

MLIS Accreditation

Prep Session



Who Am I?

I am Tony Molaro, the new Program Director for MLIS.

I have been on faculty here for four years.

I have served in various administrative roles in a variety of libraries.

I have worked on a variety of accreditation processes.

Please feel free to ask
questions as I am
moving through these
slides

ALA Accreditation

The American Library Association, Committee on Accreditation, accredits LIS Programs.

- Not Schools
- Not Colleges
- Not Degrees

Professional, not Regional

ALA accredits specialized, professional accreditation.

- This is not regional accreditation like HLC
- ALA works with specialized accreditors
 - CHEA oversees 60 accrediting organizations

Most Importantly

Accreditation ensures the constituents of a program some assurance that the students are prepared effectively for today's LIS jobs.

- Students
- Prospective students
- Alumni
- Employers
- Patrons
- LIS world

Accreditation

Accreditation is not a punitive exercise. Instead, it allows us to reflect on what we have accomplished. It allows us a chance to tell our story. It gives us space to learn where we can improve.

In other words, going through an accreditation process makes us stronger, focused, and better.

Committee on Accreditation

The COA is appointed by the President of ALA

Consists of a variety of LIS folks, and includes patrons

- 4-year staggered terms
- 12 members (10 from ALA & 2 members of the public)

The COA works very hard to ensure ALA accredited programs are beneficial to all involved.

ALA Office for Accreditation

ALA Staff

- Karen O'Brien, Director
- Kerri Price, Associate Director

ALA Standards

The ALA Standards on Accreditation have undergone numerous revisions over the decades.

- 1925 First Standards
- 2015 New Standards

ALA Standards

1. Systematic Planning
2. Curriculum
3. Faculty
4. Students
5. Administration, Finance, and Resources

Qualitative not Quantitative

- Emphasis on:
 - Planning
 - Processes
 - Outcome based assessment planning
 - Stakeholder input

Process

1. Continuous planning
2. Invitation to review
3. Appointment of external review panel (ERP) chair
4. Appointment of ERP
5. Plan for program self study
6. Development of self study (2 drafts)
7. ERP site visit (11/5 - 11/7)
8. ERP report
9. COA meets and makes a decision

Accreditation Categories

- Pre-candidate
- Candidate
- Initial accreditation
- **Continued accreditation**
- Conditional accreditation
- Withdrawn accreditation

Who is Involved?

ALL OF YOU

- St Kate's faculty, staff, administration
- Students
- Alum
- Employers
- Broader LIS community

ERP

Who are they?

Dale McNeil

Chair of External Review Panel

Serves on COA

Assistant Director for Public Service

San Antonio Public Library

San Antonio, TX



Tracy Bicknell-Holmes

Dean, Albertsons Library

Boise State University

Boise, ID



Bill Kules

Visiting Associate Professor

College of Information Studies

University of Maryland

College Park, MD



Anabel K. Stephens

Associate Professor (retired)

School of Libraries and Information
Studies

University of Alabama



Highlights of the Last 7 years

- Revised Mission, Vision, Values
- Revised Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)
- Removed J-term offerings
- Eliminated Touchstone and Capstone
- Hired a new Program Director
- 7 new courses
- Self-study

Challenges

- Diversity of student body
- Scholarly output of faculty
- Decreased enrollment and impact on course offerings
 - Incoming class this year is up 50% from last year!
- MLIS has been slow to adopt alternative course delivery modalities
- All new university administration
 - Including revising mission, vision, values, and strategic plan

Potential Questions: Current Students

1. Do you have access to technical resources and information resources to be successful in your coursework?
2. Have you been able to construct a coherent program of study? Do you seek advice from an advisor? Were they helpful in constructing a program of study?
3. Have you been able to take courses you need to pursue your own interests?

Potential Questions: Current Students

4. Has the program and school met your expectations? In what ways has it or hasn't it?
5. Have you been involved in decision-making on program matters? Have you been surveyed concerning curriculum changes? Were you involved in the hiring of new faculty, staff, or administration?
6. Are you able to participate in extracurricular activities? Do you feel these activities have enhanced your experience or learning?

Potential Questions: Current Students

7. How would you rate the advising process? How and how often do you interact with your advisor?
8. Are your instructors approachable? Do you feel they are knowledgeable in their subject areas? Are they effective teachers?

Potential Questions: Alum

1. Did the program prepare you for your job?
2. What have proved to be the most helpful things you learned in the program?
3. What did you learn that is most applicable to your current position?
4. What course(s) do you wish you had taken or had been offered?
5. What led you to choose St Kate's?
6. Did St Kate's MLIS meet your expectations?
7. Are you involved in the program now?

Potential Questions: Alum

8. Did you receive faculty advising? Did you have a particular advisor? Do you continue to interact with your advisor?
9. Did you use career development or receive career coaching?
10. Were the faculty members approachable?

Potential Questions: Employers

1. How many graduates have you hired or supervised over the last five years?
2. Have you been satisfied with the graduates as employees?
3. Did St Kate's graduates come with sufficient library skills and understanding?
4. Did graduates have sufficient technology skills?
5. What other training did you wish they received?

Important Details

- Our entire self-study is available from our website lis.stkate.edu/graduate
- The site team will be here 11/5 - 11/7
 - Please try and attend the all stakeholders meeting on 11/6 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM
- Please NEVER LIE to the ERP

Timeline

Self study due to ALA	September 25, 2017
Site visit	November 5-7, 2017
All stakeholder Meeting	November 6, 2017 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Draft ERP report to ALA	November 27, 2017
School corrections	December 4, 2017
Final ERP report	December 11, 2017
Optional program response	December 18, 2017
COA action	February 10, 2017

Questions