

Dewar College of Education and Human Services  
Valdosta State University  
Department of Library and Information Studies

**MLIS 7800**  
**Capstone**  
**Three Credit Hours**

**Guiding Principles (DEPOSITS)**

**(Adapted from the Georgia Systemic Teacher Education Program Accomplished Teacher Framework)**

Dispositions Principle: Productive dispositions positively affect learners, professional growth, and the learning environment.

Equity Principle: All learners deserve high expectations and support.

Process Principle: Learning is a lifelong process of development and growth.

Ownership Principle: Professionals are committed to and assume responsibility for the future of their disciplines.

Support Principle: Successful engagement in the process of learning requires collaboration among multiple partners.

Impact Principle: Effective practice yields evidence of learning.

Technology Principle: Technology facilitates teaching, learning, community-building, and resource acquisition.

Standards Principle: Evidence-based standards systematically guide professional preparation and development.

**ALA's Core Competences of Librarianship**

(Extracted from ALA's Core Competences of Librarianship 2009, available from <http://www.ala.org/education-careers/sites/ala.org.educationcareers/files/content/careers/corecomp/corecompetences/finalcorecompstat09.pdf>)

1. Foundations of the Profession: The librarian understands the role of library and information professionals in the promotion of democratic principles and intellectual freedom (including freedom of expression, thought, and conscience), the legal framework within which libraries and information agencies operate; and the certification and/or licensure requirements of specialized areas of the profession.
2. Information Resources: The librarian understands the concepts and issues related to the lifecycle of recorded knowledge and information; the acquisition and disposition of resources; and the management and maintenance of various collections.
3. Organization of Recorded Knowledge and Information: The librarian understands and uses the principles involved in the organization, representation, and classification of recorded knowledge and information.
4. Technological Knowledge and Skills: The librarian understands and uses information, communication, assistive, and related technologies consistent with professional ethics and prevailing service norms and applications.
5. Reference and User Services: The librarian understands and uses the concepts, principles, and techniques of reference and user services to provide access to relevant and accurate recorded knowledge and information to individuals of all ages and groups.
6. Research: The librarian understands and uses the fundamentals of quantitative and qualitative research methods to evaluate and assess the actual and potential value of new research.
7. Professionalism. The librarian understands the necessity of continuing professional development of practitioners in libraries and other information agencies; the role of the library in the lifelong learning of

patrons; and the application of learning theories, instructional methods, and achievement measures in libraries and other information agencies.

8. **Administration and Management:** The librarian understands the principles of planning and budgeting in libraries and other information agencies; the principles of effective personnel practices and human resource development; the assessment and evaluation of library services and their outcomes; and the issues relating to, and methods for, principled, transformational leadership.

### **MLIS Program Objectives (PO)**

Graduates of the VSU MLIS Program will:

PO 1. Perform administrative, service, and technical functions of professional practice in libraries and information centers by demonstrating skills in information resources; reference and user service; administration and management; organization of recorded knowledge and information.

PO 2. Use existing and emerging technologies to meet needs in libraries and information centers.

PO 3. Integrate relevant research to enhance work in libraries and information centers.

PO 4. Demonstrate professionalism in their work in libraries and information centers.

### **INSTRUCTOR**

Linda R. Most, Ph. D.

Odum Library Room 4600

Phone: 229/245-6534

E-mail: [lrmmost@valdosta.edu](mailto:lrmmost@valdosta.edu)

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Friday, 10:00 am -1:00 pm

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Taken during the final semester of study. Required for partial fulfillment of the requirements for the MLIS degree. Emphasis will be on synthesis of knowledge, honing writing and presentation skills, and creating a professional development plan.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS / RESOURCE MATERIALS**

#### **Required Text**

*Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. Sixth Edition.* American Psychological Association, 2009. ISBN 10: 1433805618 ISBN 13: 9781433805615

In addition, refer to professional standards as benchmarks when preparing your paper, oral presentation, and resume to include in the final documents that will become a part of your portfolio.

A headset and microphone combination is necessary so that you can easily participate in the Live Classroom presentations.

#### **Highly Recommended Texts**

Hollister, Christopher V. *Handbook of Academic Writing for Librarians. Revised edition* (2014). Chicago: Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association. ISBN: 978-0-8389-8736-0

Newlen, Robert R. *Resume Writing And Interviewing Techniques That Work!: A How-to-do-it Manual for Librarians.* Neal Schuman, 2006. ISBN10: 1555705383 ISBN13: 9781555705381

### **Required Assessment Portfolio**

All students are **REQUIRED to purchase** access to the MLIS Program assessment system called *LiveText* ([www.LiveText.com](http://www.LiveText.com)). Instructions for purchasing and using LiveText are posted on the course website.

