

Graduate Studies Programs

Master of Arts in Children's Literature and Master of Science in Library Services for Children

About the Program

This dual degree program offers a unique opportunity for students interested in the synthesis and comparison of two distinct approaches to children's literature to combine their theoretical work (M.A. in Children's Literature) with their professional credentials (M.S. in Library Services). As children's literature has re-entered mainstream discussions of both adult's and young people's reading, librarians, teachers, booksellers, writers, illustrators, and publishers are increasingly interested in critical and pragmatic discussions of this diverse and growing body of texts. The Center for the Study of Children's Literature at Simmons has administered a Master of Arts in Children's Literature for thirty years. The first of its kind, the M.A. in Children's Literature addresses work produced for children and young adults within historical, critical, and theoretical contexts. The Graduate School of Library and Information Science offers specialized literature and services courses to those students interested in increasing their familiarity with these materials with an eye towards professional youth services in libraries. While both graduate degree programs reference the same literary history and body of material, each is characterized by distinct perspectives and methodologies.

Admission Requirements

This program has a priority application deadline of April 1 for the fall semester, although applications are reviewed year-round on a rolling basis. Beginning the program in the fall semester is strongly recommended. Applicants must submit an academic letter of recommendation as one of their two required references and a statement of purpose no longer than 500 words describing the relationship of the dual degree program to the applicant's professional and academic goals. An interview is recommended.

The Simmons Difference

For more than 100 years, Simmons has put the needs of our students first. The College's commitment can be seen in our state-of-the-art facilities for teaching, learning, living, and working at Simmons, as well as through our exceptional faculty and staff. Simmons College is located in the heart of Boston, a world-class city renowned for unlimited educational, career, and social opportunities. All programs provide a challenging educational experience in which every student develops an informed, critical, and committed voice, and learns to be a leader and collaborative member of the professional community. Simmons College was named a "Best College" in its category in the 2010 US News & World Report. Simmons was also included in the 2010 Princeton Review "Best 351 Colleges," and was named among the "Best in New England" in the first-ever edition of Princeton Review's Best Northeastern Colleges. A 2009 U.S. News and World Report top 10 library and information studies graduate school, the Graduate School of Library and Information Science is also noted for its services for children and youth curriculum, which U.S. News and World Report rated 8th in the country.

"I was able to examine the same types of stories, and sometimes even the same books, through two radically different lenses, engaging in both book-centered and child-centered readings of the texts at all times. What I learned in each department enhanced my readings in the other, by forcing me to question everything I learned and contextualize it in a way I would not have otherwise known how to do."

AMY STERN '08GS/LS
M.A., CHILDREN'S LITERATURE
M.S. LIBRARY SCIENCE

SIMMONS
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
GRADUATE STUDIES

Coursework

This 57-59 credit program (credit count varies based on electives chosen) requires successful completion of 17 courses chosen from the following:

Nine courses (27 credit hours) in Library and Information Science

Five core courses in library and information science 15 credits

- LIS 403 Evaluation of Information Services
- LIS 404 Principles of Management
- LIS 407 Reference/Information Services
- LIS 415 Information Organization
- LIS 488 Technology for Information Professionals

LIS 481 Children's Literature and Media Collections 3 credits

LIS 483 Young Adult Literature 3 credits

One of the following: 3 credits

- LIS 482 Library Programs and Services for Children
- LIS 412 Library Programs and Services for Young Adults

One of the following: 3 credits

- LIS 423 Storytelling
- LIS 422 Literacy and Services to Underserved Populations
- LIS 411 Information Sources for Children
- LIS 450 Organization and Management of Public Libraries

Six courses (24 credit hours) in Children's Literature

Five core courses in Children's Literature 20 credits

- CHL 401 Criticism of Literature for Children
- CHL 403 The Picturebook
- CHL 413 Contemporary Realistic Fiction
- CHL 414 Fantasy and Science Fiction

AND

CHL 411 Victorian Children's Literature

OR

CHL 423 19th Century American Children's Literature

One elective course in Children's Literature 4 credits

One shared Library and Information Science/ Children's Literature course

3 or 4 credits

One elective chosen from one of the following disciplines 3 or 4 credits

Library and Information Science, Children's and Youth Services

Library and Information Science

Children's Literature

For detailed course descriptions, view the online course catalog at <http://my.simmons.edu/courses/browse>.

Contact Us

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