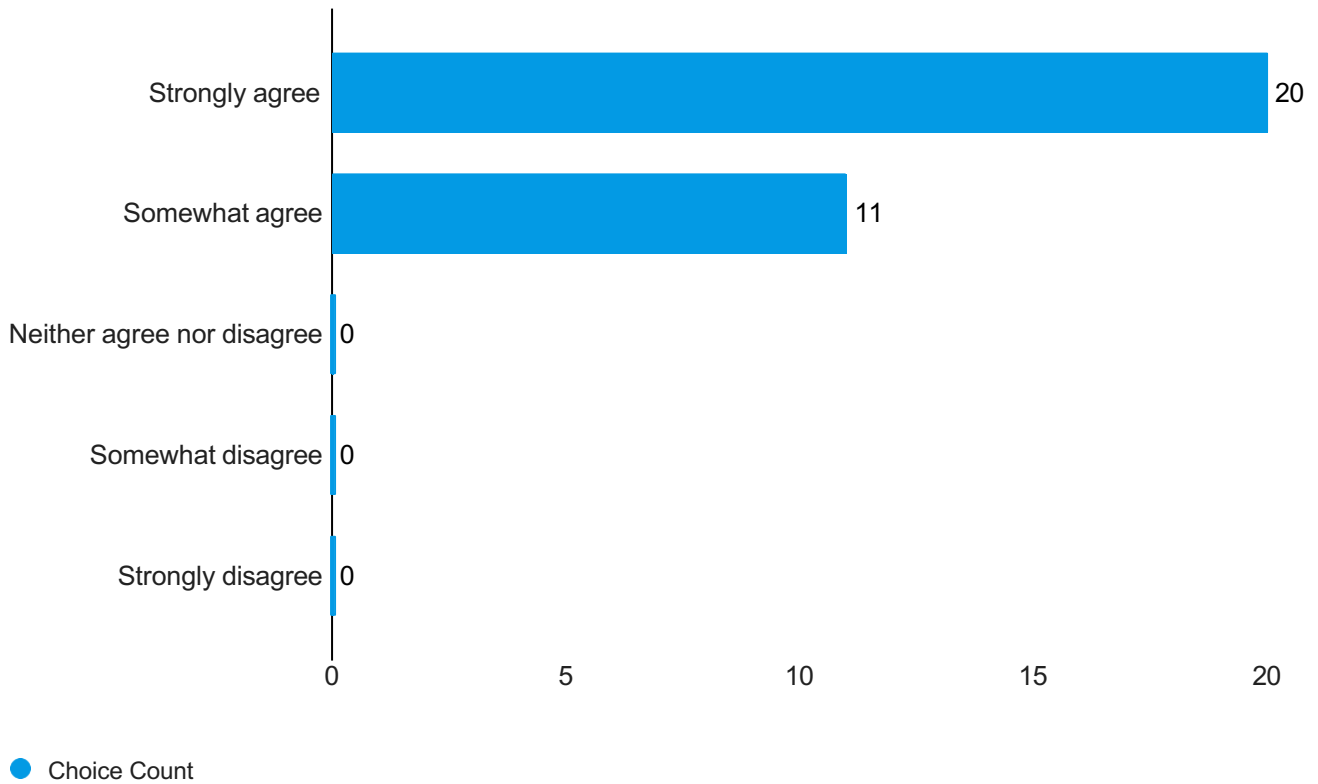
● Choice Count

Field	Choice Count	
Strongly agree	65%	20
Somewhat agree	35%	11
Neither agree nor disagree	0%	0
Somewhat disagree	0%	0
Strongly disagree	0%	0
Total		31

Please comment on the above question.

Please comment on the above question.

I feel like my skillset and knowledge about the field is exactly what it should be for the time spent in the program and for the degree I've gotten. That said, I am at the start of my career, so I still have a lot to learn. I am also very anxious about finding a job, especially one that will hire me with the little hands-on experience I have.

I have never worked in this field before, so although I feel prepared, I am also going in a bit blind. The opportunity to do a practicum was a very valuable experience during this program.

I feel that I have the tools that I need to be successful in libraries after being in this program.

I have worked in libraries for six years. I needed my Masters to get to where I want to be in the future. This program enhanced my knowledge and helped me see things from a different perspective!

