University at Buffalo | Department of Information Science
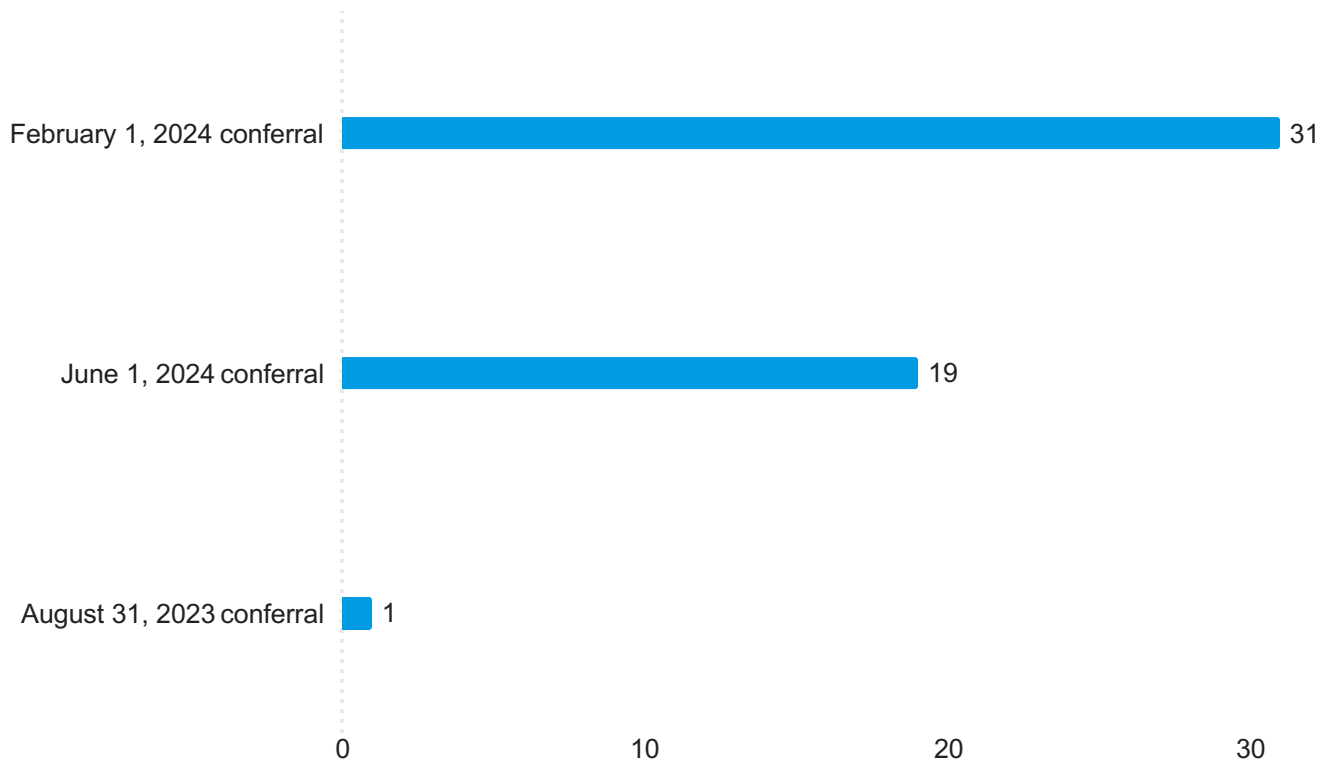
2023-2024 Exit Survey of Recent Graduates

Exit survey results for students graduating in summer, fall 2023, and spring 2024.

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, 2024 conferral	31
June 1, 2024 conferral	19
August 31, 2023 conferral	1

■ Choice Count

Please choose the status that most accurately reflects your situation.
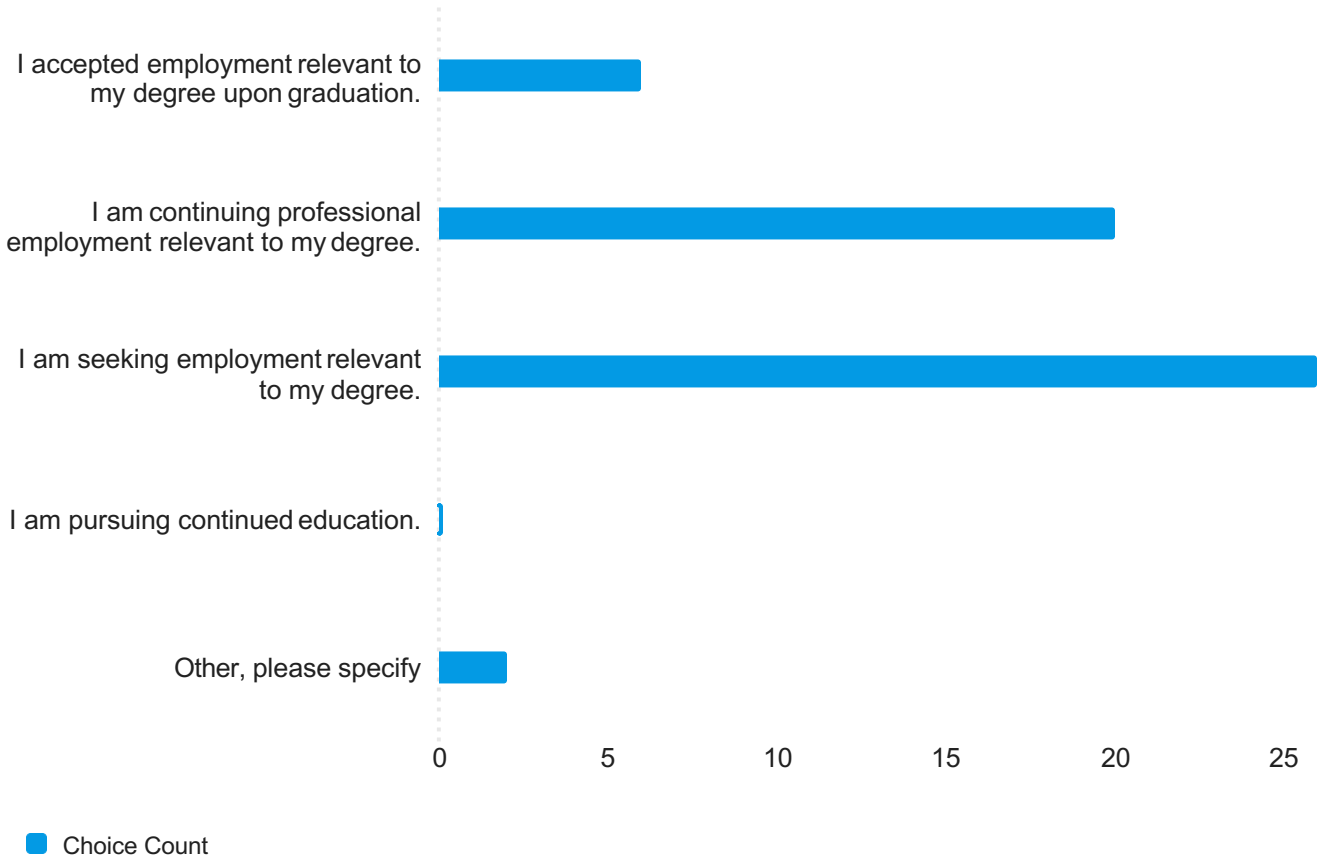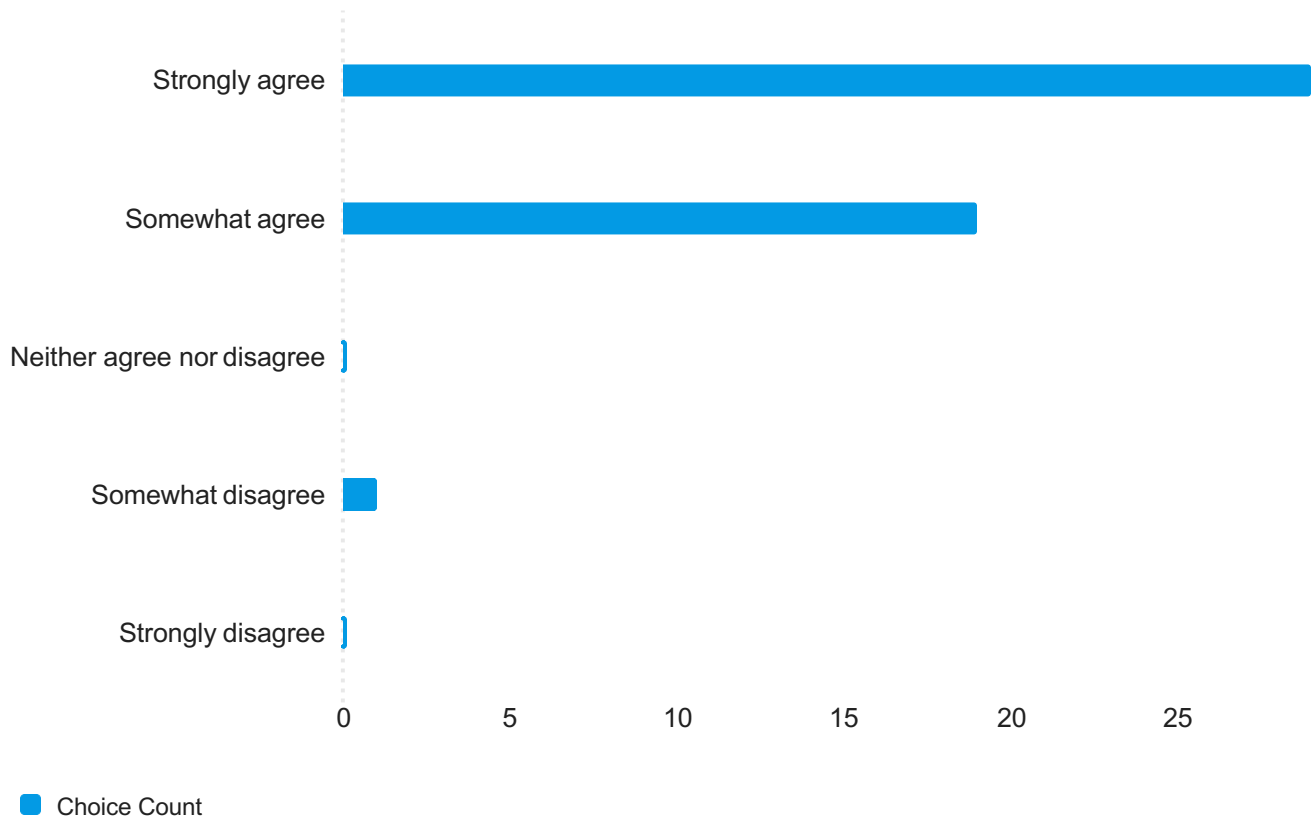

Field	Choice Count	
I accepted new employment relevant to my degree upon graduation.	11.11%	6
I am continuing professional employment relevant to my degree.	37.04%	20
I am seeking employment relevant to my degree.	48.15%	26
I am pursuing continued education.	0.00%	0
Other, please specify	3.70%	2
Total		54

My degree is in the School Librarianship program.
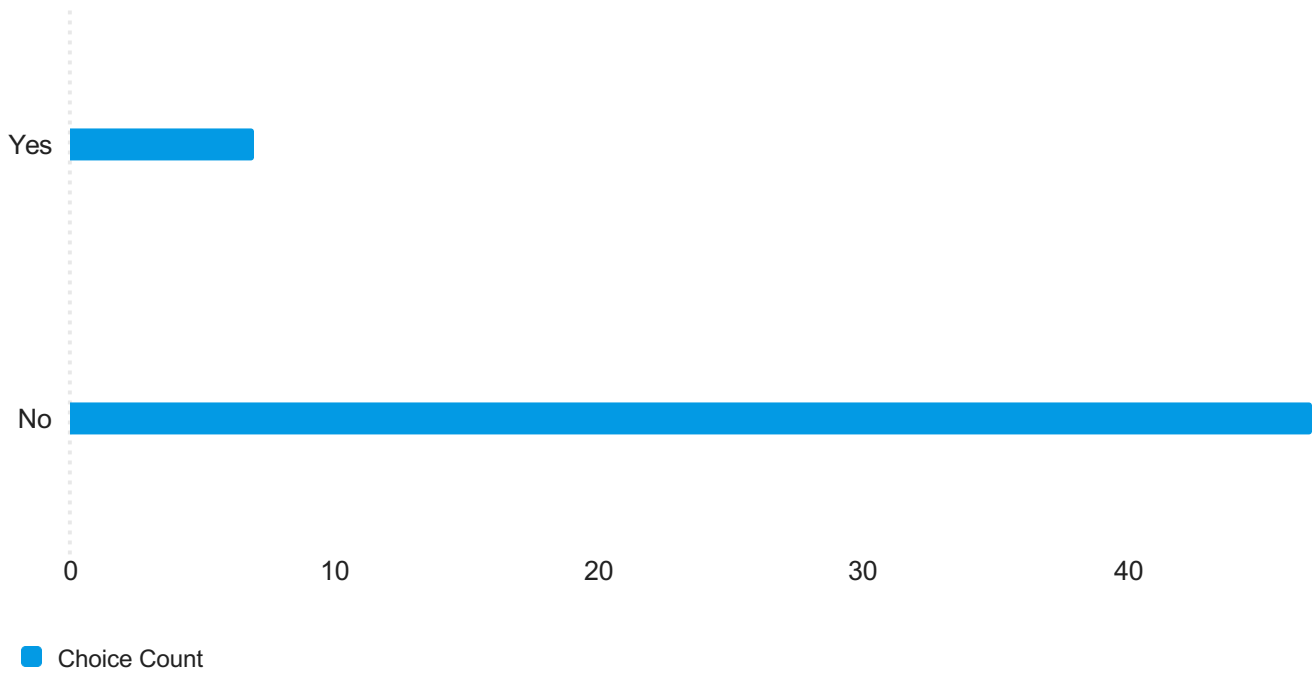
Choice Count

Field		Choice Count
Yes	12.96%	7
No	87.04%	47
Total		54

My interactions with faculty members were generally positive.