**Why *LiveText*?** *LiveText* is the software that the MLIS Program selected for keeping track of the assessments developed to meet ALA accreditation requirements that MLIS programs document their goals and objectives in terms of student learning outcomes. These assessments are now part of all the core courses as well as certain electives. Therefore, all current students must purchase a subscription in order to submit those assignments that also serve as core assessments. The *LiveText* subscription requirement is not tied to when you entered the program or to when you plan to graduate. It is a change in the way the program keeps records for the ALA accreditors – The program now gives them access to *LiveText* to verify completion of core assessments.

Once you purchase your subscription to *LiveText*, it is good for up to 5 years. You will also have personal access to other *LiveText* features you may find useful once you have your subscription. Please consider the purchase of your *LiveText* subscription as you would the purchase of any other textbook or piece of software required for a course. You might also be interested to know that *LiveText* is used extensively in hundreds of North American universities for program assessment and portfolio purposes. At VSU it is also required in the College of Education for purposes similar to those the MLIS Program has implemented.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES (with alignment to MLIS Program Objectives)**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- SLO 1. Synthesize knowledge gained throughout the course of study and apply that knowledge to the consideration of current professional issues (PO 4)
- SLO 2. Create a professional development plan (PO 4)
- SLO 3. Articulate personal professional goals (PO 4)
- SLO 4. Navigate the job hunting process (PO 4)
- SLO 5. Write a paper of publishable quality (PO 3, PO 4)
- SLO 6. Make an effective professional presentation (PO 3, PO 4)

## COURSE ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS/REQUIREMENTS

Assignments in Brief as mapped to Program Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

Note: For four of the assignments below, you will find the designation: **Not graded, but required**. You must complete these assignments or you will receive the overall grade of “F” in the course. The E-Portfolio must also be submitted or, again, an “F” will be assigned.

- 1. Capstone Topic:** Identify a topic that will serve as the theme for your current issues discussion, your paper, and your final presentation derived from your paper. (**Not graded, but required**) **Due August 30, 2015.**
- 2. Professionalism Discussion (SLO 3)** Students will articulate and share a personal definition of professionalism including their philosophy of professional behavior. (**Not graded, but required**) **Due August 30, 2015.**
- 3. Professional Resume (SLO 4):** Submit a resume that documents the knowledge and skills acquired as a graduate from an MLIS program in combination with concurrent skills or knowledge that you have acquired on the job or from previous degrees. Submit via the BlazeVIEW Assignment Dropbox. Grade weight: 10% **Due Sept. 6, 2015.** *Successful completion of this assignment is necessary to fulfill requirements for this course and indicates partial accomplishment of MLIS Program-level student learning outcomes. Your finished assignment must be uploaded to the designated online portal (currently LiveText).*
- 4. Reference Request and Cover Letter Sample (SLO 4):** Find a job ad that fits your career goal(s) and qualifications. The position must be real. Post a sample email that you would submit to someone you want to use as a reference for that particular position. You may substitute fictitious name(s) of the job source or the person you are asking for a reference if you feel this is sensitive information. Attach to the post a cover letter you would send to the employer that introduces yourself and describes the skills you possess related to the job description. (**Not graded, but required**). **Due Sept. 21, 2015.**
- 5. Professional Development Plan (SLO 2, SLO 3):** Create a professional development plan based on your career goals and academic preparation. Include a detailed job hunting plan, if applicable. Include plans for solidifying and updating your professional knowledge in the two year period following graduation. Submit via the BlazeVIEW Assignment Dropbox. Grade weight: 10% **Due Oct. 12, 2015.** *Successful completion of this assignment is necessary to fulfill requirements for this course and indicates partial accomplishment of MLIS Program-level student learning outcomes. Your finished assignment must be uploaded to the designated online portal (currently LiveText).*
- 6. Current Issues Presentation and Discussion (SLO 1, SLO 6):** Give a live presentation on line using Blackboard Collaborate in which you summarize one current aspect of your Capstone topic based on research you identify from either the LIS and/or popular literature published in the past year. You have up to 6 minutes to present. In the last 9 minutes, moderate a discussion on the topic. Pose two or three questions to guide the discussion. Grade weight: 10%. **Delivered Oct. 2-5, 2015.**
- 7. Initial Draft of Capstone Paper including literature review and outline of methods if appropriate:** Submit your work in progress via the BlazeVIEW Assignment Dropbox. Your review of the literature so far should highlight gaps in the literature that your research may address. Also include an outline of the methods you will be using to conduct your project in this submission or a draft of as much of the paper as you have written. (**Not Graded, but Required**) **Due Oct. 18, 2015.**