This program has prepared me to enter the field of School Librarianship.

I am currently in the position and came from a general education background. I have a stronger understanding of my role as a school librarian and a "best practice" plan for moving forward.

After observing and student teaching I feel that I can start work in my field.

Just trying to find a job right now and figure out when the public service exam is…

This program benefitted my professional abilities in many ways.

I am prepared to enter the workforce in my chosen field mainly because I have experience in my chosen field. There was a major lack of courses pertaining to Public Librarians. I was pretty surprised to progress through the program and realize that there were so few courses related to my chosen field. Perhaps more courses are available than were offered during my time at UB, but I'm overall very disappointed with the limited amount of practical public librarianship courses I was able to take. I'm specializing in Youth Services and there was only one children's course available and one teen course available. Other schools offer more specialized courses in this area.

more internships

no complaints!

No commenr

Most of the job descriptions I've seen require a few years of experience, which is frustrating. I'm prepared to enter at an entry-level, but that's a difficult position to find.

I currently work in a library environment, but I feel prepared to take the next step in my career by finding a position that connects to what I learned in this program.

n/a

I think I am lacking in some areas, but overall prepared. I wish there was a choice to have a concentration in something, I believe that would have helped greatly.

I have learned many different skills and professional development that I can apply to a range of job opportunities.

It helped that I was working in the profession as a staff member so I could directly apply what I was learning. Highly recommend doing it.

already working

Yes. I hope to be a school librarian, but I am considering my doctorate.

I already work as a children's librarian and this program has made me even more skilled at my job than I was before.

I already had a job in librarianship when finishing my degree, and continue to feel ready for that

I think I am ready.

The program prepares its students well

There was a variety of coursework touching on different aspects of LIS field

I was able to interview and accept work prior to my degree conferral

Many courses geared towards things that weren't for school librarians especially elementary librarians.

Though my work experience in this field is limited, I believe I have a solid foundation for a future career.

I teach research methods so I am in a field where information and library science is important.

I am confident that I will be professionally successful.
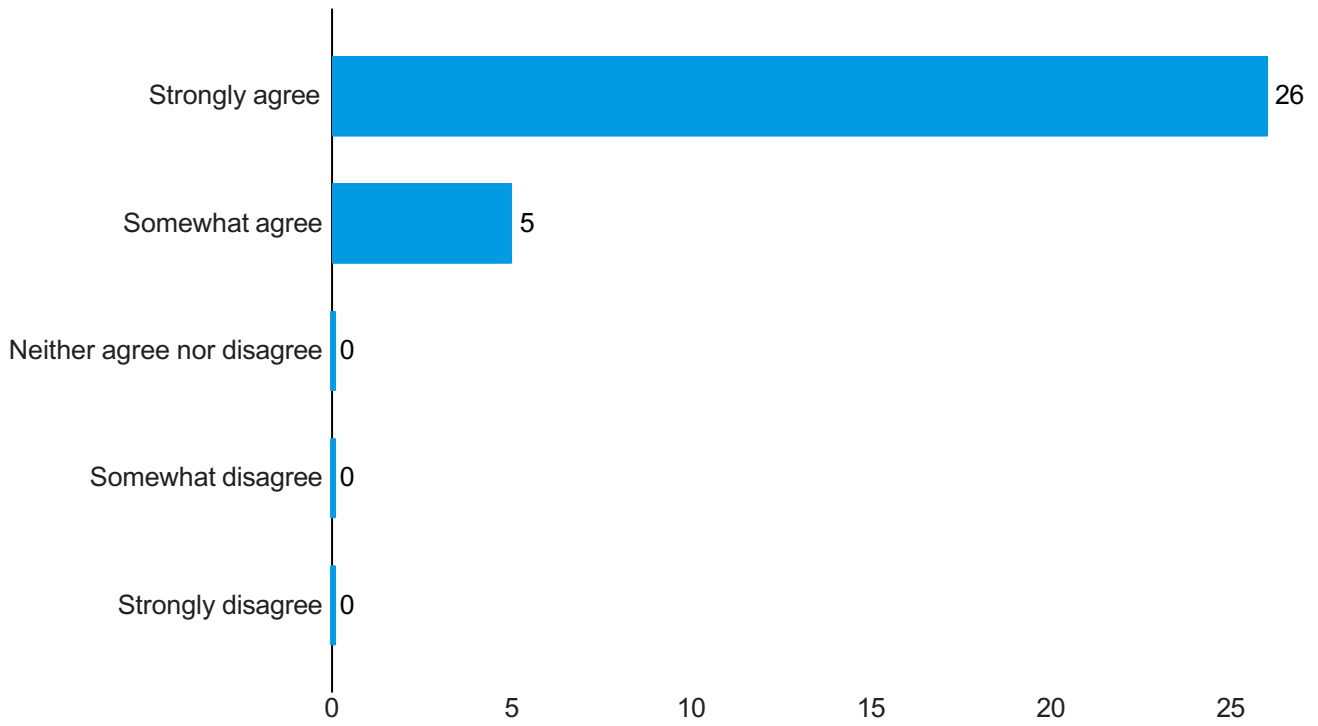
Choice Count

