
Mission, Goals and Objectives

2.1 Overview

The LIS Program's mission, goals and objectives are designed to support those of the University and are formulated and implemented in concert with the diverse constituency the Program seeks to serve. Our constituency requires a high quality LIS Program within the State because our clientele is not mobile, and the higher cost of living in Hawai'i makes it difficult to recruit and retain professionals from outside the State. In addition, the cost of out-of-state distance education is prohibitive to many residents. Through regular faculty meetings, retreats, departmental committee work, community outreach, and in consultation with the LIS Advisory Committee, the LIS Alumni Group, employers, professional associations and governmental organizations, the Program keeps its finger on the pulse of both the profession and the academic community and pursues its goals in a process of continuous refinement.

The Program measures its success in meeting its goals through a variety of instruments. Faculty evaluate student assignments, exercises, fieldwork, oral and written and exams according to the Program's curricular objectives. In student and alumni surveys (Appendix 2, Summary Results; complete results available on site), every question relates directly to a specific Program objective, providing tightly-focused feedback on how well students feel the Program is meeting each of its goals. For more course-specific feedback, course evaluation forms (available on site) are used at the end of every semester, allowing students to evaluate how well each course met the goals stated on the course syllabus (available on site). Reports from student-conducted focus groups (available on site) are another important resource and provide an opportunity for students to communicate their opinions in a less structured manner. Each of these input channels is a valuable part of the overall planning process.

2.2 University Context

The vision and mission statements of the University of Hawai'i resonate with themes of quality and distinction in instruction, research, and service with special attention to an Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific focus (www2.hawaii.edu/ovppp/mission.pdf). The University expresses cultural values of treasuring the past, fostering the spirit of aloha, upholding academic freedom, promoting intellectual vigor, celebrating diversity, building collaboration and respect, and requiring accountability. Specifically, the introductory paragraph of the University System Mission states:

The primary purpose of the University is to provide an environment in which faculty and students can discover, examine critically, preserve, and transmit the knowledge, wisdom, and values that will help to ensure the survival of the present and future generations with improvement in the quality of life.

The five broad goals derived from this mission statement are:

- I. Providing Access to Quality Educational Experiences and Service to the State.
- II. Implementing Differentiated Campus Missions.
- III. Continuing to Champion Diversity and Respect for Differences.
- IV. Strengthening the University as a Premier Resource in Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Affairs, and Advancing its International Leadership Role.
- V. Acquiring and Managing Resources with Accountability and Responsiveness.

2.3 LIS Program

Closely aligned with the University's mission, the LIS Program's mission is:

To educate individuals for careers as librarians and information professionals in a rapidly changing technological and global society. The Program undertakes research and service initiatives that meet emerging information needs. In keeping with the University's mission, it serves a multiethnic, multicultural population from the Asia-Pacific area, as well as other regions.

To achieve its mission, the LIS Program has three broad Program Goals with specific objectives under each:

I. To furnish students with knowledge and skills and to foster attitudes that are fundamental to professional competence and career-long growth in the library and information field.

Students will demonstrate an understanding of:

1. The philosophy, principles, and ethics of library and information science.
2. The development and communication of knowledge.
3. The development and interrelationship of librarianship and information science.
4. The theories and processes for selecting and organizing information sources.
5. The theories and processes involved in retrieval, dissemination, and utilization of information sources.
6. The principles of administration, including leadership and advocacy, applicable to libraries and information centers.
7. Research techniques and methods of applying new knowledge as it becomes available.

Students will demonstrate basic competency and apply knowledge in:

8. Program development in particular information environments.
9. The latest information technologies.
10. Providing, managing, and designing information services for diverse user groups in a variety of information environments.
11. Professional attitudes, commitment to service, and interpersonal skills needed to work effectively with colleagues and information users.
12. All the above within a rapidly changing technological environment.

Outcome/Measurement

- Student, alumni and employer surveys
- Course evaluations
- Student papers, projects, exams, etc.
- Internship evaluations
- Oral comprehensive examinations
- Student focus group reports

II. To expand the knowledge base of the profession through research.

1. Provide stimulus and opportunities for students to engage in research and apply research findings to problem-solving.
2. Provide stimulus and opportunity for faculty to conduct research in their areas of specialization.

Outcome/Measurement

- Student and alumni surveys
- Student research in courses with research components and selected 695 and 699 projects
- Faculty curriculum vitae

III. To share its resources by extending educational and professional services, within Hawai'i and beyond.

1. Support interdisciplinary efforts with other academic units by providing perspectives and selected elements of library and information science.
2. Cooperate with other academic units to offer dual graduate degrees and certificates.
3. Make available to in-service librarians and information professionals continuing education offerings covering new knowledge and developments in the profession.
4. Provide workshops, seminars, lectures for the general public that are related to the Program's areas of expertise.
5. Make faculty expertise available to community organizations and state agencies.
6. Make faculty expertise available at the national and international levels.
7. Extend services using a variety of modalities, including distance education.

Outcome/Measurement

- Dual-Master's program offerings
- CIS Doctoral Program
- Cross-listed courses
- Employer surveys
- LIS partnerships with other departments
- Continuing education course offerings
- Workshops, seminars, lectures; Brown Bag presentations
- Faculty curriculum vitae

In carrying out these three goals, the Program seeks to transmit an awareness of the rapidly changing world of libraries and telecommunications in the present and future (see the LIS Program Catalog 1998-2000, p. 4-5 on site; or www2.hawaii.edu/slis). Graduates must be prepared for environments characterized by new technologies and new social and organizational patterns. Some graduates will find employment in fields entirely outside librarianship and must be able to apply their knowledge and skills to information management positions. Professional service requires people who can identify and facilitate user needs, establish appropriate goals, work collaboratively, analyze new problems, and draw upon skills developed during their professional education to achieve creative solutions. How the Program achieves these goals and objectives is addressed in the Standards chapters 4-8.

**2.4 Relationship of
LIS Program
Goals to UH
Goals and COA
Standards**

The following matrix aligns the LIS Program Goals (PG) with the University's broad goals and with COA Standard I.

(See Appendix 1 for a set of the COA standards).

In order to achieve our Program goals and objectives, we have created a strategic plan that focuses on four critical areas. Chapter 3 presents the evolution of the University and LIS planning processes, and articulates our strategic goals.

The program is powered by the commitment, knowledge, and experience of the faculty, the wide-ranging backgrounds and experiences of the students, professional mentoring through internships, and the collaborative energy of student organizations...It has been a fascinating, intellectually challenging, and immensely rewarding journey.

Janet Hesson, 1998

