

MLIS Graduate Student Exit Survey Summary—2014-2015

*School of Library and Information Studies
University of Alberta*

- by Alvin M. Schrader, Professor Emeritus
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In 2008, Professor Alvin M. Schrader initiated the MLIS Graduate Student Exit Survey on behalf of the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta, in order to capture the graduating students' impressions and experiences of both the MLIS curriculum and the School's student support services. Conducted annually since then, the purposes of the survey are to help guide future planning and directions at SLIS, to inform the School's recruitment and marketing plans, and to assist with continuing accreditation of the MLIS degree program under the auspices of the American Library Association's Committee on Accreditation.

This MLIS Graduate Student Exit Survey Summary highlights the key data pertinent to each of the five standards identified in the COA *Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in Library and Information Studies* (2015). The Summary covers the most recent two MLIS cohorts, the graduates of 2014 and 2015.

We look forward to the 2016 survey as the first to encompass both on campus and online graduating students; the 2016 online graduates began their MLIS programs in the fall 2013.

"The Bottom Line"

Would you recommend the UofA MLIS program to prospective students?

	2014	2015
Yes	88%	100%
No	12%	0%

Systematic Planning

Overall, I was satisfied when I graduated that I had gained the knowledge and skills needed for entry-level professional practice:

	2014	2015
strongly disagree	6%	0%
disagree	0%	0%
so-so	23%	9%
agree	53%	61%
strongly agree	18%	30%

When I graduated, I felt well prepared for an entry-level professional position in terms of my understanding of the foundations of the profession:

	2014	2015
strongly disagree	0%	0%
disagree	0%	0%
so-so	0%	0%
agree	41%	48%
strongly agree	59%	52%

Curriculum

The courses that are required in the MLIS program have provided a basic understanding of library and information studies and an adequate foundation for the elective courses I have taken:

	2014	2015
strongly disagree	0%	0%
disagree	0%	0%
so-so	18%	4%
agree	47%	61%
strongly agree	35%	35%

When I graduated, I thought the range of available MLIS course electives met my needs:

	2014	2015
strongly disagree	6%	0%
disagree	6%	0%
so-so	31%	18%
agree	44%	56%
strongly agree	13%	26%

Faculty

My interactions overall with my designated faculty advisor have been:

	2014	2015
abysmal	0%	4%
poor	0%	4%
so-so	6%	0%
good	47%	32%
outstanding	47%	60%

Throughout my program, I was always treated respectfully by instructors:

	2014	2015
strongly disagree	0%	0%
disagree	0%	0%
so-so	0%	4%
agree	24%	12%
strongly agree	76%	84%

Students

To help me plan my MLIS program and choose elective courses, I received excellent information and assistance from my faculty advisor:

	2014	2015
strongly disagree	0%	0%
disagree	6%	0%
so-so	25%	4%
agree	13%	61%
strongly agree	56%	35%

Throughout my program, I was always treated respectfully by other students:

	2014	2015
strongly disagree	0%	0%
disagree	0%	0%
so-so	0%	0%
agree	28%	39%
strongly agree	72%	61%

Administration, Finances, and Resources

My interactions overall during my MLIS program with School administrative staff were:

	2014	2015
abysmal	0%	0%
poor	0%	0%
so-so	6%	8%
good	47%	44%
outstanding	47%	48%

The School's computing and student lab facilities were:

	2014*	2015
abysmal	0%	0%
poor	0%	0%
so-so	0%	17%
good	50%	54%
outstanding	50%	29%

** 1 student reported no use of these facilities*

The School's student commons and study space were:

	2014	2015
abysmal	0%	0%
poor	0%	4%
so-so	6%	4%
good	53%	44%
outstanding	41%	48%

The collections and services provided by the UofA Libraries were:

	2014	2015
abysmal	0%	0%
poor	0%	0%
so-so	6%	0%
good	23%	50%
outstanding	71%	50%