Field		Choice Count
Strongly agree	84%	26
Somewhat agree	16%	5
Neither agree nor disagree	0%	0
Somewhat disagree	0%	0
Strongly disagree	0%	0
Total		31

Please comment on the above question.

Please comment on the above question.

I know that once I get hired, I will work hard and learn a lot, all which will be useful as I progress through the field and discover more of what my professional trajectory will be.

I am excited to get started.

The library I am currently employed at as a clerk is actively making plans to promote me to a librarian position within the next year, which makes me feel confident about my future. My time in the program has made me feel well prepared for this transition.

I am a passionate advocate of of libraries and believe it's so important that people use the gifts they have to work in the field. This degree helps us to be qualified and share our gifts with others!

I deeply value what I have learned going through this program and the knowledge that I have gained will help me become a successful school librarian.

I have the support of another in district colleague and know that I can reach out to other library professionals within and outside the UB program whenever needed.

Building off of my previous answer, I feel that I will be professionally successful with everything I have learned from UB.

I'm passionate about my education and career so u have no doubt that once I find a job I'll be able to gain success in my career

Yes, this will add to my success.

its hard to find a niche

no complaints!

No comment

I'll figure it out, even if it takes a few years!

I am confident that I can take what I have learned and apply it to my professional career. I am ready to apply the skills I've learned and the resources I've collected to continue my lifelong learning in LIS. I do think that my current experience working in a library strengthens my confidence.

n/a

I have most skills needed, but am missing others. Which will likely have to come from work experience anywasys

This program has given me the skills and knowledge to succeed.

The wide range of courses allowed me to explore what was interesting to me.

going well

UB provided me with the tools to be successful.

No comment.

I am confident in my abilities and what I have learned

I feel well prepared

Even after graduating, the skills related to relaying information to stakeholders are coming in handy

I feel I can adapt myself and work to changing times

I have been a librarian 3 school years now and I finally feel confident after completing this program.

I think I could be successful to a point, but am probably coming to the field too late to achieve any great success during my working life. Additionally, opportunities—especially well-paying and/or local ones—are limited to begin with.

I will have no problem assimilating into an academic library.

