Reasons to Choose the University of Denver’s Library & Information Science Program

**OUR PROGRAM**

1. **We are a relatively small program**—we know all of our students. DU is a very high-touch/high quality institution. We only admit around 40 students each year.

2. **We have small classes.**
   The core classes (required of all students) may be as large as 25 students but most classes will be between 12 and 18.

3. **We have a strong advising schedule.**
   Each student is assigned an advisor with whom he/she meets regularly. Our faculty are available to students.

4. **We are a face-to-face program.**
   We use technology to enhance our classes but we are not an online program.

5. **We have a solid curriculum with choices for students.**
   We have seven core classes required of all students covering the foundational basics. In addition, we offer more than 30 options for students to choose 10 or more electives. We offer more than a dozen choices in classes each quarter. (Summer quarter we offer fewer classes as summer is optional.) Students “design” their own area of specialization—with the help of their advisor. Examples of areas of focus include: Archives and Special Collections; Digital Libraries; Early Childhood Librarianship; Academic Libraries; Public Libraries; School Libraries; Special Libraries (Medical, Law, Government, Corporate or profit and non-profit); Information Science.

6. **DU is on the quarter system.**
   Advantages include—Students take more classes; so are exposed to more content. And classes move quickly; students should not tire of a class. We have three 10-week quarters in the academic year. Summer quarter is generally a 9-week quarter with some classes offered more intensive format; i.e., three weeks, five weeks, etc.

7. **We offer evening classes** so students can work while taking classes.
   Typically our classes are scheduled for once a week meeting from 4:00 to 6:20 p.m. or 7:00 to 9:20 p.m. We usually offer two classes per time slot Monday through Thursday. Occasionally there may be a class offered at another time. Students can often “stack” classes; i.e. take two classes in one evening.

8. **We are ALA (American Library Association) accredited.**
   This is the most important accrediting body for the profession. Nearly all professional jobs require an “MLIS or MLS from an ALA accredited” university.

9. **We offer scholarships.**
   DU offers some scholarship help to all of our students. Students know their scholarship amount before they come. For 2016 the scholarships are very generous.

10. **Our faculty.**
    We have five full-time dedicated folks who have practical experience as well as interesting research agendas. We care about our students.

11. Every student is matched with a mentor from our professional community.
OUR FACILITIES

12. We teach in a beautiful state-of-the-art building. Our building has smart classrooms and numerous student study spaces with flat screens.

13. The LIS program is in the Morgridge College of Education. We have College partners in such areas as traditional P-20 education, counseling psychology, early childhood literacy, gifted/talented, and research methods and statistics (our Department colleagues.)

14. Anderson Academic Commons (University Library). The campus library is a state-of-the-art facility with a fine collection and “learning commons” design with many student spaces for collaboration and study.

15. The University of Denver is a small private university with a focus on graduate education. More than half of the approximately 13,000 student body are enrolled in graduate programs.

OUR SERVICES/OUTREACH

16. We have many library community partners in the Denver-Metro area. Our partners are strong advocates for our program. They love our students and welcome them into paid and unpaid internship and volunteer opportunities.

17. Denver has great libraries. The area has many public library systems, large and small, strongly supported by their users. There are numerous higher education campuses in the area including two law schools, two medical schools, three theological/seminary libraries and several art schools in addition to numerous universities, colleges, community colleges and trade schools. There are many federal libraries such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), United States Geological Survey (USGS), and U.S. Court Libraries. The National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) and the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) have both employed students and graduates. Notable special libraries include: the American Alpine Club Library, Cable Center Library, Denver Botanic Gardens Library, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, and History Colorado.

18. InContext learning is emphasized. We include “hands-on” application of “theory into practice” in our courses as much as possible. Each fall we offer a “Showcase of Opportunities” where representatives of libraries, archives, and information agencies come to campus to meet our students and provide opportunities for students to partner with them for special projects, internships and practicum experiences. Examples of projects created in the digital library classes include, The Laura Hershey Digital Collections at: (http://laurahershey.omeka.net) and the Gold Rush exhibit created for the Digital Public Library of America (http://dp.la/info/2014/03/05/new-exhibitions-launch-on-dpla/)

19. We have multiple active student associations. The groups include: Library & Information Science Students and Alumni Association (LISSAA), American Library Association (ALA) student chapter, Society of American Archivists (SAA), Special Library Association (SLA), and American Society for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T). Last year the ASIS&T student group was named “Student Group of the Year” by the national organization. The student groups provide good networking opportunities, excellent programs, and numerous opportunities for leadership.

20. Colorado is a wonderful place to live. Colorado has 300+ days of sunshine each year; great cultural events (about 50 live theater options, symphony . . . great spectator sports (Denver Bronco football, Rockies baseball, Nuggets basketball, etc.) as well as great sport opportunities (hiking, skiing, fishing, etc.) Colorado has among the highest percentage of “healthy” people and has recently been named as a place where people live longer!

21. And . . . we really want you to join us!