

SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST

The Palmer School offers an accredited Master's in Library and Information Science degree program that prepares students for initial New York State Certification as School Library Media Specialist. After three years of successful employment in the field, professional certification can be requested from New York State.

A school library media specialist is both a teacher and a librarian/ information specialist in K – 12 schools. The classroom of the school library media specialist is the school library media center. School library media specialists perform four roles in schools. They are:

- 1) teachers of information literacy and technology skills;
- 2) information specialists who link information in all formats to learning objectives;
- 3) instructional partners with other classroom teachers to facilitate the use of information and inquiry skills aligned with classroom curriculum;
- 4) program administrators of the school library media programs in their schools.

The School Library Media Specialist program enables candidates to apply for initial New York State teacher certification as a Library Media Specialist. For this reason, electives outside the school media specialist concentration are extremely limited. Coursework, readings and class activities throughout the school media classes prepare candidates for the Content Specialty Test in Library Media, which must be passed for certification.

Career opportunities are expected in this specialization as a result of teacher retirements and new state regulations. There is a critical need for well-prepared School Library Media Specialists in the tri-state area – people who enjoy working with students, teachers and administrators. The increasing capabilities of information technology have catapulted the role of school library media specialist from a supporting role to that of a leader, change agent, and teacher to teachers, ensuring that students and staff are effective users of ideas and information.

REQUIRED COURSES:

- 620 – Instructional Design and Leadership
- 622 – Management of the School Media Center
- 626 – Teaching Methodologies for School Media Specialists
- 627 – Special Needs Students in K-12 Libraries *
- 629 – Integrating Technology into the School Media Curriculum
- 691 – Internship (Student Teaching)
- 712 – Literacy for K-12 Environments*

Also a choice of **one** Literature course:

- 728 - K-12 Literature for School Media Specialist
- 729 – Young Adult Sources and Services
- 733 – Children's Sources and Services

** LIS 627 or LIS 712 may be waived for an elective if candidate has appropriate prior teacher certification, upon approval of Director of School Library Media Program.*

Approved electives, if granted:

- 624 – Introduction to Online Teaching
- 628 – Collection Development for K-12
- Another elective

Upon approval of Director of School Library Media Program

REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS:

All candidates for New York Certification as a School Library Media Specialist (Pre K-12) will be required to achieve passing scores on the following tests for initial certification:

- Teacher Performance Assessment (edTPA) for Library Specialist
- Educating All Students Test (EAS)
- Academic Literacy Skills Test (ALST)
- Content Specialty Test (CST) in Library Media

REQUIRED WORKSHOPS:

- Child Abuse: Identification and Reporting
- Violence Prevention Workshop – Project SAVE
- Dignity for All Students (DASA)
- Fingerprinting
- Create a TEACH account (www.highered.gov/tcert/teach/login.html)

The manual, **School Library Media Handbook: A guide for students in the School Library Media Program**, further explains the School Library Media Program and the requirements for applying for New York State Certification as a Library Media Specialist.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Any position in a school library media center or the children's and young adult department of a public library. Among the job titles are school librarian, library media specialist, online instructional librarian, academic instructional librarian, youth services librarian, children's librarian, young adult librarian, and K-12 librarian.

Revised by Dr. Bea Baaden, in October, 2014