I would recommend this program to others.
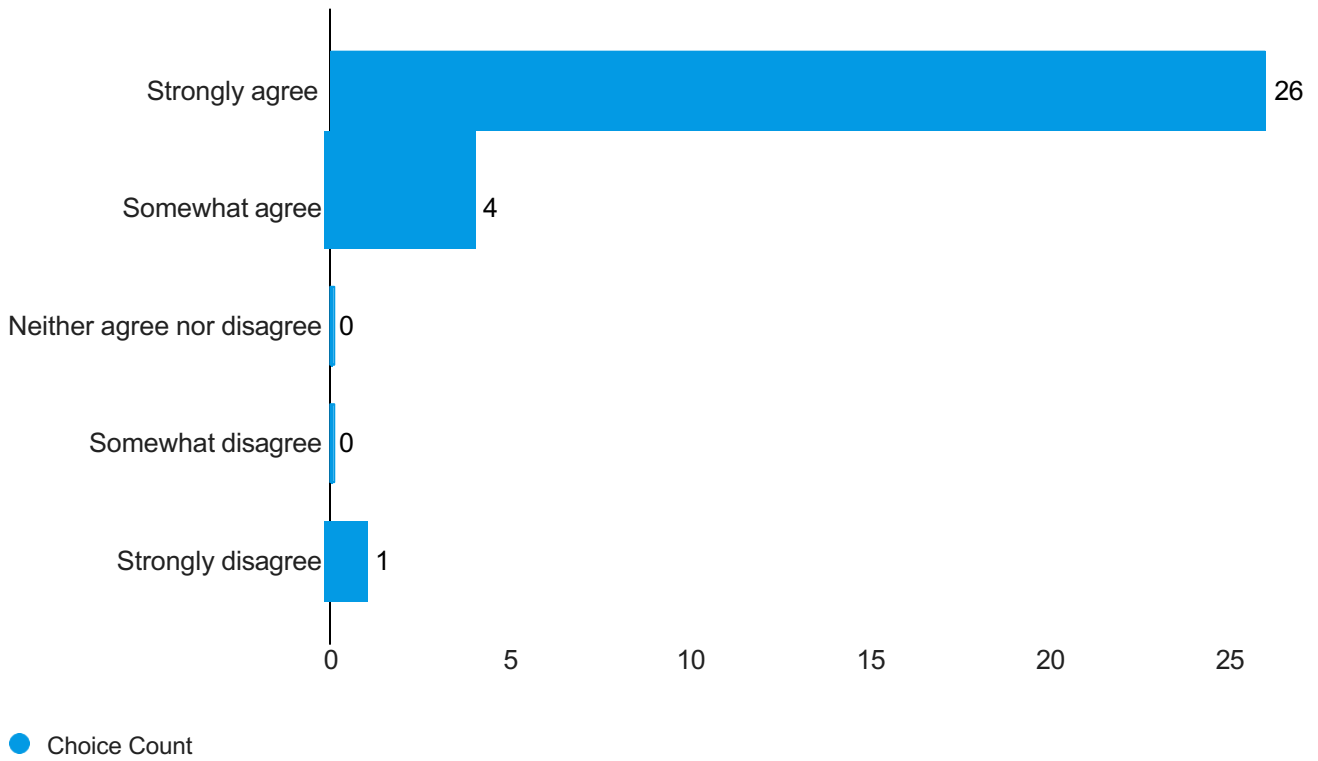
Choice Count

Field		Choice Count
Strongly agree	84%	26
Somewhat agree	13%	4
Neither agree nor disagree	0%	0
Somewhat disagree	0%	0
Strongly disagree	3%	1
Total		31

Please comment on the above question.

Please comment on the above question.

Definitely would recommend the program to others; it's a very well put together program that they are continuing to improve. I would caution though that, if doing the online program, you have to be okay being a very independent learner, as there is little real-time interaction with peers and professors since the courses are asynchronous. You more or less trade in the accessibility and convenience of an online, asynchronous program with the comradery that in-person classes provides.

I already have. [student's name] (a current student) is a friend of mine.

I think this is a great program for those who are looking to get the degree while still hanging the flexibility to work at the same time like I did, while also getting a high quality education. I really enjoyed my time in the program.

It was a great experience, affordable and allows people to work full time!

I would absolutely recommend this program to others!

This program met my needs as far as balancing working full time, home life, and graduate school. As it was online, I was able to fit it into my schedule.

I have and will again recommend the UB MLIS program to others.

This program was very helpful for meeting my goals.

I already have recommended it and will to others.

I will be advising others interested in public librarianship to not attend UB. There were not enough courses related to public librarianship to make it worth it. It was fine overall, but I wish I would have picked a school with more relevant courses to my field.

it's a great online program

...though I will warn them off of a couple of faculty members. Other than those experiences, I have no complaints about the program and would definitely recommend it.

No comment

Already have

Yes, I recommend this program to anyone interested in LIS! I had a very positive experience, and the option to complete the program online was wonderful!

n/a

it is grreat for what it is, in terms of an online program that is

Very convenient program and well run

Flexible and well organized.

able to complete in 1.5 years, not unduly stressful

I already have!

I have recommend this school and program to many of my colleagues whom will be starting in the Fall semester.

This was, overall, a good program

Its not for everyone but is a great program

I am already recommeding this program to someone

If I should meet anyone in pursuing this field I would strongly recommend UB

Everyone was wonderful the entire time.