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

0   5   10   15   20   25

■ Choice Count

Field		Choice Count
Strongly agree	59.18%	29
Somewhat agree	38.78%	19
Neither agree nor disagree	0.00%	0
Somewhat disagree	2.04%	1
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
Total		49

Please comment on the above question.

Please comment on the above question.

All faculty members that I interacted with were helpful and positive. Dr. B. was especially helpful as both a course professor and as the coordinator for the MS-ILS portfolios.

Every faculty member that I interacted with in this program was very knowledgeable about the topic that they were teaching and responsive to any questions that I had.

I didn't have any interactions that were rude or made me feel like I was a terrible bother, but sometimes I felt my questions weren't addressed or were overly brief.

By and large, UB faculty members were positive and supportive, though some much more than others. Some professors exuded their passion for the subject materials and this was reflected in the quality of the course. Other courses weren't as well crafted but this may not be completely the fault of the faculty.

Dr. B was leaps and bounds the best faculty member to work with throughout this program. I repeatedly made decisions about my coursework based on what she was teaching.

On the other hand, aside from discussing my initial plan of study, a semester break, and submitting my final plan of study, I did not interact much with my advisor, nor did they seek out interaction. While I felt I had a pretty good grasp of what I wanted to study, it was a little disappointing to not have more regular advisement or check-ins.

Dr. B was the best professor in this program. She carried my positive experience through this program.

Most of my professors were really great, knowledgeable, and approachable!

Positive interactions with 1-2 faculty members, most- no interactions, a few- negative interactions

all of the faculty members were great

The MS-ILS graduate program provided an exceptional learning environment, blending theoretical knowledge with practical skills seamlessly. The faculty's expertise and personalized guidance fostered a supportive atmosphere, enhancing both academic and professional growth. Through collaborative projects and access to cutting-edge resources, I gained invaluable insights and confidence to excel in the dynamic field of information and library science.

The majority of interactions I had with faculty were positive. Most faculty members were enthusiastic about the classes they were teaching and encouraged questions and communication.

Faculty members were responsive and fair.

For the most part, my interactions with professors were positive. They were there to help students and responded promptly.

I generally had good rapport and interactions with faculty members

Most professors were easy to communicate with. One professor was terrible at communicating [REDACTED]

Almost every interaction was positive. I had a few instances where I felt communication could have improved and

Professors were very responsive.

some interactions where I felt less supported

Everyone was very kind and always answered any questions I had regarding the department or my classes. During my remote learning they created a welcoming environment.

I can honestly say that all my professors but one were incredible and very supportive. Unfortunately, this one professor nearly drove me out of the program with [THEIR] [COURSE] class, but the encouragement and engagement with my other three professors during my first semester helped immensely. I felt heard when I had concerns, and they did not hesitate to give me resources or follow up in a timely manner. Every single one since that first semester has also been excellent!

I enrolled in 4 classes for 4 consecutive semesters and nearly every semester there were 1 or 2 professors that were unprofessional, insensitive or spiteful, or generally unorganized and chaotic.

Faculty was very helpful. The one exception was the [NAME] who taught my [COURSE] class. [THEY] had an animosity toward [THEIR] students that was unwarranted.

All of the professors that I had interacted with were just so nice but still professional!

Most interactions with faculty were amazing, however those that were not amazing were simply awful, there was no in between.

Had some of the most wonderful professors ever, all staff were fantastic to work with and helped push me to do the best that I could.

Everyone was helpful & considerate.

The responses were timely and detailed. My interactions with the faculty has been positive.

Dr. B., Prof. Elia, Dr. Van Scoy, Prof. Lachman-Feldman, and Dr. Dodson were all great. Highly recommend them as educators, as advisors, and as professionals dedicated to their students' success and the overall development of the LIS profession. I know professors probably don't get enough thanks from their students, so please convey my gratitude to them as I look back on the master's program. Each of them challenged me, encouraged me, and made me a better thinker and student. With their guidance, I found ways to apply what I'd learned in class to my own work in libraries.

The professors were helpful and understanding. I could tell that the professors I interacted with supported their students' growth and educational endeavors. Some professors to note who were exceptional were Dr. White and Professor Belair.

n All profs were polite. Some were amazing and wonderful. A couple have deficient communication skills and one was a ego driven person who convinced me to decide to stop at a masters because I never waned to deal with [THEM] again even though I did very well in [THEIR] and all my classes.

My interactions with faculty members were generally exceptionally positive - the counsel I received was incredibly useful to me professionally.

The faculty in the information science department are wonderful.

All faculty I interacted with were very informative and welcoming.

There was one instructor who had extremely negative interactions with all students, however we were able to discuss this with the Chair and that instructor is no longer at UB.

I had some truly outstanding professors and overall, professors were communicative, open to feedback, quick to answer questions.

All teachers were great.

They have been mostly positive. I did not feel that I connected well with my advisor although I did stay in communication with my advisor. I discovered that I found more support from other professors and even other UB librarians that I worked with. I did make efforts to connect with my advisor but was not getting any helpful input. My advisor also declined to meet with me in person when I requested an in person meeting which is my meeting preference. I believe they were not on campus. I am aware that I could have requested another advisor who would be willing to meet in person but I did want too try someone new since I had already started by degree plan with [NAME] and I found other faculty that gave me good input.

I was impressed with all of the faculty members I had the pleasure of interacting with.

Professors and advisors all responded to me quickly within 2 business days whenever I needed support

All of the professors in the MLIS program are very nice and mostly understanding. I had a few instances where professors did not respond to emails or were very vague and unable to answer questions.

Faculty were always willing to help, and seemed to enjoy being able to talk briefly about the course/assignment/topic for the question

My interactions with department administrative staff were generally positive.
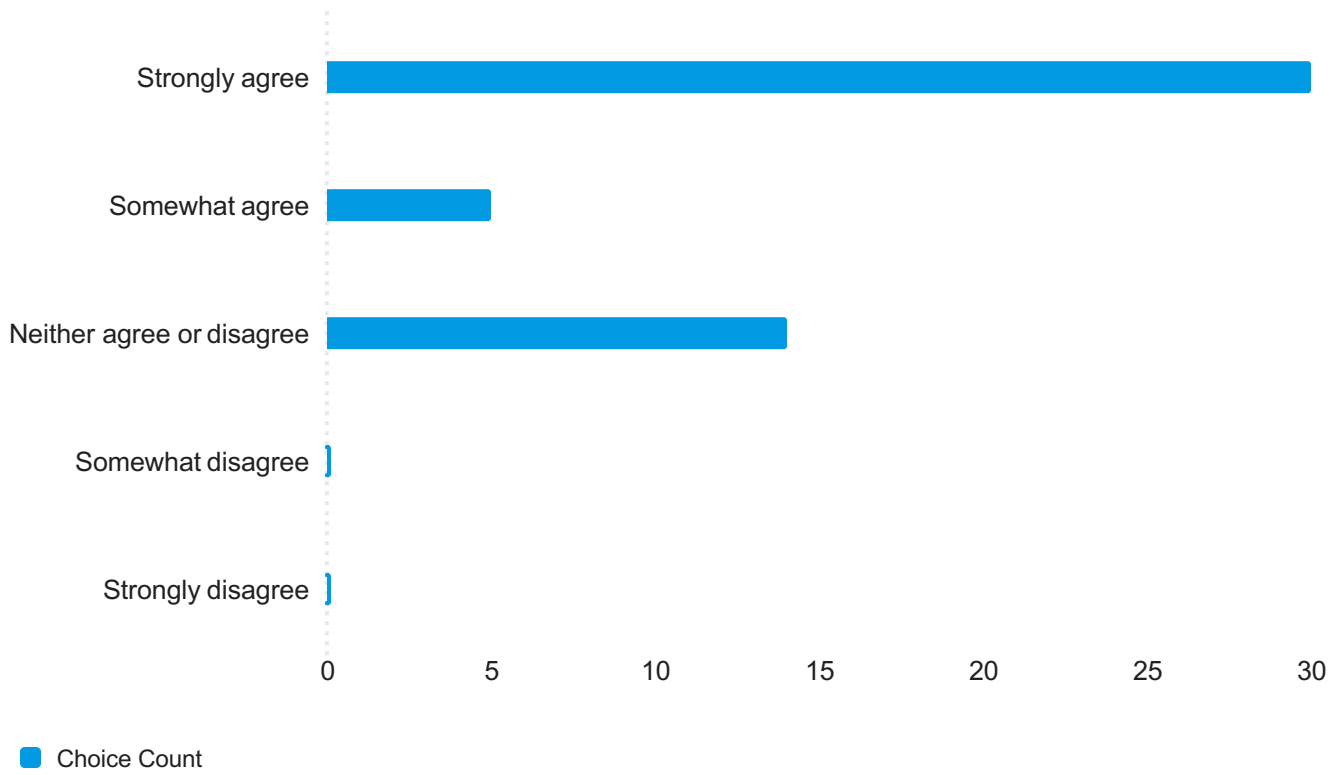
Choice Count

Field		Choice Count
Strongly agree	61.22%	30
Somewhat agree	10.20%	5
Neither agree or disagree	28.57%	14
Somewhat disagree	0.00%	0
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
Total		49

Please comment on the above question.

Please comment on the above question.

The administrative staff were helpful the few times I reached out. I was directed to the appropriate resources when needed.

I cannot recall any negative interactions that I had with department administrative staff.

I can't recall any interactions with department administrative staff.

I did not really interact with administrative staff.

Interactions were minimal.

I didn't interact much, but when it was it was positive.

no interaction beyond receiving emails

na

My interactions with the department administrative staff were positive overall. Building strong rapport with administrative staff can significantly enhanced my experience and support on academic journey. Their professionalism and helpfulness likely contributed to a smoother and more enjoyable experience within the department.

I can't think of a time where I interacted with department administrative staff, so I don't have any experiences to rate.

Had no interaction

My interaction with department administrative staff were limited but they were great.

I found my interactions with department administrative staff were generally positive.

I haven't had any problems with the administration.

I did not have interaction with administrative staff.

I don't recall any interaction with them.

N/A

Administrative staff members were knowledgeable and helpful.

All advisors and faculty were very professional and supportive through the semester and very accommodating to ensure success and support for students.

Yes, although they were few and far between, all my interactions with administrative staff were positive.

All staff that I interacted with were very helpful.

The administrative staff always responded promptly when I reached out.

I generally had positive experiences with administrative staff.

I never needed to contact admin staff.

Positive interaction before start of program

All interactions were positive

Any questions I ever had were answered well, and the staff was also very kind during our interactions.

Whenever I had questions that were not related to courses directly, I have been pleased with my interactions with UB staff, especially with their kindness and professionalism.

I did not have to interact with administrative staff during my time in this program.

I didn't have much reason to fully communicate with admin staff but I had no negative interactions with the department

I'm not sure I ever interacted with admin.

Staff assisted me multiple times and did their job quickly and well.

all staff were nice

Everyone was helpful & considerate.

Mary Jo is very helpful. She is kind and supportive.

I didn't have too much contact with the admin staff, but they were very helpful. This was an online program and having people who were quick to reply and helping in explaining some of the onboarding made everything run smoothly. Thanks!

I did not have many interactions with administrative staff but the responses to questions I sent via email throughout the program were responded to in a helpful and timely manner.

I had nothing to do with them.

I have no comment to make about department administrative staff due to an absence of familiarity.

Administrative staff helped me resolve issues regarding NYS residency.

No interaction with administrative staff

I don't believe I ever interacted with them.

Everyone was always so kind in their communications. I'm sure they get zillions of repeated questions but I was never made to feel like I was inconveniencing someone when asking a question.

Never had an issue

I have only interacted with the admin staff when I enrolled in the program and that was great. I would have like if there was a mandatory orientation session that was hybrid in person and on zoom. I would have like that better than the self-pace orientation that was in UB learns.

I did not communicate with administrative staff that often, but when I did it went well.

I received helpful responses from the department staff when requested

I had little interaction with the department administrative staff. All were helpful.

