

**School of Library and Information Studies**  
Update 2009

The School of Library and Information Studies practices many kinds of assessment and works hard to be sure that the results of the assessment fold back into improving our program and planning for the future. First we undergo accreditation by the Committee on Accreditation of the American Library Association every seven years; we were last reaccredited in 2007. In the process of preparing for the accreditation teams visit, we look thoroughly at all aspects of our program, from our mission and goals, to our faculty and curriculum, to our student quality and student services, to our administrative structures and facilities.

Not only during our accreditation preparation but on a regular basis we send to both our graduates at least 2 years out and to their employers surveys regarding their level of preparation and areas of the curriculum that they believe are lacking. We work to improve in those areas and maintain our areas of quality. Students who participate in field work or internships are evaluated both by their instructors and by their host librarians or archivists, who provide feedback to us about strengths and weaknesses of individual students and of the program more generally. All our school library media specialist candidates prepare digital portfolios. We ask graduating students to participate in exit interviews and at intervals we also survey current students. Of course we use the usual embedded assessments and end-of-semester teaching evaluations.

We believe that the most important assessment of our program is the ability of our students to find employment. While we anticipate that positions will be harder to find this year, our students continue to be competitive, with several May graduates already employed.