I learned a lot from this program. Even if I were never to work in the field, I will have gained a tremendous amount of knowledge from going through it.

I recommend the program to my students all the time.

What were the major strengths of your program?

What were the major strengths of your program?

- Flexibility and collegiality of professors.
- Incorporation of diversity, equity, inclusion, and access into the program as a whole
- Having LIS 507 and 575 be required courses needing to be taken within the first two semesters

The asynchronous format
Quality of the professors
Course expectations

The online format was really great for me personally. I liked the flexibility because I worked while in the program.

Communicative and collaborative environments.

One major strength was the faculty. I could tell that they really cared about my education and they were always there to answer any questions that I had.

Learning above diversity, inclusion, pedagogy and technology for my information services classes.

As a school librarian, I felt that the practical classes were most helpful. I think my favorite was 585 Management of School Libraries because I can apply coursework directly to my own library program.

An online asynchronous program made it easier for me to return to school while working full time and having a family. I don't think I would have been able to go to graduate school if I had to go in person. Professors who met in person were often kind enough to record and post the sessions for those of us who couldn't make it to all of them. In general, professors did little things like that to go above and beyond expectations or requirements of them. This motivated me to work harder beyond basic requirements as well. UB has a great relationship with quite a few public school districts, which helped make it easier for me to find placements. This would have been far more difficult if those had not already been cultivated. Forcing me to pass a computer skills test ahead of the first class was a net benefit, because I did not pass it the first time and at the graduate level, as an aspiring library media specialist, it was embarrassing to admit I wasn't there with technical competency, but UB provided the tools to get me there and the practice to keep me there. Every professor is highly qualified with real-world experience in the subject they are teaching, and publications to show they pull their academic weight in the field. This is not always true at all colleges or universities, and the difference showed throughout the program. Quality leadership made all the difference when I was enlisted in the Navy, and it makes all the difference in an academic setting as well.

Online, internship, and group assignments

scholarly communications, DEI for LIS, the core classes

There was no thesis or dissertation!!! I'm very glad to have completed a portfolio instead.

time to get everything done

The Music Librarianship courses were both really good, especially the cataloging course, and, since the Music Librarianship component was the reason I selected UB from my asynchronous online accredited program options, I feel like I made the right call on that front.

Flexibility

The theory was instrumental in shaping my understanding of library science, but the classes that I enjoyed the most were the ones that focused on more technical skills. These felt like I was actually learning HOW to do the job, rather than just WHY it's important.

I enjoyed the online asynchronous instruction. Instructors and fellow students have shared with me so many valuable resources, likely more than I would have gathered in this span of time without the program. The program provided me with an opportunity to learn with and from colleagues around the world; I learned a lot from experiences shared in discussion boards and small group projects. Every day, I'm introduced to a new idea or inspired to think of my own and how I can apply this to my current (and future) work in libraries.

Having Dr. White and Belair as professors are an asset to your institution. Please work hard to retain them.

it is great for an online program.

Dr. B is AMAZING. I had other professors who were great as well, but Dr. B really makes the program.

I never had major issues with faculty or the department. I loved that frequent emails about new positions, internships, and webinars were sent directly to us so we could apply or sign up.

freedom of building own program, asynchronous work

The school librarianship program is excellent. Each class provides a variety of ways to apply and express the learning that took place.

It was helpful that many professors taught multiple courses, like Dr. Sun who I was able to have for 3 classes.

The program was mainly taught by current librarians, meaning that they had realistic knowledge and experience and were teaching relevant content and strategies.

The online program was extremely helpful for me to be able to work full time and attend school to achieve my degree.

The collaboration with other classmated

Practical skills

The workload detail and progressivism

the understanding professors. Many still check in and help me outside of the coursework in the real world.

Covered a broad range of relevant topics, and allowed the freedom to follow interests and fill in knowledge gaps.

It was online. I felt that the faculty was knowledgeable. The courses could find into my work schedule and lifestyle I did very well because it was manageable. I felt that the courses gave a student the opportunity to find ones that suit their focus.

Do you have any suggestions for improvement?

Do you have any suggestions for improvement?