Admin didn't seem very interested, but I also didn't end up reaching out to anyone in this area very often. It didn't feel necessary

My interactions with the Department Chair were generally positive.
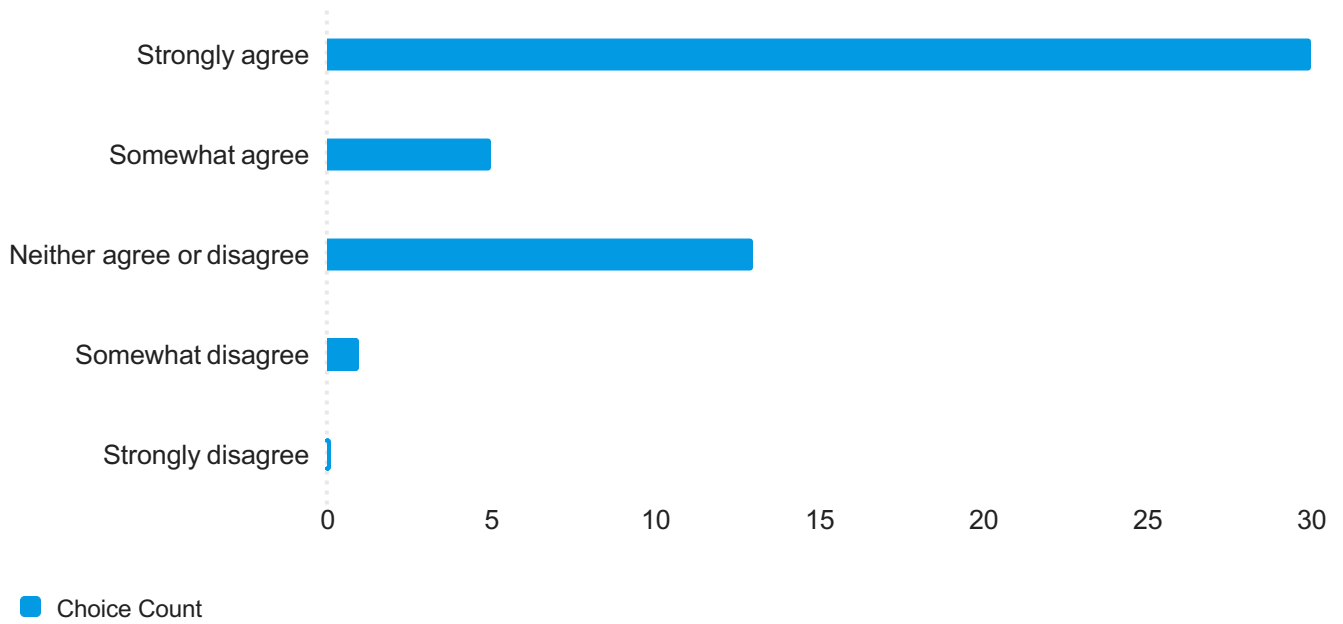
Strongly agree
Somewhat agree
Neither agree or disagree
Somewhat disagree
Strongly disagree

0   5   10   15   20   25   30

■ Choice Count

Field	Choice Count	
Strongly agree	61.22%	30
Somewhat agree	10.20%	5
Neither agree or disagree	26.53%	13
Somewhat disagree	2.04%	1
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
Total		49

Please comment on the above question.

Please comment on the above question.

Dr. Albertson was approachable and helpful. I especially appreciate that he volunteered his time for the IS-GSA Chat with the Chair events. These events allowed Dr. Albertson to answer important questions about the department for students.

Dr. Albertson is very responsive to any questions or concerns that students have.

n/a

I did not directly interact with the Department Chair.

Interactions were minimal.

I didn't interact with the Department Chair much beyond my new student orientation.

little interaction

na

Yes, the department chair was always professional and supportive

I had little to no interactions, so I can't really say if they were positive or negative.

Dr. Albertson listened and addressed a concern I had. I felt that he genuinely cared and helped with a favorable outcome.

The Department Chair was supportive and approachable.

I found my interactions with the Department Chair were generally positive.

I have not had any interactions with the department chair.

I never had interactions with the department chair.

never had interactions with the department chair

The department chair was very kind and helpful.

I do not remember any direct interactions with the department chair.

Didn't have much one on one interaction with department chair

I had very little contact with the department chair. I had no issues which required escalation to the chair but knew from other student's experiences that he was open to discussion and available if needed.

I didn't really interact with the department chair except for when he was my instructor for LIS 575.

The Department Chair was very prompt in responding to my emails. He always did his best to resolve the situation.

I generally had positive interactions with the department chair.

I had no issues with them.

Did not have a chance to interact with Department CHair

To be honest, the chair was not my favorite professor. I felt very confused following and not supported with several interactions with the chair.

My interactions were always positive during the program.

Though I did not take any courses with Dr. Albertson, I felt comfortable approaching him with the concerns that I had with the one professor. He encouraged me to reach out again if I had other concerns, and I thankfully did not have any others after my first semester. I felt that I could contact him if I did need to.

The Department Chair met with a group of us to discuss issues that we were having with a professor when he did not have to. I appreciated the attention during the semester and the time it took for him to have a Zoom meeting with us.

I only directly communicated with the chair once but it was a positive and efficient experience.

I'm not sure I ever directly interacted with the department chair, but I believe he made himself available for at least one Q&A for the grad students so that seemed really nice and generous of him!

Don't remember interacting

very kind during any interactions.

Everyone was helpful & considerate.

Dan was always willing to provide support and assistance when needed. He was friendly and generous.

The only contact I had with the department chair were reading his emails, but I appreciated the information he shared and found it useful guidance in conjunction with that provided by my own advisor.

The department chair connected with/interacted with students often and made us feel welcome in the program.

He seems to have zero understanding of my sub-field but he is a nice man and Tries hard & means well.

My interactions with the Department Chair were also exceptionally helpful in those few situations where discussion was necessary.

Had few interactions with the Department Chair.

No interaction with Department Chair

Department Chair is very personable, responds quickly, and cares about listening to students.

My only interactions with the Chair were in his capacity as an instructor for a course I took. He was wonderful in that capacity. As Chair, I do appreciate his regular emails but did not have many interactions with him beyond that.

No interaction with him

Emails from the Department Chair were informative and I felt like the Department Chair was always approachable.

The Dept. Chair was always quick and responsive to my communications and thoughtful with regard to my needs.

I attended a zoom chat with the chair and he was patient with students and answered inquiries with respect.

My interactions with the Department Chair were positive.

Did not have any interactions with the dept head

My interactions with my fellow students were generally positive.

Strongly agree		
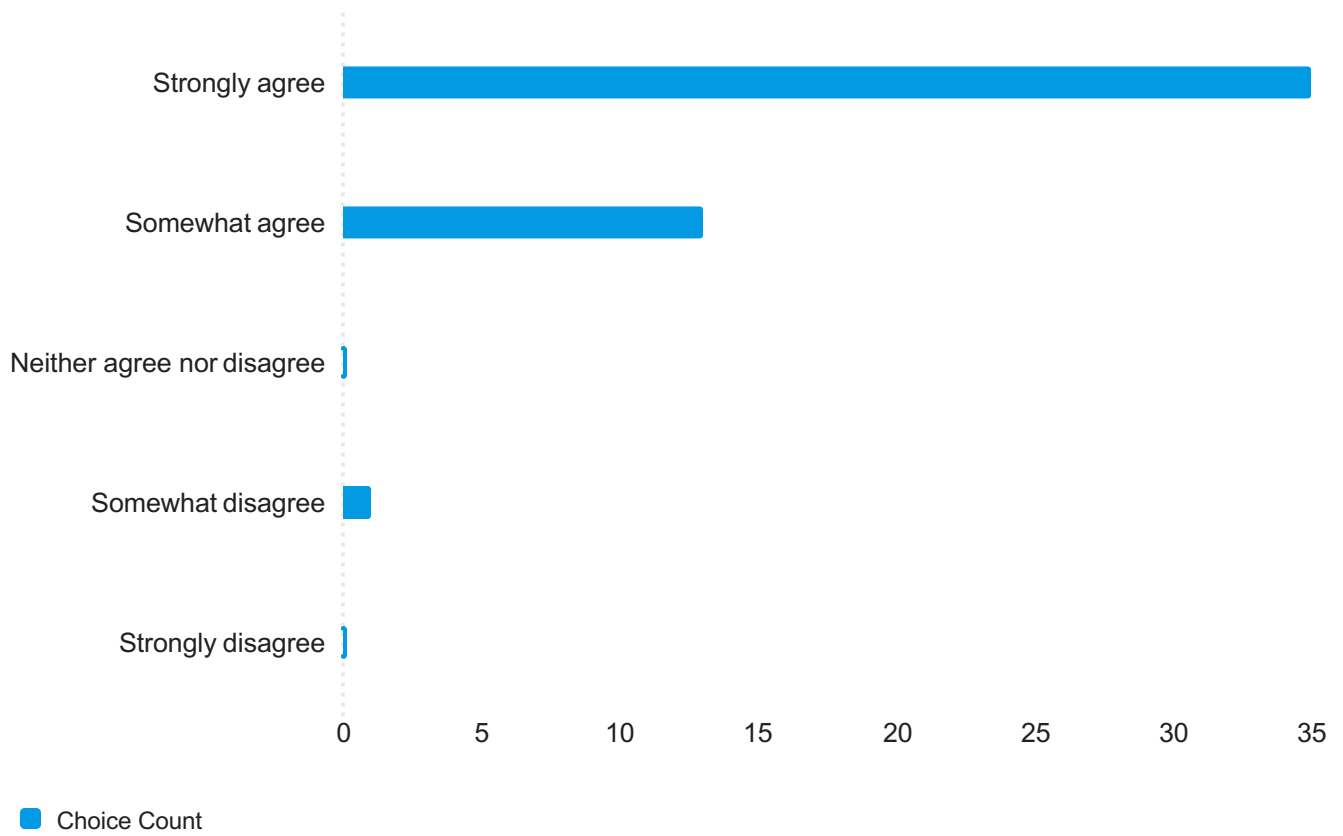
Choice Count

Field	Choice Count	
Strongly agree	71.43%	35
Somewhat agree	26.53%	13
Neither agree nor disagree	0.00%	0
Somewhat disagree	2.04%	1
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
Total		49

Please comment on the above question.

Please comment on the above question.

Students in all of my LIS courses were friendly. Though the program is all online, I felt that students went out of their way to create community with each other on course discussion boards.

I greatly value the conversations that I have had with other students in my courses in my program, and these students have had an impact on my development as an information professional.

I didn't have a lot of non-superficial interactions with fellow students. When I did, it was mostly in the form of group work/projects, and these were by-and-large very irritating due to people having poor communication skills and timeliness.

The students, by and large, were very pleasant to work with throughout this program. Though it did seem somewhat obvious that not all students were as prepared for a graduate program, all of my interactions with students in class discussions and in group projects were mostly positive.

The collaborative Discord chat for the department was helpful.

Most of my classmates were really nice to learn and collaborate with.

most classmate interactions were positive

na

I greatly appreciate my experience with my coursemates

Over the many courses I have taken in this program, most (if not all) of my experiences with my peers have been excellent. Group projects, discussion boards, and study groups have all been professional and positive.

My interactions with students showed care and support for each other

Most of my fellow students were a pleasure to learn and work with.

I found my interactions with my fellow students were generally positive.

The other students were all kind and accepting.

My fellow students are what kept be going many times throughout this degree. When something wasn't clear and a professor wasn't helpful, we often turn to each other to get the job done. I have made many friendships within this degree program.

n/a

I communicated with many students through the IS-GSA discord server, and I had very positive experiences talking to them.

My fellow students were friendly and approachable as well as great sources of information.

Students were pleasant

Yes, other students in the program were great! The discord server and the community there was especially supportive.

Everyone was great to work with.

Everyone was kind for the most part in the class discussion boards and on the school discord.

Generally everyone in the program was really nice and completed their work in a timely and professional manner.

I had a lot of great experiences with students. I did have some frustrations with group project members.

Fellow students were pleasant and supportive

I rarely, almost never, had negative peer interactions

My interactions with fellow students was always fun and encouraging. Everyone was very kind and I'm glad I was able to be in this program with them. I think we learned a lot from each other and through our classes.

I felt that I was able to get to know many of them people in the program, and many of us stayed in touch with each other after group work. I think that having so many places to "meet" on Discord helped, and I would call many of my wonderful classmates and future colleagues my friends. Truly a wonderful community!

Most students in this program have been kind and supportive. Most issues seemed to stem from personality differences.

My costudents were generally great

I don't think I ever had a bad interaction with my fellow students?

Most students were very friendly, those that were not overly so were still always courteous. No bad interactions

never had a negative interaction, everyone was wonderful and supportive of one another.

Everyone was helpful & considerate.

I had positive experiences in regard to interacting with fellow students on UB learns.

My fellow students did an amazing job creating a truly communal online experience. I don't know if it's just something inherent in the types of people who want to work & study in the LIS field, but they were all dedicated to supporting each other, sharing information, and creating community. I look forward to maintaining these connections in my professional career and to celebrating their successes!

My fellow students were helpful and fun to talk to on Discord throughout the program. I plan on staying in touch with many of them as colleagues/connections.

I was surprised by some lack of rigor, but almost everyone was someone I found to be a good team member or had interesting perspectives, etc. Collectively they enhanced my educational experience.

My graduate colleagues were genuinely delightful to interact with.

The interactions with my fellow students were really wonderful -- I felt a sense of community despite being fully remote.

Fellow students were professional and accepting.

There will always be people you don't vibe with but for the most part I was able to avoid them, also made a lot of great friends.

Fellow students were generally kind and respectful. I had one instance in a group project where we had a problem with a group member but it wasn't anything they said/did, they just fully stopped communicating.

Loved my classmates

I made a lot of friends, some that I even got to meet in person.

My classmates were pleasant and thoughtful, though I do very few of them stick out in my memory. I suppose that's part of the downside of doing an online-only program.

I had wonderful learning experiences with peers and that was supported by the GSA discord since it gave us quicker access to each other

Students in the MLIS program are supportive of one another and work well together as team.

