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Committee on Accreditation

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Copley Library
San Diego, California

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University of Regina
Regina, Saskatchewan

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Auburn University
Auburn, Alabama

Office for Accreditation

Karen O'Brien, Director
Susana Stoll, Associate Director

June 25, 2021

Mary K. Biagini, Chair, Master of Library and Information Science
Department of Information Culture and Data Stewardship
School of Computing and Information
University of Pittsburgh
135 North Bellefield Avenue, Room 608A
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15260

Dear Dr. Biagini:

On behalf of the Committee on Accreditation (CoA/the Committee), I write to inform you that the Committee voted to grant Continued accreditation status to the Master of Library and Information Science program. The accreditation status explicitly includes all sites offering courses as part of the program.

The decision was made at the Committee meeting on June 25, 2021, based on the Self-Study materials the program prepared for the review, the External Review Panel Report, the program's written Response to the External Review Panel Report, the reports the program submitted since the last comprehensive review, including your May 18, 2021, response to the Committee's April 22, 2021, letter regarding the update to the statistics and student achievement data weblink, and the June 25, 2021, meeting with you, Bruce Childers, and Gail Dickinson, Chair of the External Review Panel.

The next visit for a comprehensive review is scheduled for Spring 2028, unless evidence in the interim indicates that the review should be conducted at an earlier or later date. Specifically and thoroughly addressing concerns detailed below is needed to avoid an issuance of a Notice of Concern that can lead to Conditional accreditation status (Accreditation Process, Policies, and Procedures (AP3), section [I.16 Notice of Concern](#)).

The Committee applauds the ICDS' curriculum redesign efforts. However, several serious concerns regarding the Standards referenced below need to be addressed as part of a Special Report due by March 1, 2022:

- Show how the program's mission and goals, both administrative and educational, are pursued, and its program objectives achieved, through implementation of ongoing broad-based, systematic planning (Standards I.1, I.1.1, I.1.2, I.1.3). In addition, identify how ICDS strategic planning is incorporated in SCI strategic planning (Standard I.1.4)

- Show that the program has explicit, documented evidence of its ongoing decision-making processes and the data to substantiate the evaluation of the curriculum (Standards I.5, I.6, and II.6)
- Show that the program has a faculty capable of accomplishing program objectives (Standards III.1, III.3, III.6, and III.7)
- Be sure that the most current, accurate, and easily accessible information about the program is available to students and the general public (Standard IV.2).

The schedule of next reporting is as follows:

Report	Due date
Special Report	March 1, 2022
Annual trended statistical report	February 15, 2022
Review the statistics the program makes available according to policy I.18.1 Statistical Reporting , also made available in the Directory as the Student Achievement data weblink, in accordance with CHEA recognition standard 11.B1	February 15, 2022

The Committee is grateful to everyone who provided information and participated in the evaluation process. The cooperation of those associated with the program and with the University of Pittsburgh enabled facilitation of the review of your program. We appreciate your cooperation in the ongoing evaluation, assessment, and review process of accreditation and we encourage you to continue your efforts.

Sincerely yours,



Rachel Applegate, Chair
ALA Committee on Accreditation

cc: Patrick D. Gallagher, Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer, University of Pittsburgh
Ann E. Cudd, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh
Bruce Childers, Interim Dean, School of Computing and Information, University of Pittsburgh
Karen L. O'Brien, Director, ALA Office for Accreditation

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Office for Accreditation

Karen O'Brien, Director
Central State Library

July 1, 2013

Sheila Corral!, Professor and Chair
School of Information Sciences
University of Pittsburgh
135 North Bellefield Avenue
Information Sciences Building, Room 605C
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Dear Dr. Corral!:

On behalf of the Committee on Accreditation (COA/the Committee) of the American Library Association (ALA), I write to inform you that the Committee voted to grant continued accreditation status to the program leading to the degree of Master of Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh. The accreditation status explicitly includes all sites offering courses that are part of the program listed above.

The next comprehensive review visit is scheduled for spring 2020 unless evidence persuades COA that the review should be conducted at an earlier or later date.

This decision was made at the Committee meeting on June 30, 2013. The decision was based on the Program Presentation, the External Review Panel Report, all of the reports the program submitted to the Committee since the last comprehensive review, and the June 30, 2013, meeting with Ronald Larson and Linda Smith, Chair of the External Review Panel.

The decision to grant continued accreditation to the program was based on the "totality of the accomplishment and the environment for learning... rather than from a consideration of the isolated particulars" (*Standards*, p. 5).

As part of the next biennial narrative report, due December 1, 2013, please address the following:

- Update the committee on progress in assessment of student learning outcomes, particularly on:
 - a. integrating student learning outcomes assessment into curriculum planning and course teaching, and
 - b. assessing student learning outcomes for both course and program levels, including program assessment other than the aggregation of course outcomes (Standards 12 and 11);

Due to Covid-19 we had to postpone the visit of the ALA Committee of Accreditation that was scheduled on March 23 and March 24, 2020. ALA applied an extension to our accreditation for 2020 and we are planning a virtual visit with them on March 22 and March 23, 2021. Attached below is the updated schedule for the site/virtual visit.

- Report on progress in promoting and facilitating school-wide conversations to enhance systematic planning of programs (Standards I and V); and
- Report on progress in systematically involving online students in the life and culture of the school (Standards IV.4, IV.5, and IV.6).

For your information and planning, the schedule for reporting is as follows:

Report	Due date
Annual Statistical Report	December 1, 2103
Biennial Narrative Report	December 1, 2013

The Committee thanks all those who provided information and participated in the evaluation process. The cooperation of those associated with the program and with the University of Pittsburgh enabled us to facilitate the review of your program. We appreciate your cooperation in the ongoing evaluation, assessment, and review process of accreditation and we encourage you to continue your efforts.