- Have 518 be the third required class rather than 508; 508 works bottom up (from theories to their implementation in graphs, diagrams, models, etc., then onto their implementation within the field and how they affect professional practice) while LIS 518 has a more top down (the reverse of what is just listed) approach to a lot of the same theories and models discussed in LIS 508. Loading students with theory without clarifying how it affects practice with concrete examples in their first semester, especially when they may not have any background knowledge of the field, is not a very useful approach, in my opinion.
- I honestly would require more real-time interaction or at least set up the basis for providing greater opportunities for real-time interaction with both students and professors rather than relying on discussion boards; I have strong memories of other students I met with in real-time for group work, I have less-so for those I only interacted with over discussion posts.

I would suggest placing more emphasis on the final portfolio right from the get go. I felt scrambled at the end to get it all together, and I think that the occasional email about it is not enough to get students thinking about it in a timely manner.

I have no suggestions at this time.

If a student does not make it to registration in one day, I wish the one class I had wanted to take could have been offered from another professor in addition to the one professor teaching it. It would have ensured other students who wanted to take the course a way to take it in the same semester. More space!

None.

No. Everything is well planned and taught.

Is there a way to make LIS 518 more applicable to a school library setting? The material focus was for an academic library and a little public library too (not much for school).

Have students present on emerging technology; this both forces them to know what is out there in the world for emerging media specialists. Since many students are already working in the field, they may have practical insights on application and deployment. They may also have recently left public education and be able to comment on effectiveness of new (at the time) technology. My high school was using overhead projectors my senior year, and about 5 smart boards were in classrooms in the entire school.

I know this is not going to be popular with students, but split pedagogy into courses I and II so that professors can go into greater depth about the minutiae of classroom instruction and management. Principals generally don't understand library science at the level of granularity that we do, but they do understand lesson planning and delivery as well as classroom management, all of which feature prominently on tenure track evaluations. This was demonstrated for me when my supervising teacher had her annual evaluation during my second month of student teaching. Afterwards we followed up about what is really being observed, which is fairly exclusively pedagogy not librarianship.

More experience in a classroom. Even though it's not the school MS program, dr Juliens class on instructional literacy made it seem like teaching was still a huge part of the job.

More faculty alignment around course construction?

More courses for public librarians

find a better way to save artifacts for portfolios with a better system

Since the program is so short and each class each of us takes is so potentially impactful, having the right people instructing these courses to ensure that everyone gets the most out of each course as possible is really critical. An emeritus faculty member that refuses to use the course LMS and maintain the format we use in all of our other courses should not be teaching these courses. Retired librarians who have no prior teaching experience or teacher training should not be teaching these courses. One of the things that I found the most helpful in this program was continuity in how the LMS was used across courses; if all faculty were guided to use a similar delivery format, and if they all understand that students get accustomed to that format in the first required core classes they take and that communicating expectations with them will be easier if that format is maintained throughout the progrm, I think there would be fewer issues, for everyone.

It would be nice to have some kind of standard for how professors present which assignments meet which program goals for the portfolio. Some were on syllabus and some were in assignment instructions, made it frustrating to pick my best assignments for the portfolio.

Standardized discussion post parameters would be fantastic. Every professor had different expectations for the discussions, and not all of them were explicit in their syllabus. I also really appreciated the professors that created a dedicated forum for asking questions; that was extremely helpful when I had a little technical question about an assignment. It seems like it would be beneficial for the professor as well, rather than answering the same question 10 times.

A few assignments that I enjoyed include creating a collection management policy, developing sample library programs, practicing reference interviews, practicing search strategies, etc. More information could be provided on learning about, analyzing, and creating library policies (of any kind) or similar practice-based applications. While large discussion boards that included the entire class was nice, it is sometimes overwhelming to browse through all responses (especially with a large class!). I found that working in smaller group discussions provided more opportunity to get to know classmates and discuss topics in-depth.

Please consider the feedback the students provide about professors that are rude and disrespectful towards them; otherwise, one day, someone will sue. [faculty name] is unprofessional.

Provide the option for concentrations for the program, it isn't easy to get the instruction needed for some fields based on the degree currently. If someone were to want to go into archives after this it could be seen as difficult to do so based on what is now available. general librarianship is easily attainable, but I'm not sure what else past that

Better vetting of replacement instructors. I am in a class now that was supposed to be taught by a librarian, but a substitute was brought in just before the semester and she is a horrible instructor. As a result I am not learning from this class.