Students generally had a very positive attitude and were always willing to help each other

The quality of instruction in my program was excellent.
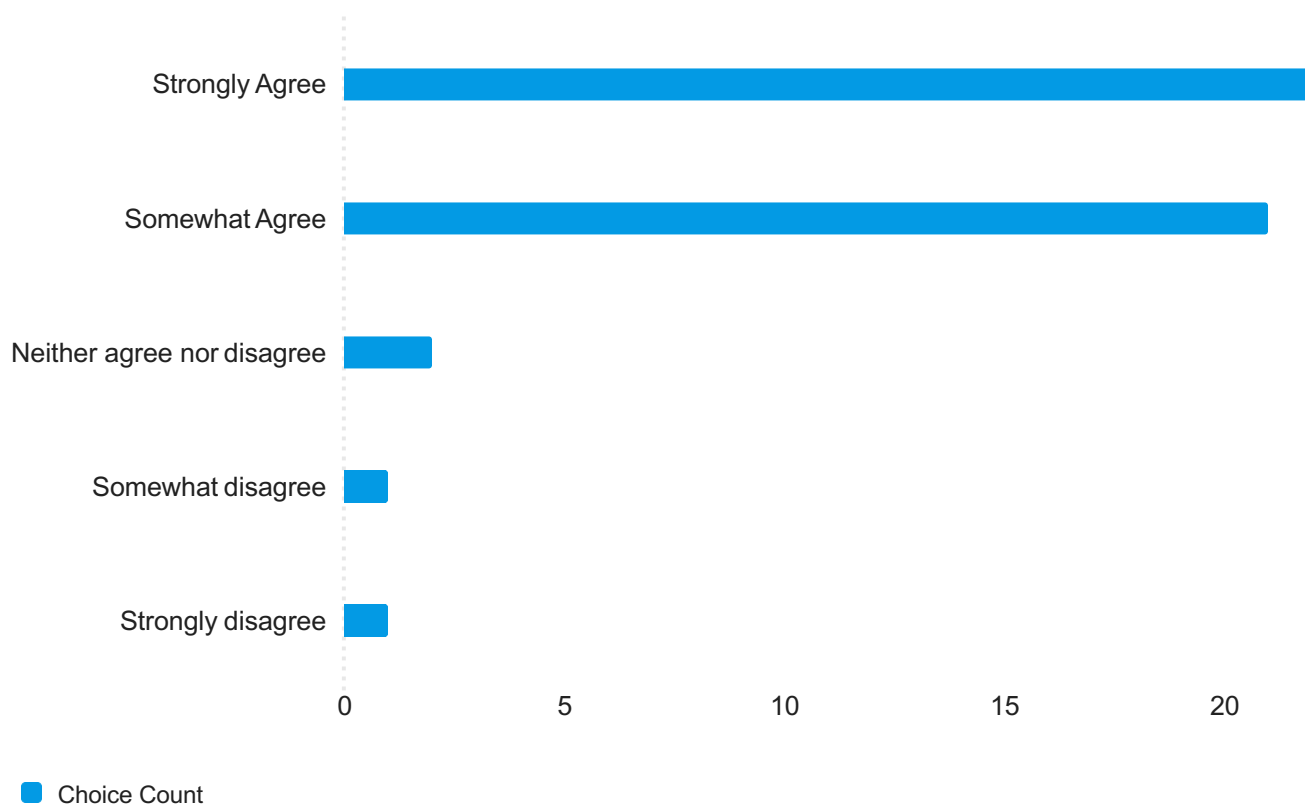
■ Choice Count

Field		Choice Count
Strongly Agree	46.81%	22
Somewhat Agree	44.68%	21
Neither agree nor disagree	4.26%	2
Somewhat disagree	2.13%	1
Strongly disagree	2.13%	1
Total		47

Please comment on the above question.

Please comment on the above question.

The quality of instruction varied widely from course to course. From my perspective, particularly effective instructors included Dr. B., Dr. Perrault, and Dr. Dodson. Lectures from these professors were clear and easy to keep up with. These professors were also very approachable and responded quickly to students' questions. Quality of instruction was poor in my opinion in courses taught by [NAME] and [NAME]. While these instructors were friendly, their course content was unclear at times. Additionally, they unfortunately did not communicate well with students.

Every professor that I had seemed very knowledgeable about the topic that they were teaching and presented it in a way from which I could learn.

I had maybe one or two professors who did not give quality instruction; one class was almost entirely self taught and extremely challenging; others weren't that bad but they'd have something like really unclear instructions or missing readings/assignment submission areas. Part of this I attribute to the transition to Brightspace over Blackboard.

It depended strongly on the professor. All courses taken with Dr. B were excellent, well-prepared, and well-thought-out. Some professors did not seem to know the difference between basic or advanced level courses - they either felt too complex for an "intro" course or too simple for a "basics" course. For example, Intro to [COURSE] would have been better suited to students who already had a strong understanding of [TOPIC] and not someone who was looking to get an introduction to the material. Similarly, [COURSE] was almost too common-sensical and felt too simple for a graduate-level course.

Additionally, as a non-librarian-focused person in this program, I greatly appreciated those professors who were able to demonstrate why the course material was applicable outside of libraries and would support term projects that were outside of the library realm. Not all professors did this well, however, and those courses we were either left to fend for ourselves to seek relevance or just imagine ourselves in a library setting.

Dr. Brenda Battleson White's instruction carried this program for me. Without her classes I would disagree, as other classes lacked quality information and instruction.

I liked that my program was full of very practical knowledge and skills.

certain professors- excellent
others- fair to unacceptable

na

I found the quality of instruction in UB LIS program to be excellent. High-quality instruction is crucial for fostering a stimulating learning environment and ensuring students receive valuable knowledge and skills. Their positive attitude and consideration experience reflects the dedication and expertise of the faculty, enriching my educational journey.

I think that there are many strong professors in the program, and there are some who are on the other end of the spectrum.
Two professors that have left a lasting positive impact on my education are: Dr. John Strong, and Marie Elia. The effort and passion that they put into their courses made the learning process fun and positive. If all professors followed their lead, this program would have been an incredible learning experience.

Almost all the instructors created coursework that helped me retain the material and apply it.

Most courses were taught well.

no comments

[COURSE]- had way too much information and only glossed over things. Was far from what I expected this class to be. It felt like Having a job 101, not a masters level [COURSE] class. [COURSE]- I felt like I was teaching myself everything. The professor was not very involved.

The overarching theme of instruction within this department is academic and research based. For those of us on public library tracks, most of what we learn that is of use is in our day-to-day jobs. The degree is just a piece of paper that we have to obtain to further our careers. There isn't much within the instruction that I found useful.

I think there could be more practical classes like maybe something on classification. I noticed other programs have classes like this.

I think most of my classes were great, but not all of them felt geared toward helping me build a career in librarianship.

Well organized and program goals always clearly highlighted. However the brightside transition was very very very frustrating to work around both for faculty and students.

I learned a lot from my instructors who were professional, expert, and generous with their time and knowledge.

Depends on the class. Some were most rigorous than others.

Instruction methods varied across classes. I learned more in the classes that had some type of lecture/presentation component as opposed to those that just assigned readings as instruction.

Most of the instruction was positive. A few times I experienced issues with unclear expectations and a lack of feedback from professors.

Classes were stimulating and interesting

I felt that I understood the general purpose of each class within the context of the field and the degree/program. The classes made me think, reflect, and learn best practices for many differing scenarios.

Instruction was always organized well. I was always able to understand instructions clearly without asking for clarification. These are some of the best organized remote classes I have taken.

For the most part, yes, the quality was excellent. I'm fact, I would give very highest marks for everything I've taken except LIS 575. I had such hopes for that class because I have a research background, but I was utterly disappointed with both the course material and the way it was taught.

I "somewhat agree" with the above statement because I felt that sometimes instruction was way above the expectations for an "introduction to.." course while other courses felt like all I had to do was check off a box and receive an A.

I've worked in libraries for years and for the most part, the instruction did help give context to the work I had been doing and other duties I had yet to do directly. However, there was a palatable divide between theory and practical. I more appreciated classes that had us learn/create things other than papers.

Sometimes the professors were a little too hands-off in their approach to teaching.

Except for a few courses that were lackluster, the majority were well done and useful.

understood everything I learned easily, was able to comprehend every professors different ways of teaching

Professors & content was excellent.

I am a confident school librarian now, because I have the knowledge and knowing that I will have support from some of the faculty when needed.

Highly agree. I had two professors who weren't the best, but 2 classes out of all is fantastic. I appreciate how each brought their passions to their topics and found ways to encourage their students.

The instruction was challenging at times but I found that I learned a lot in this program. My one concern would be or classes to be more streamlined between professors. I often found that despite being in the same class, fellow students would often have entirely different assignments, goals, and experiences due to differences in professors and their curriculums.

some profs were amazing. Two had significant problems vvith speaking clearly. One clearly recycles ancient prep but grades generously so probably gets Ok reviews.. There is mis representation about the offered classes. Getting into useful or applicable classes can be o challenge.

The quality of instruction for the program was generally very good.

The quality of instruction in the information science program was excellent -- I felt I received a well-rounded education from experts that has prepared me well for my current (still relatively new) full-time job at a university library.

Very excellent

The core classes have a lot of readings about theory and seem especially irrelevant to beginning students, most of whom are doing this program because they want to work in libraries, not because they want to research information behavior. There were a lot of classes I passed up because their descriptions were written in a very vague way that might have prepared me for practical library work. A lot of classes felt very redundant and a longer add/drop period would have helped me find classes that were a better fit. The children's services classes focused too much on school libraries, they should be balanced with public and academic libraries and be about more than reading books, although I did appreciate the reading. Overall I wish there were more practical classes about how to work in a library.

There was some repetitiveness between courses, especially if it were the same professor teaching both courses.

Great quality

The instruction was great. Expect for one course I had resigned from with Dr. [NAME], it was only the professors structure that made it hard for me and the professor did not use the UB learns platform.

I found all my instruction relevant and up-to-date.

Some courses could have been improved like programming

The content could be confusing at times or poorly worded. Clarification would be necessary but it would help.

I feel many of the classes have already helped me in my workplace

I received useful information from my faculty advisor.
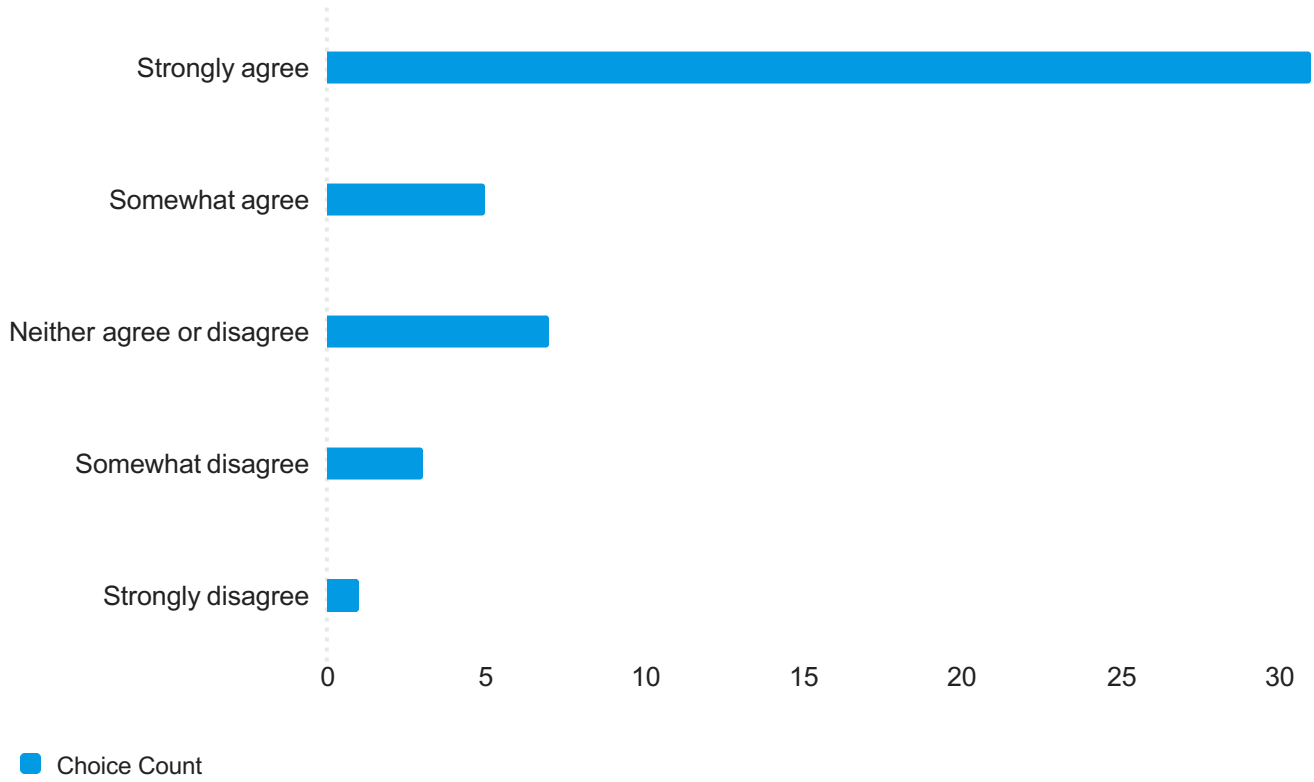
Choice Count

Field		Choice Count
Strongly agree	66%	31
Somewhat agree	11%	5
Neither agree or disagree	15%	7
Somewhat disagree	6%	3
Strongly disagree	2%	1
Total		47

Please comment on the above question.

Please comment on the above question.

My faculty advisor, Dr. B., was extremely helpful throughout my time in the program. Dr. B. always responded quickly to my advisee questions with the information I needed. Because of Dr. B.'s knowledge and assistance, I was never confused about which courses I should take or how to fulfill program requirements like the portfolio.

Dr. Sun always answered any questions that I had.

My advisor never reached out to me, I would have to ask them for advice on decisions relating to class choices, but the advice always felt very impersonal and short and the answers they gave could've been provided by anyone else. I didn't really feel like I had a relationship with my advisor at all.