Sincerely,



Brian Andrew, Chair
Committee on Accreditation

cc: Mark Nordenberg, Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh
Patricia Beeson, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh
Ron Larsen, Dean and Professor, School of Information Science, University of Pittsburgh
Sandra Brandon, Director of Administration, School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh
Debbie Day, Program Administrator, School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh
Karen O'Brien, Director, Office for Accreditation

enc: Certificate of accreditation

Institution: University of Pittsburgh				
Review cycle: Spring 2021				
Approximate time frame	Step description	Relevant AP3 section	Scheduled date	Notes
24 months before site visit	Office for Accreditation (OA) sends letter reminding program of upcoming review visit	II.1 The comprehensive review process	3/23/19	Letter from OA includes template for letter request from CEO
	Due: Institution CEO sends request for review of program		4/22/19	
	Due: Program sends confirmation of visit, any areas of focus, and three sets of acceptable dates		5/4/19	Site visit must be no later than 90 days before COA meeting
18 months before site visit	OA proposes ERP chair to program	III.5.2 Responsibilities of the ERP Chair	8/30/19	
	OA invites ERP chair to serve		9/30/19	
	ERP Chair confirmed		10/14/19	ERP Chair signs conflict-of-interest form and confidentiality agreement
	OA notifies Canadian program of CLA Observer		10/19/19	N/A to U.S. programs
	OA confirms ERP Chair and visit dates with program		10/21/19	
	OA sends letter to program proposing ERP members (cc: Chair)	III.2 Composition of the External Review Panel	3/22/20	
12 months before site visit	Due: Plan for the self-study	II.5 The Plan for the Self-Study	3/22/20	Send electronically to the ERP Chair and the OA Director.
	Participate in conference call with ERP chair and OA director to review plan for the Self-Study		4/5/20	Date listed is approximate; the call will be held at a mutually agreeable date and time
	Due: ERP conflict of interest form from program	III.4 Conflict of interest policy for the ERP	4/12/20	
	OA invites panelists to serve on ERP		4/19/20	
	OA receives COI-Confidentiality-Contact-Accommodation forms from panel members		5/3/20	
	OA send confirmation of final ERP to program. Includes External Review Summary and Contact Sheet and revised conflict of interest form if panel has changed from originally proposed.		5/17/20	
	Due: Revised conflict of interest form from program (if changed from originally proposed panel)		5/31/20	

Institution: University of Pittsburgh				
Four months before site visit	Due: draft self-study	II.6 Development of the Self-Study	11/22/20	The draft should be as close as possible to the final version in content and format. Please send an electronic copy (narrative and appendices) and a printed copy (no appendices, no fancy binding or color pics, etc. needed) to the ERP Chair, each panelist, and the Director of the Office.
	Participate in conference call to review self-study draft with ERP Chair and OA Director		12/20/20	Date is approximate; conference call to be arranged at a mutually agreeable date and time. ERP Chair works with program to plan site visit arrangements for panel
Six weeks before site visit	Due: Final self-study and signed declaration form		2/8/21	
	OA sends letter to program acknowledging receipt of final SS plus review evaluation forms (see below for due dates of eval forms)		2/15/21	
	Due: Section 1 evaluation (program dean's evaluation of the Self-Study preparation process)		2/22/21	Sections 1-5 evaluation forms sent from OA to program after receipt of Self-Study
	SITE VISIT	III.6 Site visit exit briefing	3/22/21	Panelists typically arrive on the Saturday before the visit and depart on Wednesday following the visit.
One week after site visit	Due: Section 2 evaluation (program dean's evaluations of ERP and process after visit).		3/29/21	Sections 1-5 evaluation forms sent from OA to program after receipt of Self-Study
	Due: Section 3 evaluation (administrator's evaluation of ERP and process after visit)		3/29/21	Sections 1-5 evaluation forms sent from OA to program after receipt of Self-Study
Three weeks after site visit	ERP Chair sends draft ERP report		4/12/21	
Four weeks after site visit	Due: Corrections of fact to ERP draft report from program (optional)	II.8.1 Optional response to correct errors of fact in the draft ERP report	4/19/21	
Two months before COA meeting	OA sends notice of meeting with COA (date, time, and location)	II.11 Meeting with the Committee on Accreditation to close the review	4/26/21	If you have a strong preference for day (Saturday or Sunday) or time, notify Karen O'Brien as soon as possible
Five weeks after site visit	ERP Chair sends final ERP report to program and Office for Accreditation		4/26/21	

Institution: University of Pittsburgh				
Six weeks after site visit	Due: program's response to final ERP Report (optional)	II.8.2 Optional response to the final ERP report	5/3/21	
Six weeks before COA meeting	Due: Confirmation of attendance at COA meeting		5/10/21	
	ALA sends invoice for accreditation fees and expenses to program	I.23 Fees	5/13/21	Within one week of ALA's receipt of all ERP expense reports
	COA MEETING DATE	II.11 Meeting with the Committee on Accreditation to close the review	6/25/21	The meeting with COA lasts approximately 45 minutes
One week (or sooner) after COA meeting	OA Director emails copy of decision document letter to program		7/2/21	
	OA mails decision document and certificate to program; CC: institutional CEO, CAO, and secondary review contacts		7/2/21	
Four weeks after COA meeting	Due: Section 4 evaluation (program director's evaluation of review process)		7/9/21	Sections 1-5 evaluation forms sent from OA to program after receipt of Self-Study
Six months after site visit	Due: Section 5 evaluation (program director's 6-month evaluation form)		12/29/21	Sections 1-5 evaluation forms sent from OA to program after receipt of Self-Study
	Due: cost of review information from program		12/29/21	OA will send a request for this information