Some of the courses had an incredibly high workload while others had significantly lower. Perhaps evening out the number of assignments in each course? Some courses were brutal while others were a breeze in terms of the number of larger assignments, projects, or essays. Also it seems there are courses specifically for school librarians, children's librarians, or data librarians, but I didn't see many courses specifically for higher academic librarians. Maybe more courses about library outreach on a college campus or advocating for the library on a college campus.

the availability of classes was always very frustrating, often I did not know whether classes would be offered in the semester I needed them

The research methods class needs a serious overhaul. Not one of my peers had a great experience with that class. For us non-research people it is very very confusing. I did much of the learning outside of the materials provided in the class.

Not at this moment.

[faculty name] forgot to check in with my multiple times, seems confused and forgetful often, and very overwhelmed. Perhaps sharing this responsibility with someone else would be helpful.

It was my fault for not finding it earlier, but making sure beginning students know different paths they can take for directing their learning towards their interests. I had a hard time figuring out what classes to take and what semesters they would be available.

A couple teachers didn't respond with help or were non responsive at all

Methods of research class needs to be taught differently. The information was presented outside of UB Learns, and everything was very chaotic and unpredictable. Everyone I spoke to was terrified of taking that class, felt overwhelmed that semester or felt like this class was not relevant. This needs to be addressed

None

More courses geared towards actual SLMSs. A lot of us went right in to elementary schools and many of the courses were better suited for academic libraries or public it seemed.

One or two of the courses seemed more like undergrad level courses. That being said, students came in at various levels regarding different subject areas, so this might've been appropriate for some.

I felt that the Web Design course crammed a lot into 15 weeks. My son is in IT and could not believe that we had to learn three languages. There needs to be rubrics with all written work and projects. I sometimes felt that I did not know why I got the grade that I did because the feedback was ultra positive. A rubric would have eliminated that gap.

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

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

The internet/word of mouth

Online

I found UB through a list of ALA accredited programs online.

A lot of my colleagues had already attended the program previous to me.

Online.

I was searching for online classes and UB came up in my search.

The program was mentioned at my BOCES.

A I expect many of my students to reply to a similar question I will be asking them, i.e. how did you find out about x, 'I googled it'.

My cousin was in this program years ago, but also just by googling (haha)

colleagues

A coworker

coworkers

I consulted a list of ALA-accredited online asynchronous programs looking for ones that had a Music Librarianship component, and this was one of the few on the list.

Online

I looked for accredited programs in the Northeast.

A colleague I work with attended the program, and the program was one of a few that I had come across during my research.

I became interested in UB when the GRE was removed as a requirement for admission to the school.

online search

Google search of ALA programs

I asked the librarians at my college where I was getting my Bachelor's and working as a library student worker. Most of them had graduated from UB's MLIS program.

google search for low cost / high quality online program

Google.

Through a previous student.

Google - online librarianship programs in NY

I had originally been enrolled in 1996 and came back to finish the program.

My old advisor recommended it

Online research through ALA website

My now fiancee recommended it

Former coworker who was retiring.

List of ALA-accredited programs.

My daughter went to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and did not attend UB because it was not ALA accredited at the time. The two programs were very different. I would have liked more of the courses she took than I took.

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

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

The cost was reasonable for UB and the online, asynchronous program had been set up several years prior to 2020 (which was when I applied) so I knew it wasn't put together in a hurry because of the pandemic and had been around long enough to work out those initial-program kinks. Additionally, I had heard good things from a friend-of-a-friend about the program.

The cost, the reputation, and the asynchronous format.

I wanted to be able to get my degree fully online and UB was one of few schools in my budget that provided that experience.

I liked that UB was close to home for me and that the program allowed me to be able to work full-time and go to school. I also appreciated the affordability of the school and hearing positive things about the program and how professors care about the success of the students.

Because of its prestigious status as a university in the SUNY system and for the fact that it has a well respected MS/LIS program.

It was online and less expensive than other programs and NYS certified.