Again, I only discussed my initial plan of study which offered some mild guidance but nothing more.

Minimal interaction. Advised me to take less classes which was unnecessary.

She helped to make sure I got my credits distributed in the right areas.

my advisor was very confusing and unapproachable. I never had face-to-face interaction with an advisor

na

I found the quality of instruction in UB LIS program to be excellent. High-quality instruction is crucial for fostering a stimulating learning environment and ensuring students receive valuable knowledge and skills. Their positive attitude and consideration experience reflects the dedication and expertise of the faculty, enriching my educational journey.

My advisor provided little to no advising. I feel that I was left to fend for myself for most of the planning and scheduling. Overall, this was not an issue, but I was enrolled in a course at the end of my studies that I did not need to be, and it would have been nice to have not wasted the time and money (and stress) of figuring that out on my own.
Additionally, early on (and continuously) more emphasis could have been placed on saving work products for the graduation portfolio. It is a crucial piece of this program's requirements, and that was not nearly clear enough throughout the process.

Did not have much interaction outside of signing updated plan of study.

My faculty advisor was a wonderful resource and made my educational program more valuable.

no comments

Dr. B has been amazing and answered every question I've had quickly.

My faculty advisor was wonderful and one of the most helpful faculty members within the department. She was always easy to contact, answered questions and assisted me through a special project.

n/a

I hardly spoke to my advisor besides when I took one of [THEIR] classes. I mainly needed [THEM] to sign off on my Plan of Study, but I found [THEM] very difficult to reach.

She has been supportive and available and informative the entire way starting from the beginning

Mary Jo is awesome!

N/A

I always received useful information from my advisor.

My advisor was helpful.

Dr. B was very helpful, always answered my questions and very supportive.

My advisor always responded to my questions in a timely manner

My faculty advisor always responded to my emails quickly, and answered my questions well. I appreciated her responses and input.

Dr. Sun was an excellent advisor. She answered all my questions promptly and gave me thoughtful advice on courses to take after my first semester.

I did not interact with my advisor outside of asking her to sign my plan of study. After a semester or two, I realized that there was a professor better suited to be my advisor and I do wish that I had attempted to switch to her.

Dr. B was great with me.

Dr. Julien was great!

Dr. B is a gem, absolutely amazing, don't let her go anywhere else

slight change halfway through, all interactions were good

Very helpful answering questions.

I always feel supported and valued.

Dr. B. is amazing. Every grad student should have a knowledgeable, compassionate advisor like her.

My faculty advisor kept me updated and assisted with course selection.

Once I had an advisor that actually cared and wanted to help me succeed in the program and the profession (was my 3rd!), it was an amazing and wonderful experience.

My faculty advisor was often of great help in clarifying issues, but could at times be conspicuously unforthcoming about important key deadlines in retrospect.

My faculty advisor, Dr. Brenda White, was absolutely fantastic. I consulted her many times over the course of my degree with quite elaborate questions/problems and she helped me a great deal. I found that she went above and beyond for me to ensure that I got the most of out of the MS-LIS program.

Faculty advisor was excellent

My advisor was great.

My advisor was always helpful in answering questions and providing clarification of requirements so I could stay on track.

MaryJo was my lifeline

The info I got was vague and basic. I commented about this in the first question.

My advisor is a saint. She is the reason why I persisted in the program and am now graduating. I cannot praise her enough.

Dr. Julien was great and guided me effectively

My advisor professor Dodson was exceptional and always willing to help me in a timely manner. He helped me find courses relevant to my specific degree path and was always able to explain answers to my questions in great detail.

I barely ever emailed him, so hard to say how helpful it really was

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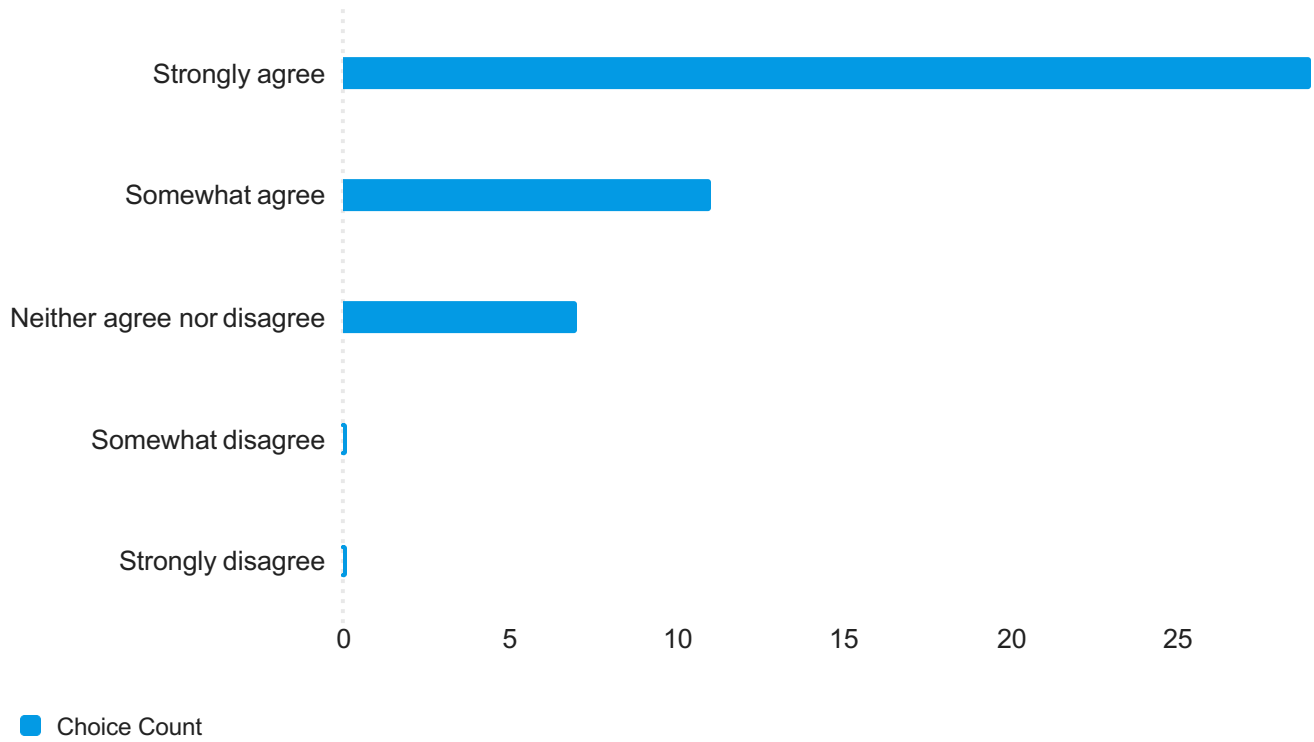
Choice Count

Field		Choice Count
Strongly agree	61.70%	29
Somewhat agree	23.40%	11
Neither agree nor disagree	14.89%	7
Somewhat disagree	0.00%	0
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
Total		47

19 - Please comment on the above question.

Please comment on the above question.

Because I took a few cataloging courses, access to RDA Toolkit, Koha, Classification Web, and OCLC WorldShare were very useful in supporting my learning. Cataloging requires hands-on practice to learn, so having experience using this software was important.

I used specialized library software and other technologies as part of several courses and, as a result, received hands on experience using these technologies.

Additional software relating to specialized tasks in classes were provided by teachers with clear instructions for download and use, without presumption of a certain technological skill level.

The UB Library website and all of its services were GREATLY appreciated. I used the delivery+ service more than once and all of the other tools were very supportive.

Software or software recommendations were provided when needed.

I didn't need it to a huge degree, but I did have some access when I needed it.

I had access to software, but I did not receive adequate IT support when I sought it. Professor was unavailable, UB IT said they could not help me because it was not UB software (software was Python).

na

Yes

Software accessibility was adequate

All software that was needed for the courses was accessible and useful.

no comments

I could have used access to a screen recorder for STEM librarianship.

n/a

N/A

International program done online

Yes.

N/A

I had to use a remote desktop a few times to complete assignments but once I learned how to do it the technology was always available.

I had no issues with technology access.

I was able to download or access what I needed

I don't know that I had access to anything that students in other programs didn't but the technology I could access was helpful

It was always available as an option, my instructors were always very detailed on how to use any programs for our classes too.

I never had any issues with any software or technology.

Access to Archivespace was great. Access to the ILS was appreciated although I use one at work. I imagine for people who never worked in a library it was even more useful. There's always the issue of software only for training

I think I only had one course that needed something specific for one assignment.

knew what was available to me and how to use it. very easy to navigate

UB libraries & databases were invaluable.

UBIT is good. I can find resources I need in UB library when needed.

I had opportunities to use specialized software in several classes, including ArchivesSpace, wikis, XML, and more in addition to the usual software from MS Office and Blackboard/Brightspace. Not necessarily related, but I miss the layout and interface of Blackboard; Brightspace isn't the best.

I was given access to library websites such as ArchivesSpace when appropriate for classes and had access to necessary technology

Covid messed up a lot. Some was promised but not delivered timely. All in all it was fine & good enough.

In any instance where specialized library software was required, it was provided and its proper use explained sufficiently.

Strongly agree.

No need to access library equipment but it was made clear with each class that this equipment was available.

They tried, but there are many things that just aren't open to students, like the various management systems used by different libraries and library vendor sites. I think I used something for cataloging in 507 where the professor gave us a special login but I don't remember anything about it.

Everything required for coursework was provided.

Used so much technology for this degree

This was great and I rarely ever had to buy books which was even more great.

This is a true statement.

I had access to appropriate specialized library software.

My laptop could handle all the software necessary for the program

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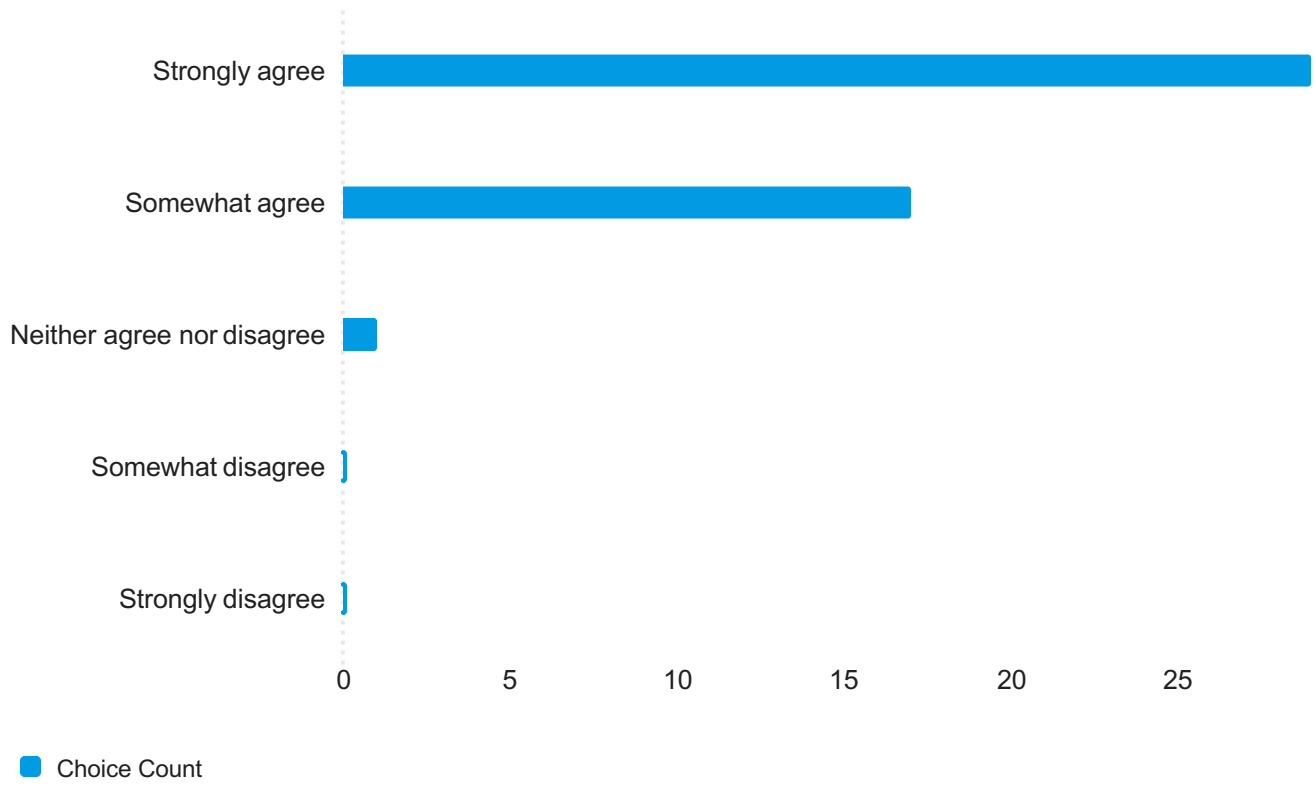
■ Choice Count

Field	Choice Count	
Strongly agree	62%	29
Somewhat agree	36%	17
Neither agree nor disagree	2%	1
Somewhat disagree	0%	0
Strongly disagree	0%	0
Total		47

Please comment on the above question.

Please comment on the above question.

I feel confident that I am prepared to enter a career as an academic librarian. I want to specialize in cataloging, and I feel that I am capable of working as a cataloger. While I probably did not learn everything I could in my cataloging courses, I am confident that I can learn what I need to with job training and experience.

I feel like I have gained both the theoretical knowledge and practical skills from my program that will help me be successful in my chosen field.

I feel like there is a lot I don't know how to do, but at the same time I think I have the foundation to easily learn specialized tasks. It is hard to say I feel prepared without any other professional experience.