8. **Electronic Portfolio (PO 2):** Follow the formatting requirements and guidelines for selecting work samples given in the BlazeVIEW site. Use of **Google Sites** software for compiling your portfolio is required. You cannot complete your degree with an incomplete portfolio. Your resume and professional development plan must be included at the time of submission. All links must work. Grade weight: 25% **Due Nov. 1, 2015.** *Successful completion of this assignment is necessary to fulfill requirements for this course and indicates partial accomplishment of MLIS Program-level student learning outcomes. Your finished assignment must be uploaded to the designated online portal (LiveText).*
  
9. **Capstone Paper (SLO 5):** The Capstone Paper is a formal, academic journal style research paper presenting the findings from the research project agreed to by the student and the instructor. It is also the basis of the conference style presentation. It is to be written following the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (APA style guide) and contain all appropriate elements (abstract, references, etc.) The body of the paper should fall between 3,000 - 6,000 words, not counting the reference list and any appendices that may be attached. The finished document should be formatted according to APA guidelines (see Section 8.03 of the APA manual), double-spaced, using 12 point font with standard margins. The paper is to be submitted electronically in .doc, .docx or .rtf format. Grade weight: 25% **Due Nov. 15, 2015.** *Successful completion of this assignment is necessary to fulfill requirements for this course and indicates partial accomplishment of MLIS Program-level student learning outcomes. Your finished assignment must be uploaded to the designated online portal (currently LiveText).*
  
10. **Conference- style Presentation of your Capstone Paper (SLO 6):** Develop a conference-style presentation derived from your research and findings on your Capstone topic. Presentations will last 15 to 20 minutes with 10 minutes for questions and discussion. You present online using Blackboard Collaborate during the last week of class. Grade weight: 20%. **Delivered Dec. 3-7, 2015.** *Successful completion of this assignment is necessary to fulfill requirements for this course and indicates partial accomplishment of MLIS Program-level student learning outcomes. Your finished assignment must be uploaded to the designated online portal (currently LiveText).*

### Course Grades

Professional Resume	10 points
Professional Development Plan	10 points
Current Issues Presentation/Discussion	10 points
Portfolio	25 points
Capstone Paper	25 points
Conference-style Presentation	20 points

### Final Grade Assignment

100 – 90 points = A	89 – 80 points = B	79 – 70 points = C
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**An overall grade of zero can be assigned to an entire paper or project if the instructor determines that its contents, or parts of its contents, were completed by a second party or copied into a paper or project from a source without proper citation. Noncompliance with rules on appropriate use of resources will result in zero credit for those parts of the assignment affected.** If you are unsure about the parameters of an assignment, ask for clarification.

**The Guide to Ethical Conduct** is a booklet created for VSU MLIS students and can be found at: <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/library/depts/master-of-library-and-information-science/documents/GuidetoEthicalConductWebversion.pdf> It contains guidelines on appropriate conduct and outlines the ethical principles that inform the profession of library and information science.

By this time in your MLIS program, you are expected to cite your sources and quote from those sources appropriately for your discussions, papers, and presentations. If you are unsure about the guidelines for an assignment, this is the time to clarify issues of academic publication. Noncompliance with rules on appropriate use of resources will result in zero credit for those parts of the assignment affected.

Asking librarians or staff in a library to provide answers or to conduct research to fulfill any part of a graded course requirement is an infraction of academic integrity. The same policy applies to contacting any free or commercial reference service for assistance with a graded assignment. Please see the departmental statement on PROFESSIONALISM further down in this document for more discussion of this topic.

### **Late Policy**

A 24 hour grace period is in effect in this course. Work submitted more than 24 hours after the due date will not be graded and the assignment will be considered as not submitted. Students who do not submit all the assignments in the course cannot pass the course or graduate (see Standards for Graduation, below).

