FAQ for Syracuse University Library and Information Science: School Media Specialization via Supplementary Certificate Pathway

Who is eligible? NY certified teachers who have school district recommendation

How long is the Supplementary Certificate valid? 3 years.

Do I need the whole LIS degree? Before the Supplementary Certificate expires, you must complete the LIS program, pass the Content Specialty Test in Library Media, take all six required child safety workshops, and the 6 hour Dignity for All Students Act training

Do I have to apply to the program to take classes? You may take up to 12 credits (4 classes) as a non-matriculated student to obtain the Supplementary Certificate. However, as a non-matriculated student, you do not qualify for financial aid from the iSchool or FAFSA.

How many credits are in the LIS program? 36

What is the tuition? For the academic year 2016-2017, graduate tuition per credit is $1443. All classes are 3 credits.

Are there any fees? Yes, each semester, if you take 3 credits, there is a $75 fee. If you take 6 credits, it is $125.

Are there any scholarships to help with tuition? Yes, you may apply to the NY Resident (25% tuition credit) and any outside funding you find if you are applying for the degree program. Check with your Human Resources office to see if there are any Syracuse University tuition credits ("vouchers") which you can use. Some districts maintain a pool of credits that can be applied for. You may also apply for federal financial aid through FAFSA.GOV. If you are NOT planning to matriculate into the program, there are no scholarships through the iSchool, nor are you eligible for federal financial aid.

How many credits should I take per semester? Most students take 6 credits per semester, which allows you to be eligible for financial aid.

I am a certified teacher, do I have to do fieldwork and the practica/internship? According to New York State regulations, you will be required to fulfill 100 hours of fieldwork (50 elementary, 50 secondary) and 120 hours of internship (120 in elementary and/or 120 in secondary). Depending upon the grade level you have most experience with, you may waive that internship if you have a minimum of three years of full time teaching experience. Candidates with less than 3 years must do both practica for 120 hours each.

Since I am teaching in a classroom, how do I fit in the fieldwork and practica hours? This requires flexibility on your part as well as your administrator. For the fieldwork you can do in your own school, you can piece together hours during your planning periods or before or after school provided the librarian is supervising your projects/work with students. For fieldwork and practica hours in other schools, some people find a district with a different spring break or holiday breaks from yours, although that is difficult. Many people do hours in a secondary setting during the summer, and sometimes there are districts who also have elementary buildings open in the summer that are staffed by certified school librarians.