I'm already working within this field and hoped to gain some additional educational support to bolster my own knowledge. I would say that I did gain some things but not nearly as much as I had hoped I would get. I would have loved to see a course or courses that focused on corporate librarianship and/or knowledge management.

I am prepared more-so because of my current career and background and not because of this program. This program could have more relevant courses to prepare students for the workforce.

I think most of what I learned are skills I can use right away.

Fairly strong academic background, less professional experience

na

I feel very confident entering the workforce

I think that there could be more help, maybe through advisement, with selecting a field or specialization to focus coursework on. As it stands, I feel that I have a course or two in different fields of study, but not enough of any to really prepare me for work in any of the fields. The school librarianship coursework did not prepare me for what work as a high school librarian is really like, in hindsight it seems as though most of what I learned was how to book talk (and even this is not really how it is done in a school) and read books.

My current library promoted me in preparation for finishing the program.

I am already working in my chosen field.

no comments

I think the degree prepared me well, I am nervous about trying to be there for my children and work at the same time.

I have already been working in the workforce in a position, so I was prepared before I began my degree program.

I have a good educational foundation. I just need hands on experience.

I feel like I received a good education, but it cannot substitute experience. I have gained some experience since I started this program, and hopefully I will learn everything else I need to know on the job.

I have learned from specific asisgnments and classes very valuable and transferable skills

I am putting what I learned to direct practice as a school librarian at an elementary school.

I am prepared because of my previous work experience. However, this degree (with the exception of a few classes) did very little to prepare me for the workforce.

I have been working in a trainee position where I have used a lot of the knowledge from my classes already. I feel prepared to enter workforce full time in my chosen field.

I never had the chance to take a collection development course. I, and the professional librarians I have talked with, believe a collection development course should be required. I feel like some of the technology-related courses did little to prepare me for librarianship.

I am currently working as a librarian trainee and hope to start working as a librarian

I feel prepared, enthusiastic, and excited!

I think this program has prepared me well for the workforce, offering a well rounded set of skills.

I have been doing professional work without the degree, though I am only considered a paraprofessional. My time at UB has allowed me to get the foundational knowledge necessary for archives, health sciences librarianship, research, and scholarly communication. I feel prepared to enter any of these fields and wish that I could do them all. I only wish that I'd been able to take dedicated cataloging courses and not just what was covered in LIS 507.

While I am prepared to enter the workforce in my chosen field, this is partially because I have kind of been working in my chosen field during my time in the program. I do think that the program would benefit from more "real world" classes and topics.

Prepared to take the next step

I currently do not work in LIS but I hope to soon!

It is good to know a background in how many aspects of library science work. However, I still feel the best knowledge I have learned has come from the library jobs I held while in the program

feel adequately prepared, helped me immensely in my current job

Was given a thorough education.

I am looking forward to working in a school library in Queens, NY.

I already work in a library setting. I'm hoping that having the degree plus NY Librarian Certification (plus another M.A. and a Ph.D.) will finally enable me to find full-time work.

I feel as though one thing I was less prepared for is the civil service examinations for public librarianship and the certifications required. Much of my information on this came from personal research. This would be a great thing to include even if it is just a tab in the program pathway course. However, I feel as though I learned the skills necessary to enter the workforce and have done so.

The program was alot less helpful than it should have been. The 1St2 courses were fantastic in terms of needed info. Reference and Govt. Info. And DEI also really good. Hist of social actors was interesting and informative but not necessary. The rest was useless and too much busy work. I had to impair subject necessary skills to meet course requirements which was just stupid and a waste of my time, money and energy.

I feel confident upon entering the field of professional librarianship.

I feel incredibly prepared at my current job, which I received an offer contingent on being a MS-LIS graduate student, as a library user services specialist at a university in NYC.

I am actually applying for a job within my field.

I already have a job in my chosen field.

Program work was comprehensive but I don't think I'll feel fully prepared until I'm in it and learning the specifics at the company/library that I'm hired at one day.

I feel confident

I discover that I enjoy the technical side more so I plan to continue more training in information technology.

I haven't worked in the precise role that I've aspiring to before, but between my education in this program and my experience working in libraries I feel that I would do a decent job if offered a position today.

As many people in this program already have library experience, it is a bit intimidating to confirm I am prepared, solely because I have never had a job in the workforce in this field before. I feel adequately prepared but also nervous.

I am already working in a library

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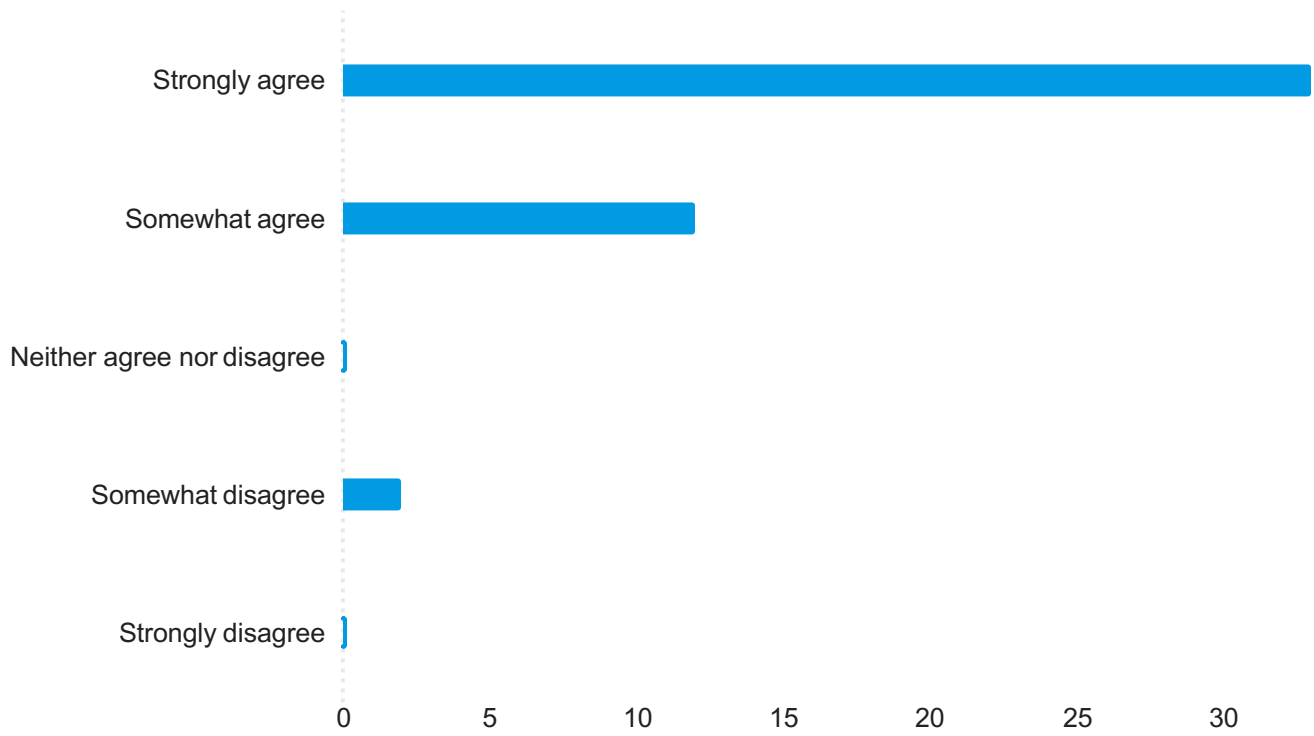
Choice Count

Field		Choice Count
Strongly agree	70%	33
Somewhat agree	26%	12
Neither agree nor disagree	0%	0
Somewhat disagree	4%	2
Strongly disagree	0%	0
Total		47

Please comment on the above question.

Please comment on the above question.

I feel like my knowledge of information science is well-rounded after completing this program. This well-roundedness allows me to be confident that I will be successful in my career. To me, success would mean being a knowledgeable and approachable person for my colleagues and the community we serve. I am confident that both my knowledge and my perspective will allow me to achieve this idea of success.

The knowledge and skills that I have gained not just through this program but also through other education that I have received make me confident that I will be professionally successful.

This is more of a personal issue than it is one relating to the program. Imposter syndrome, self confidence, etc. etc.

As I'm already working within this field, this degree will give me some extra clout on my resume and also arm me with some new tools that I do appreciate.

I am confident based on my current career and background and not because of this program.

I think that I have learned most of the skills I need.

I have my basic needs supported so I can take my time with getting my career going / not as stressed

na

I feel very confident I am prepared

Only because I secured a position as a school librarian before completing my coursework am I able to agree with this statement. If I was finishing this program and wanted to pursue a career in Archives or data management/science/analytics (which is what I would have preferred to do), I do not feel that I would be able to secure a position in the field.

I feel that I have grasped the appropriate amount of knowledge necessary for my job responsibilities.

The UB program has enhanced my ability and I believe I will be successful.

no comments

I know I am capable of doing the work. I am worried that people will only see my disability and not hire me.

n/a

I am confident that my skills, in combination with the education I received, will help me be professionally successful.

I have a pathway outlined and professor offered to support me if I choose to present at confrences or write a paper

This program has prepared me to be successful.

I believe in myself and my abilities.

I learned a lot of valuable skills from this program and I am committed to learning more on my own after graduation.

The program provided me with tools to help me be successful

Hopefully! CC

Through my instructors encouragement and gained skills from the program I do feel confident in being professionally successful.

My work experience helped me to get the most out of each of my classes, and I feel that UB has prepared me now to get the most out of my library work. I'm very excited to be doing more professionally and feel very prepared to take on a variety of challenges.

Confident in success??

For sure

feel confident in my skills for when I join the workforce

UB did everything expected of them.

Yes. I believe I will be successful because I like to help students.

I'm hoping that having the degree plus NY Librarian Certification (plus another M.A. and a Ph.D.) will finally enable me to find full-time work.

I am confident due to my education, past experience, and the skills I have learned over time either due to personal experiences or education.

Due to very little input from the program beyond the learning, &support of my advisor and maybe 1/3rd of my classes.

I am confident in my own ability to be professionally successful.

Because of my positive experience at UB, I feel that I will have no problem continually growing as an information science professional.

I am motivated and empowered to push my library into a better space.

Yes, but I think my education here was just a foundation for what I will learn/am learning on the job, and that foundation could have been stronger.

I've learned a lot and also know how to learn and find information when I don't know something.

I feel that I can apply what I learned to any job setting.

I don't have any information to back up that claim.

It will take time and training but I believe I will be successful given the chance.

This degree has helped prepare me for some of the finer details in librarianship that non-degree holders I work with may not have (ie. Collection development, research methods, etc)

I would recommend this program to others.

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

0　　　　　　10　　　　　　20　　　　　　30
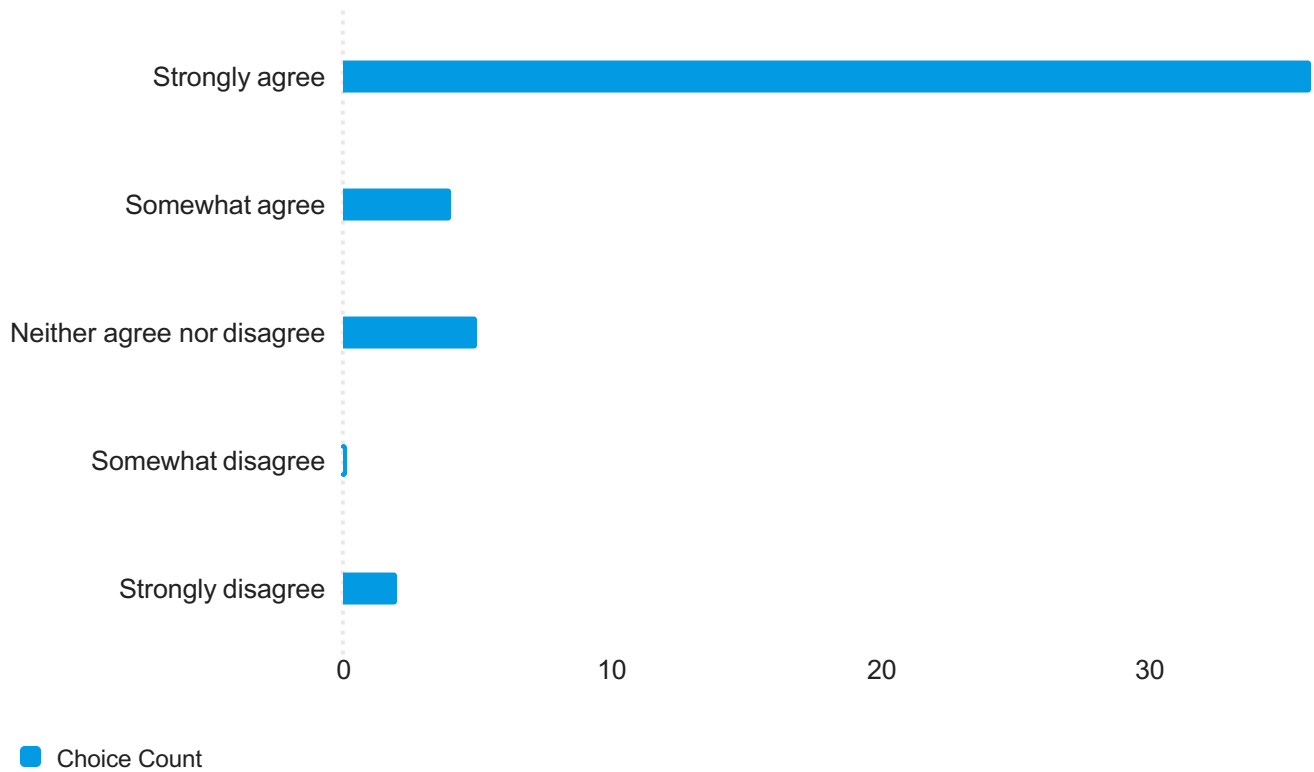
■ Choice Count

Field	Choice Count	
Strongly agree	77%	36
Somewhat agree	9%	4
Neither agree nor disagree	11%	5
Somewhat disagree	0%	0
Strongly disagree	4%	2
Total		47

Please comment on the above question.