### **Attendance**

This is a Web-delivered course. All course communications, activities, and materials will be available exclusively through the BlazeVIEW web site. All students are expected to log into BlazeView at least once per week to remain current with the course. Daily logins are strongly recommended. All students are required to participate in a minimum of two scheduled live online sessions as indicated in assignment instructions. *To receive full credit for your participation in the Live Classroom sessions, you must remain present for the entire session in which you make your presentation.*

### **Standards for graduation:**

- **To exit the MLIS Program students must complete every assignment in the Capstone course.**
- Students admitted before Fall 2012 who receive an overall grade below C in MLIS 7800 will not be qualified for graduation. All students admitted in Fall 2012 and thereafter must earn a grade of B or better in MLIS 7800 and all other core courses (MLIS 7000, 7100, 7200, 7300, 7700) to qualify for graduation.
- **No course grade below a C will be credited toward a VSU graduate degree.**
- **A cumulative graduate GPA of 3.0 or better is required by the University to qualify for graduation.**

### **Application for Graduation**

The Registrar asks that graduation applications be made two semesters before graduation is planned. Please make sure that your Application for Graduation packet has been submitted and processed. You should call the MLIS Office for confirmation that we have all the forms in your file (229-333-5966). For guidance, see <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/library/depts/master-of-library-and-information-science/student-resources/advising.php>

### **General Policies**

#### **Communications with the Instructor**

VSU requires that all correspondence between the student and the instructor be conducted through official university channels. To that end, all e-mail correspondence related to this course is to be sent using the email client built into BlazeVIEW. Non-course email should be sent to the instructor's regular VSU email address. Students should always use their own VSU email addresses for all VSU related communications. All

discussion posts and assignment submissions for this online course must be made via BlazeVIEW.

### **Technical Requirements**

All class materials will be placed in the BlazeVIEW course management program. Login using your VSU Single Sign-on ID and password.

To meet all class requirements, you should be prepared to: (1) open and save or print all documents that are required background reading - this requires the Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer; (2) view all PowerPoints placed on the course BlazeVIEW site; (3) participate in Blackboard Collaborate sessions – login links and instructions will be available through your BlazeVIEW course homepage; (4) check discussion groups as needed; and (5) keep electronic backup copies of each assignment and project you submit.

Unless otherwise stated, assignments must be submitted using a word processing program compatible with Microsoft (MS) Word. BlazeVIEW accepts attached documents in **MS Word 97-2003 or higher**. If you are using WordPerfect or sharing documents with classmates who have a different version of Word, save your documents in Rich Text Format (rtf). The instructor returns documents that cannot be opened on VSU equipment.

### **Distance Learning & Technical Support**

Given the high stakes involved in completing this course (your graduation!), it is absolutely essential that your computer's technical connections to the applications provided through the university's Information Technology department and the eLearning lab (Distance Learning) are ready to go as of the first day of class. The IT Help Desk is available at <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/it/helpdesk/> and their phone hot line is 229-245-4357.

Help with BlazeView is available from the D2L Help Center, linked at <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning/blazeview-d2l.php> or 1-855-772-0423.

To ask questions about availability or location of VSU online resources use VSU Library's Live Chat or Email at: <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/library/> . You may also phone the VSU Library's reference service at 229-333-7149.

### **PROFESSIONALISM**

The Department of Library and Information Studies expects that MLIS students will pursue their academic endeavors and conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner. All work that a student presents to satisfy course requirements should represent his or her own efforts, including appropriate use and acknowledgement of external sources. The student will be timely and complete with their assignments and other engagements. The student will communicate in a professional manner in both speech and writing. The student will maintain a professional attitude, being respectful to others and their viewpoints, and seek to maintain objectivity. The student will exercise an awareness of the pervasiveness of the online environment and strive to maintain a professional online presence.

### **DEWAR COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY ON PLAGIARISM**

<http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/deans-office/policy-statement-of-plagiarism.php>

### **ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT**

Valdosta State University is an equal opportunity educational institution. It is not the intent of the institution to discriminate against any applicant for admission or any student or employee of the institution based on the age, sex, race, religion, color, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation of the individual. It is the intent of the institution

to comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent Executive Orders as well as Title IX, Equal Pay Act of 1963, Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in Farber Hall. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871 (VP) and 229-219-1348 (TTY). For more information, please visit <http://www.valdosta.edu/access> or email: [access@valdosta.edu](mailto:access@valdosta.edu).

## **STUDENT OPINION OF INSTRUCTION**

At the end of the term, all students will be expected to complete an online Student Opinion of Instruction survey (SOI) that will be available on BANNER. Students will receive an email notification through their VSU email address when the SOI is available (generally at least one week before the end of the term). SOI responses are anonymous, and instructors will be able to view only a summary of all responses two weeks after they have submitted final grades. Complete information about the SOIs, including how to access the survey and a timetable for this term is available at <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/sois/welcome.php>