Reputation and convenience of an online program

While working full time in a school setting, with a young family, I picked UB because it was fully online, because I qualified for in-state rates, and because New York has higher standards for certification than many other places in the country and I believed going to UB would make me more marketable. UB has a good online presence for its School Librarianship program, which drew me to the promotional literature and reviews in the first place.

Close to home, online format was easier with work

quality and cost- a sweet spot!

It was online and reasonably priced compared to others. It is also only an hour away from me, and I wanted to make sure that if I had to come to campus for finals, it would be a reasonable distance.

no traveling

I chose UB because, of the three programs I found that were ALA-accredited, online, asynchronous, and had a Music Librarianship component, only two were still accepting applications for the fall at the time I was looking in the prior summer, and this was the more affordable program of the two.

Did my undergrad at UB/ competed in athletics while finishing school

I had a friend that was enrolled in the School Librarianship program and really liked her professors. It was also the cheapest option of the schools I was considering.

Along with researching cost and program structure/courses, I was seeking an online, mostly asynchronous program in New York that could work with my job schedule.

I became interested in UB when the GRE was removed as a requirement for admission to the school. This played a significant role in my decision. In addition, the school is accredited by ALA.

it was affordable,and provided exactly what I needed at the time

Well ranked; asynchronous classes; cheaper tuition through a SUNY school

It was completely online, which worked for me because I was already working in the library field in a different city. If I hadn't already had a library job I probably would have wanted a brick & mortar program so I could form those connections and network, but because I already had that through my job I felt comfortable doing a completely online program.

Also the program seemed very strong, one of the strongest in NY.

best cost to quality ratio

UB has always been an excellent place of education. It's also located close to me.

I wanted to pursue a degree online and not travel for my master's program so I would have more time for work.

It was a state university (tuition) that offered a fully online program that was still highly rated and accredited.

My mother had been a recent graduate of the MS/MLS program and being in Buffalo as well, I applied.

The program looked well received and instructive

Easy application process, your reasonable requirements for foreign transcripts and proof of English proficiency and the fact that this is a well-ranking school. Asynchronous learning was very important to me, as well.

I grew up hearing about SUNY and hoped to work in NY. Upstate NY doesn't get enough credit.

NYS Tuition options, and great reviews.

Online format, relative affordability, ease of application, and quick acceptance.

Mainly for convenience and I work at another SUNY so I receive tuition credit each semester including summer.

Please provide any additional feedback for us below.

Please provide any additional feedback for us below.

Thank you for everything! <3

None.

N/A

N/A

N/A

I have confidence that my education will help me succeed in my career.

Thank you!

Keep up the good work!

No additional feedback

Thank you all!!

Dr. B. should be the blueprint for professors. She was kind, understanding, aware, humorous, and treated students like equals. I literally mean that there should be a Dr. B. workshop!!

this was a great use of my time honestly, I'm glad it's out the way now. everything was palatable and the teachers were great overall

no additional feedback

No comment

No thank you :)

Thank you! I am so excited to begin the next chapter in my professional LIS career!

Dr. White is an awesome professor; please keep her.

N/A

N/a

I had a very positive experience during my UB program. Even when I had a rough Spring 2020 semester my faculty advisor was very kind and focused on getting me back on track without talking down to me or criticizing me. I never once felt talked down to, and I enjoyed most of my classes. The Plan of Study was a great way to stay organized, and it was nice taking courses with some of the same professors so I could build rapport. If anything, I would ask more fulltime faculty teach to continue building that rapport instead of adjuncts that a student may never have another class with.

frustrated that this survey requires free text responses to every question. sorry not sorry some of them are short and unhelpful I didn't have much to say to those

As an older (38) mom of 2 who also works full time, it can be hard for me to feel "connected" to UB and my classmates. I know there are events (both on and offline) but they can be hard to attend when juggling everything else that life throws.

None.

n/a

I have no additional feedback.

N/A

This is a great program, and I am proud to be an alum

None

I had an amazing experience from financial aid, my advisor, the professors, and am happy to call many colleagues now.

I appreciated that my Canadian transcript was respected; I have had issues with other schools accepting it as it is "international" and this has been very frustrating. I enjoyed the program and felt that most of my instructors were deeply engaged with both the theory and practice of the discipline. I will miss UB.

Check out what other schools are doing.