Please comment on the above question.

The MS-ILS program offers many courses that can help someone move toward their educational and professional goals. I appreciate that the Department of Information Science welcomes students with varying career paths, including many types of librarians and information professionals. The flexibility offered by the program through its online modality is important, especially for students who work full-time jobs or have family obligations. For these reasons, I would strongly recommend this program to prospective students.
Because I participated in the dual agreement for music librarianship, I do wish there were more courses offered specifically on music librarianship. I took both courses currently offered, LIS 588 and 589, and I found them interesting and helpful. I think having more overlap between the MS-ILS program and the MA in Music History or Theory programs would be beneficial for students in the dual program.

I think this program is great for anyone interested in information and/or library science.

I think I would recommend it to others if I had a clearer idea of what type of specialty in the IS field they were interested in, but at the same time I can't speak to tracks I'm not familiar with like school librarianship or data science fields.

It was very convenient to attend this program remotely and the cost was fair. But given my concerns about the quality levels of the courses, I don't know if I would recommend this to anyone other than those looking to get into school or public librarianship.

I would not recommend this to anyone who is purely interested in Information Science.

The program is local and affordable compared to others but quality is lacking.

I have already recommended this program to others!

depending on what they are looking for. pros: affordable, convenient. cons: professors, lack of support and community

na

UB LIS is an exceptional program. Difficult, yet rewarding

There are not many options in this area for library programs, so I would not dissuade someone from enrolling in this program. However, I don't think that it provided the best or most practical learning experience.

Yes

This program has been helpful for me and I think it is a great program.

no comments

It is convenient and interesting.

I would only recommend this program because it is fiscally responsible.

n/a

The program is affordable and there are multiple high-quality instructors, like Dr. Brenda Battleson White and Dr. Samuel Dodson.

It was an easy transition and straight forward. Great proffa and classes offered. It was recommended to me by 2 professionals in the field

I have recommended this program to others.

There were interesting classes, and I really liked my professors for the most part. The asynchronous online nature of the program was extremely flexible and useful. I also think this degree is a great value for the price.

I would recommend it. I emphasize the benefits of online delivery and the professors I learned the most from. I would not recommend certain courses, like some of the technology courses.

I learned a lot from this program

I have

I would highly recommend this program. All the remote classes were well organized and good for anyone needing an asynchronous schedule.

I would recommend this program to students who are willing to be engaged with the work. I appreciated being in challenging courses and learning new skills and library theory. It was sometimes difficult to be three time zones away from Buffalo, so students living far from the East coast need to be aware of the commitment to deadlines and group work that will be expected of them.

All around a great program filled with great people!

Only not strongly agreeing because the job market for librarians is not very good

fantastic program, did not feel like I overpaid for a piece of paper. Would 100% say I got my money's worth and some fantastic experiences on top of that.

I do reccomend it!

It's a affordable and good program.

This program was great for better understanding how information works and how people can better use it. While a lot of the material is technical and will only apply to professionals, some of it would be useful for anyone interacting with information systems if only so that they can have more success in using those systems in their everyday lives.

I would recommend this program to others if they are interested in librarianship and working with people.

It is cheap. So that helps. My advisor is awesome. The profession is wonderful so it can be good enough. Since the credentialism is required it is fine. I would strongly advise against it though for anyone interested in my subfield. There is insufficient content which belies the published course list, and that is a significant problem.

I have recommended this program to at least one person who was potentially interested. That person was accepted into the program this past week.

I often recommend this program to my colleagues.

Librarianship is an unsung hero in many ways. This program highlights how important it is.

I would tell them to look at various schools and consider all their options.

I appreciated that the program was fully online/asynchronous. If it weren't I wouldn't have been able to participate and keep my full-time job.

I did likely the program I would have only like if there was some options to take in person courses.

I actually did that and the person I recommended it to has gone on and graduated from it.

UB's MLIS program is exceptional.

The tuition cost is the main draw honestly.

What were the major strengths of your program?

What were the major strengths of your program?

Major strengths of the program include the variety of courses offered and its flexibility due to being online and asynchronous. Another important strength of the program is its faculty. The faculty were generally knowledgeable, approachable, and helpful in my opinion.

The major strengths of my program for me were the faculty, the variety of courses, and the projects that I completed as part of my courses that I learned a lot from.

I think the professors are all really intelligent and are experts in their fields

Dr. B!

I also would say the flexibility offered by an online-only program was a major strength. I was able to complete this work while working full-time and could do so in a manner that did not feel overwhelming or too challenging.

The community of students and Dr. Brenda Battleson White.

The practicality, and focus on skills I would actually use in a library and information science career.

knowledgeable & professionally experienced professors
Dr. B
Dr. Perrault
Prof Hollister
affordability
convenience, course delivery

I feel like this program provided alot of different resources that I will continue to use in my career

The program assisted in my strength development

Convenience and an asynchronous environment.

The openness of the faculty. Many shared their time and helped students feel at ease. The assignments that were application-based are definitely more suitable.

It is flexible which allows me to choose the area I wanted to focus on.

1. Comprehensive knowledge about the field
2. Academic writing

It gives you a base knowledge of information science, but also lets you choose classes to customize your learning to what field you are interested in working in.

None

The professors, for the most part, are very helpful and knowledgeable about the field.

I liked that there were classes that taught practical skills, like web design and collection management. Most faculty are quite knowledgeable in the subjects that they teach.

The assignments, the faculty and the final independent accumulation of work was great. Took some very valuable feedback and course experience that can be applied to the working field especially exposure to different technical incorporation such as holographic books and creating hand on learning for students. The faculty was understanding and supportive and easy to reach and honestly amazing the entire program. It was a pleasure working with Brenda White who had been advocating and supportive despite many obstacles faced through the process.

Good instructors, interesting content, great fellow graduate students.

The archives classes. They were excellent and interesting.

Flexibility to take classes related to interests within the specific field, classes/information were related to an aspect of working in the field.

Online course delivery. Variety of courses. In-depth assignments.

The classes were intellectually stimulating and relevant. The professors that I had were excellent. They were helpful and supportive. Fellow students were also supportive.

The variety of topics and classes offered. The role of research in the department. The variety of special programs and presentations related to the LIS field

The asynchronous schedule tied in with the great communication instructors provided. The provided extra readings that were options during classes to give further insight into a course subject. The interactive zoom meetings in some courses and opportunities for in person practice by interacting with the students local community.

I firmly believe that we only get out what we put in, and I feel that this program definitely met my expectations in almost everything I wanted. I appreciated the opportunities to take courses in archives and health sciences librarianship, and I would have taken more courses in data science and technologies if I could have. UB was my first choice, and it was the emphasis on science that appealed to me. Most of my professors were involved in great research, and I love that so many of them were so willing to share their knowledge, expertise, and experience.

Professors that cared about students and were passionate about the courses that they were teaching.

The cost. The flexibility. The only reason I was so successful and able to do this degree is because I didn't have to change my entire life to go for it.

I like that most of my courses were "here's what you need to do this week, let me know if you have any questions." It felt like a good balance of structured and do-as-you-can.

Major strengths were the faculty and flexibility of online learning

the proffesors and the content.

The professors! & Teaching strategies like group work, always giving examples, & responding to emails.

The faculty and the students were equally important in contributing my successful learning experience at UB.

Definitely the faculty and my advisor, Dr. B.

One major plus of the program is that it is often remote and asynchronous which is helpful for students pursuing Master's degrees who often have other priorities such as work and family.

My advisorBrendaBattleson White.Without her the program would have frustrated me into dropping out.
She is a true shining star as she actually teaches... most professors didn't... she cares ...most did or think they do... and she understands the nuances so incorporates them without being overbearing or egotistical.

...

Lots of variety in classes/specialties and wonderful/dedicated faculty. I cannot say enough positive things about the MS-LIS program at UB.

Excellent teachers who provided multiple different learning methods.

Dr. Battleson White is a huge asset to this program. Every student who has taken a class with her will tell new students to take all of her classes. This might result in her being overworked so please be careful not to lose her and maybe consider hiring more faculty and training them to do what she's doing.

Instructors were knowledgable

They were all good

Online instruction truly was great super flexible I was able to do my studies and keep a job.

The faculty are brilliant and active in the field - it felt good (if a little scary) to cite their research in my papers.

Variety of courses, online format, enthusiastic professors

Professors giving leniency towards deadlines but still expecting you to provide quality work. Lectures posted online instead of just readings. Professors being understanding. An appropriate amount of work being assigned.

Professors knew what they were doing and were efficient at running the classes

Do you have any suggestions for improvement?

Do you have any suggestions for improvement?

I think offering more specialized courses would be beneficial. While many of the courses currently offered can be relevant for students interested in varying careers, it would be helpful to dedicate more courses to specific careers. Examples include courses that directly address archival work, music librarianship, law librarianship, and non-librarian information professionals. There are some courses presently offered for these areas, but expanding the number of these courses would help students feel more prepared for their careers in those areas.

I don't have any suggestions that I can think of right now,

I don't know how it could be improved upon but I didn't often consider myself a "student of UB" even though I live in Buffalo, because of the online nature I guess. I think it would've been nice if my advisor seemed to want to nurture a closer or more involved relationship with me as their advisee. I think it would've made me feel more a member of UB. Also this is more of an institutional problem than a departmental one but I think its crazy online students don't get IDs unless they want to pay money for it, that also made me not really feel like a student. Also less group work! As this is graduate school and quite a bit harder, the "lessons" the bad communicators get become a trauma for people with good communication. I felt like I cut so many corners in spending time learning the material because I had to navigate horrible and uncommunicative group members.

Some of the classes felt overly packed (one of my last had nearly 80 students!) and that meant that we did not get the same level of attention from our professor.

I would also strongly suggest evaluating the appropriateness of some courses, such as the Intro to Data Science and Basics of Management, as I previously noted. They did not seem to match the level they initially described.

Also, the rotation of courses and their availability did not always support me taking the courses I would have really liked to take. I would love to see some of the regularly offered courses change a bit more, though the rotation of 503 courses was great!

More professors like Dr. Brenda Battleson White with the quality and communication she offers in her courses.

I think if possible it would be nice to have smaller class sizes so I can feel like the professors have more time to give feedback to individual students.

more attention to instructional design, specifically for e-learning
do not misrepresent coding-heavy classes and the like as 'for beginners', give more realistic picture of required skills and support provided
mandatory meeting with advisor- advisor initiates
tech support
do not forget about online students! there were several circumstances where the needs/logistics of online students were not considered
experienced at least one bad professor per semester (taking 3 courses per semester)
encourage questions

no

No..but I don't like doing any surveys so maybe in the future don't require comments

Consistency in educational philosophy/purpose amongst professors. It felt like some perceived their course as prestigious and cut throat where most wanted to provide a flexible and positive learning environment. To be in a program where you think your professors are going to work with you and help you succeed, and then be hit with an unyielding and unforgiving professor looking to cull students from the course/program is shocking and unpleasant.

NA

Fewer group projects would be great even though I know teamwork is needed for this career.

no

Check that professors are following disability memos.

The program needs more applicable courses, not so many that are tailored toward information search, research, etc.

I think there should be more diversity in courses. There seemed to be a struggle sometimes to find classes.

I think the program could stand to have more classes focused on practical skills rather than just information science theory. While theory is important to practice, I think that many people in this program want hands-on or practical experiences that they can take with them to a library setting.

Although there were controversial topics brought into the course there was a very implied bias pushed on students with a certain narrative and perspective. It felt very uncomfortable going against a narrative implied in course modules or announcements for example book banning or repersentation. This left little room for critical thinking and independent analysis. Although there was space to narrate opinions, politics conflicted with allowing perspectives to be voiced. Also, with worldly events occurring it was surprising to see the lack of consideration and mental impact it would have on students as well as the library field. This was not transitioned into a single class or module for students to process. Students guided their own learning with this and incorporated it into their daily discussions but it should have been addressed and respected by professors.

Professors need more training and time to experiment with the transition to brightspace before the courses begin. Many courses or assignments and quizzes were often hidden or hard to find or located in different areas every week which made learning very frustrating and difficult especially towards the end when trying to figure out any missed work or un accounted marks. I understand this is specific to the last semester as it was a new transition and learning curve for both students and faculty so patience and understanding should be taken into consideration. Not a reflection on staff just a note for future transitions to go smoother.

I felt that for some classes the workload was a little unrealistic, particularly for students who were either full time or working or both.

N/A

More transparency on what specific items are needed to be kept to complete the final portfolio. Tell students in semester one that they will need their assignment and the instructions to the assignment as opposed to just the assignment in general.

More emphasis on common library practices like collection development, budgeting, grant writing, hospitality, and programming.

Some classes that were on the class list weren't offered.

No

I have no suggestions for improvements.

I do wish that certain courses were offered more regularly, and I would have really enjoyed taking cataloging classes. I was also hoping to take a law librarianship class, but I understand that many of these courses are so specific that they cannot be taught by just anyone. I also hope that UB really tries to foster more engagement with and opportunities for out-of-state students. An ambassador for those students would be so helpful and would go a long way toward making us really feel like we are part of the UB community.

I think that there is a general lack of communication with the department and online students which can be improved upon.

Classes I took with faculty were met with the understanding of the broad needs of the large student base and attempts were made to meet those needs and treat us like adults. Specifically the different needs of practical vs theory/those going on to Phds. Adjuncts were hit or miss. I had some truly amazing adjuncts who taught their specialized section with great success (Marie Elia and Angela B. for YA, to note). Ironically, the college librarian adjuncts tended to treat us as children and/or load us with work that didn't touch on the practical. I suspect they were more used to dealing with first years and not people who were in some cases their peers.

I don't think so!

Downsides are that online learning has its limitations and was difficult to connect with others in the program, majority of students only doing the bare minimum for online interaction, no real in-depth discussions with classmates. Also Brightspace is simply bad, so many unnecessary features that are not utilized and make it cumbersome and confusing to navigate. Huge detraction from Fall 2023 semester with how badly the transition was handled, faculty seemed unprepared to use the new platform, I adapted to it okay at best, but heard from others in the program that did much worse. Extremely disappointing and frustrating how this was handled, and that blackboard was completely cut off.

program is very solid, do wish more classes were available at more times, there were a few I really wish I had the opportunity to take.

N/A

Not really. I am a proud UB graduate!

[NAME] and [NAME] are entirely unhelpful professors. Their teaching methods require outside observation and correction.

I would suggest greater communication about what is required of a public librarian in various states along with resources to prepare for certification and civil service examinations.

Having an all online a sync program requires a lot more " forced" interaction and communication in the classes - by chats or zoom or something than most profs. want to Give.
Provide the learning opportunities you say You provide. That isn't currently happening.
Require professors to use updated Slides, lectures and resources. Require profs. to actually lecture on the topic instead of just saying this is what you'll read about and leave it entirely to the students to draw conclusions. Provide feedback on chat topics if that is to be a large past of the learning.

know and command English well enough that the lectures can be close captioned and when there are unintelligible words. know what You said so you can actually provide the information to the Student,

...

The one thing I feel I could have gotten more out of the MS-LIS program, was a bit of a basic understanding of what having a Master's degree in library science really means in New York State. I found I was pretty confused about the civil service list, what Librarian I, II, III, IV meant in the professional sphere, etc. I had a classes touch on these topics, but I would've liked the opportunity to really understand the field more. If there were webinars about these topics, I would've appreciated more advertising.

None

I understand that we have many students outside of New York but there should be a seminar or something about the NY Civil Service exams and how they work in different counties. They are still a mystery to most students in this program who are in state, and it would be helpful to those out of state who may move here for a job. In my opinion, a state university should want to attract people to the state.

More classes should be about practical library work instead of research and theory, or there should be a separate track for people interested in research and theory. I think the theory is important to know and we should understand how to read research papers for a variety of reasons but not all of us want to conduct a study. Classes need to be more clearly described. Many course descriptions are vaguely worded and it is hard to know what exactly we're doing until it's already too late to drop the class.

Brightspace needs to be improved, especially the "Grade" section which shows a "final" grade whenever one assignment is graded, making it look like we're failing and causing a lot of stress. In Blackboard it was easy to see all of our classes at once and see what we'd already turned in and if we had met the discussion board requirement. In Brightspace, if I forgot whether or not I'd commented on a certain week, I'd have to click through all the posts to find my name. Also, I have several assignments I know were turned in but still show as "overdue" on the Brightspace homepage.

Many instructors need to get their grades posted sooner if they expect students to meet deadlines, especially when an assignment relies on feedback from an earlier one.

The auto-generated captions in Zoom or Panopto, whichever is used, are absolute garbage.

A review of coursework and ensuring there's enough differentiation across courses.

No suggestions

Give some options for in person instruction it could even be an in person practicum style course that is already setup and open to small handful of students at a time. Since some instructors are also UB librarians. I made my own efforts to make connections. But it would be great to include this in the program as a standard course choice.

Requirement of an Introduction to Computer Science for MILS Students course, if they're not already familiar with CS. I found many of the Information Science classes very intimidating, as I'm unsure if I have the background needed to succeed in them.

Consider offering workshops hosted by alumni around topics that we don't offer courses for, or practical topics. Some examples could be a grant writing workshop for libraries, data analysis projects with various tools like PowerBI or Tableau, or how to translate the degree to corporate roles.

The addition of Bright Space needs to be tweaked because there are too many areas to access materials. It becomes confusing and oftentimes I would almost miss deadlines. There has to be a clear cut way to access each portion of the course - having assignments and discussions listed in multiple areas is too cluttered.

N/A

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

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

I found out about the program by searching for programs that offered the ability to complete a library science degree and a music degree simultaneously. There are few universities that offer such dual programs.

I was researching different information and library science programs near the Buffalo area and found it through that.

Through the Society of American Archivists education directory

Internet searching, looking for graduate programs in library and information science.

Librarians at my workplace.

From looking up SUNY schools and ALA accredited programs.

University of Rochester librarianship presentation

One of my previous work colleagues attended and said the program was great

Alumni students

Looking around for information science degrees in the western NY region. I was an undergrad at UB so it was one of the first places I looked, and my preferred school.

Through others

Recommended by a graduate.

Through several coworkers at my previous job.

Searching on Google for a MLIS program in NY.

I know many others who have been in this program, it is popular because it is affordable.

I used the ALA.ORG site to find accredited schools in NY and NJ.

I found out from my UBTeach advisor.

Through professionals in my field that also completed their MS at UB

The internet.

My friend (already a librarian) suggested this program to me when I asked her for advice.

From colleagues who had already gone through the program.

I knew an alumni.

Word of mouth

I live in Rochester and I know many people who have attended UB

I googled ALA accredited program in New York State. I've also studied through a SUNY school for my undergraduate degree and sought another program through it. I also needed a remote program.

I researched many programs and narrowed them down to the specific things that I wanted to get out of my library degree program.

I found out about the MS/MLS program at UB by searching for schools with this program in New York State.

Undergrad

I believe it was an internet search for MLIS online programs.

Coworkers at my job who were alumni

found out about the medical librarian poffesion and saw the degree I needed was in a few schools nearby.

Google

I looked up accredited programs that are funded by the state on the ALA website.

I was applying to several MLS programs after working in the library field for a year following completion of my history Ph.D. and not finding any full-time work with that degree.

Through personal research to find an appropriate MS/MLS program. I am also from Buffalo!

I did internet searches when I decided what I wanted to learn.

...

My mentor from college (undergrad), a music librarian, was enrolled in the program many years ago! He spoke very fondly of it, and he is a fantastic and dedicated music librarian.

Quick internet search.

I don't remember.

Google search

My friend completed the program

ALA website

I searched for ALA-accredited MS-ILS programs with an academic librarian track available.

Online search

I did my own research online.

The ALA's list of accredited programs

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

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

I chose UB for the MS-ILS program because of the dual agreement with the Department of Music. The MS/MA program for music librarianship was valuable to me, as I knew it would be costly, both in finances and in time, for me to complete an MS-ILS and an MA in Music History sequentially. Having both degrees gives me an advantage in pursuing a career in music librarianship, so I decided that the dual agreement through UB would be best for me.

I was confident that UB would be a good school to study information and library science.

Through the Society of American Archivists endorsement of this program along with it being a local university (despite it being online). It is also affordable, I appreciated no GRE requirements, and I think UB is a high-quality research university with a lot of bright professors.

Online program and lower tuition.

It was local and cheap/affordable.

I liked that it was fully online and asynchronous, so I could hold a full time job while going to school.

relative affordability
fully online course delivery

I liked that it was a remote option since I have a full time job. The program allowed me to get all my work done on my schedule.

Alumni recommended

Convenience and accessibility.

Recommended

Career advancement.

I chose UB because:
a. I can apply tuition assistance from my previous job if I study in the SUNY system.
b. Online program is more suitable for my circumstances. Although I personally prefer in-person programs, I found that the online program was the best approach to pursue a degree while continuing to work.

I chose it because it is completely online and works well with having children and other responsibilities.

Price

I chose this program because:

1. I attended another school for a semester and had a terrible experience with them.
2. I live in NJ and I am not a fan of Rutgers which is the only school in NJ with an ALA accredited program.
3. I am familiar with this school as my family is from western NY and I am familiar with the area.
4. They had an interesting program, and the online aspect attracted me as well.

I was already at UB for my undergrad and had decided to leave the UBTeach program. My advisor recommended the program to me, and it seemed like something I would enjoy.

I went through various schools and programs offered and looked at offered courses plus length of time to finish the program and UB met my needs and expectations the best.

It has a good reputation and is reasonably priced.

The in-state tuition.

I liked that the program was remote and it was recommended to me by several people.

Because it was online, accredited, and in NY state.

Good price, accredited, online delivery

Solid program, nearby geographically, general reputation of the university, competitive price for tuition

I had been diagnosed with an autoimmune disease before applying and had to do a lot of testing for it. Due to this I couldn't drive and didn't want to risk in person courses. This program gave me the opportunity to still pursue my education remotely while finishing my medical testing, for that I was very thankful.

I had hoped to possibly do the joint JD/librarianship program, but that was only available in person. Beth Adelman was an excellent resource and made time for me and my questions. Though that didn't work out, I already liked many other aspects of the program, so UB stayed at the top of my list for schools. It helped that it was also affordable.

I chose UB for the in-state tuition for out-of-state students and the courses offered within the MS/MLS program.

The cost. The flexible classes. I went here before and it was generally a positive experience.

Y'all were the first to give me an acceptance letter and it was the day after I had submitted my application so it made me feel very wanted, even though I knew that probably wasn't the case.

It was the cheapest in NYS

dad recommended UB as he is an alumni and said it was a good school that is affordable

The program best matched my goals & lifestyle

UB is a very good school and is part of the SUNY; It is well-known.

The cost. I was also accepted into Syracuse University's program, but it was far too expensive and required some in-person commitments despite being an ostensibly "online" program.

I chose this program as it was remote and accommodated my schedule. This program was also chosen as I would have easy access to the campus as needed.

It claimed to address my subfield (but doesn't!!) Despite my interviewing the head of admissions before applying (!).

I got my undergrad here.
It was online which was helpful but not required.
It is a good cost benefit (especially if it taught what it claimed to teach).

...

I was deciding between UB and Syracuse, but I ultimately picked UB because of the high praise from my mentor, and the cost was so much more affordable for me.

I graduated from UB with my Bachelor's in Cultural Anthropology and loved my experience at UB. I wanted my Master's degree to come from them as well.

It was close to me and cheaper than SU.

I completed my undergrad at UB, worked at UB for a time and the program was fully online.

My friend told me it was fantastic

I live near UB.

Cost, an online-only option, and courses that seemed to support my specific career interest

It was affordable and convenient. I liked that I could attend an admissions information session and take non-degree courses before applying.

I live in NY and UB was affordable and had positive reviews from graduates.

The tuition was pretty cheap

Please provide any additional feedback for us below.

Please provide any additional feedback for us below.

I do not have additional feedback.

I have no additional feedback at this time.

I think thats all!

I'm very happy that I went through this program and have a degree to show for it, but looking back I do not know if I would do it again or if I could recommend this program to anyone else unless they were looking for a pure librarianship program. This was the biggest criticism I had throughout.

Also, the switch from Blackboard to Brightspace was fine... but you could tell that each professor was not instructed to set up their courses in a similar way, so it often took some adjustment periods in each course to see how that specific course was set up, etc. It might be useful to have more standards about course delivery using Brightspace.

Offer better courses with better professors who have actual experience in the field they are teaching.

I also appreciated that the program stopped requiring the GRE tests, as I find them unnecessary and not indicative of how successful a graduate student will be.

x

n/a

make comment section optional

Stronger advisement, and more consistency from professors would improve the program.

N/A

Survey questions are not well-designed and will not result in useful information.

no additional feedback to provide

Provide students with more information about what UB will do to help us find a job after graduation. Also, how long do we have access to things after we graduate?

n/a

N/A

Nothing more to share at this time.

N/A

I don't have any additional feedback

Maybe provide some information about certification.

This was an excellent program and I enjoyed my time in the program

All donr

I enjoyed my time in this program and have learned a lot I hope to utilize in my future career endeavors.

I would like to give a shout-out to these professors, who made my three semesters at UB such a wonderful experience:
Sam Abramovich, Marie Elia, Chris Hollister, Toni Olivas, Liz Stellrecht, Ying Sun, Amy VanScoy, and Brenda White
Each one taught me so much, challenged me, and enriched my experience. I would take classes from each of them again in a heartbeat (and did for a couple of them!). I am a better critical thinker because of these excellent professors and will hopefully do them proud in the information science field!

N/A

I think the program would benefit if it let a few less students into it. The classes felt unnecessarily large at times with not enough faculty.

I don't have anything else!

.

no additional feedback, loved the program, made getting a master's a nice experience.

N/A

None.

N/A

Thank you for your assistance throughout this program. Best of luck to those entering the program.

I did very well in the program thanks primarily to Dr B. and my own interests and work ethic. The program did not live up to its promises. However except too

...

N/A

None

I think I said it all.

No additional feedback.

None

Thank you it's been a great process I learned a lot about the different areas of library and information science and the many ways I can use my degree.

Once again, no shortage of praise can be heaped on Dr. Brenda Battleson White. Her support through a protracted version of the program was unflinching, dependable, and made me think that I was capable of success.

None

I thank the department for giving me the opportunity to receive my graduate degree in Library & Info Science. This has been a pleasurable experience and I look forward to seeing where this degree takes me in the field of Librarianship.

N/A