

To: Students who have declared an interest in the dual MLIS and School Media Specialist certification

Fr: Drs. Ondrusek and Yontz

Re: Overview of Requirements

Date: March 17, 2008

Representative faculty members from the VSU MLIS Program and the VSU Curriculum, Leadership and Technology (CLT) Program met to clarify the requirements for receiving a dual MLIS and School Media Specialist certification from Valdosta State University. There are many details that you need to understand and conditions that you must be prepared to accept in order to receive the MLIS degree and Georgia School Media Specialist certification concurrently through VSU.

Here is an overview of the points we discussed. Please read this overview carefully. If you feel you can meet these requirements, contact your advisor for a **REVISED Program of Study** document. Additions to the DRAFT document that some of you received in your Foundations class were made as a result of the meeting.

#### THE CURRICULUM

To receive both the MLIS and SMS certification, you must meet curricular requirements for **both programs**. This means completing all core courses for the MLIS plus electives that will prepare you for working with youth in a public library setting AND fulfilling all the courses taught through the CLT program designed to meet the Georgia Professional Standards Committee (PSC) for the School Media Specialist certification. Those courses are listed on the Program of Study form.

The CLT faculty alerted us to some additional conditions relating to your course of study. These are outlined below.

#### PRIOR TO ENTERING THE PROGRAM

You need to show proof that you meet **one** of these test standards:

Passed the GACE I exam (information at <http://www.gace.nesinc.com/>)

Score of 1030 or higher on the GRE

Score of 1000 or higher on the SAT

MAT scores may not be substituted.

### PERMISSION TO REQUEST DUAL PROGRAM STATUS

You must be categorized as an admitted MLIS student on “regular” status to qualify for entry into the dual MLIS degree-SMS certification program. If you were admitted to the MLIS program on any status other than “regular” status (i.e., probationary, irregular, or non-degree), you are **not** eligible to start a dual program of study until you convert to regular status.

The advisors for the Dual MLIS & School Media Specialist Certification are Dr. Ondrusek and Dr. Yontz. If you are assigned to someone else, complete the Change of Advisor Request form (MLIS homepage, click on Resources for Students).

You will establish your entrance into the CLT program by applying to the Graduate School for admission as a non-degree seeking student with a major of IT-LM. The application and application fee are the only requirements, since the Graduate School will already have the other needed documents in your file. You will make this application **after** admission to the MLIS program on regular status, **after** being assigned to either Dr. Ondrusek or Dr. Yontz as advisor, and **after** discussing your interest in this track with that advisor.

### COURSE SEQUENCE & LOAD

The CLT faculty recommend any one of these courses as a starting point for your ITED course sequence:

ITED 7300  
CIED 7060  
ITED 7201

ITED 7201 is a pre-requisite to ITED 7203. Currently, ITED 7201 is taught in the summer and has some face-to-face meetings. For those of you who decide to enter the dual program, you should be considering ITED 7201 for this summer. Those of you who are not taking summer courses should plan to take ITED 7300 **OR** CIED 7060 in the fall.

Important Note on ITED 7300 and CIED 7060: These two courses can be counted as electives for the MLIS degree program. This means that if you decide to withdraw from the dual program of study, you can count either or both of those courses as electives. The other ITED courses are **NOT** candidates for counting as electives for the MLIS degree.

The ITED courses are project oriented, technology-intensive, include reading assignments, and are often based upon group collaboration. CLT faculty advise their students to take no more than 2 courses during the fall or spring semesters and no more than 3 courses during the summer term if you are NOT working during the summer.

Your MLIS advisor will expect you to follow the above recommended course sequences and course load guidelines for the dual study program. That means, for example, one CLT course and one MLIS course during fall or spring would be considered a normal load.

**It is NOT feasible to try and complete this dual program on a two-year fast-track.**

### LEARNING ASSESSMENT

The CLT program is accredited through NCATE (a national education agency) and AASL (American Association of School Librarians). NCATE standards require rigorous methods for assessing performance. The CLT program partly meets these standards by having students use a product called LiveText to document your performance on assessments. You would use this for selective assignments, not every single thing you do. The CLT faculty will provide you with purchasing information (about \$100) and instructions on how to use LiveText.

Several ITED courses require all students to purchase and learn to use Adobe Acrobat (the full program, not the free reader). In these courses, you are asked to save and submit assignments into Adobe Acrobat format, the professor inserts revision "mark-ups" into the document, and the document is returned to you for revisions.

### TRANSFER COURSES

If you have had courses from the VSU CLT (formerly CIT) program that correspond exactly to courses on the dual program of study, talk to your advisor about counting these toward certification. If you have taken courses from other institutions which you think are comparable, the transferability of these courses is slim. The reason for this goes back to the stringent accreditation standards that the VSU CLT program must follow. You must show proof of performance as designated by the VSU CLT standards.

### MLIS ELECTIVES

There are several MLIS electives that are strongly recommended for students who declare youth services as a career goal. You are one of those students. In addition to one of the Youth Lit courses (either MLIS 7420 Youth Lit or MLIS 7999 Multicultural Youth Lit), other recommended electives are:

MLIS 7220 Public Libraries

MLIS 7422 Programming for Children or Young Teens

**There is little room in your dual program of study for other electives. Entering into this dual program signals a commitment to preparing yourself for serving youth in both school and public library settings.**

### ADDITIONAL CLT REQUIREMENTS

Because your coursework for the ITED courses requires observations and, eventually an internship, in the schools, you must submit to a criminal background check and obtain liability insurance. This is done through an office on the VSU campus. Those of you who live a distance from the VSU campus may need to travel to VSU in order to arrange for your background check and liability insurance. It will be your responsibility to make arrangements that meet the CLT requirements.

At some point in your program of study, you will have to pass a technology proficiency test. This is a statewide online test that is currently (as of March 2008) being revised.

A 100-hour internship, ITED 7299, is a required course. You will need to do this internship in a school approved by the CLT program. It is **not** interchangeable with the MLIS 7960 Supervised Fieldwork course.

As you near completion of the CLT required courses, you will receive information from the CLT program on taking the GACE II exam. This is an exam for School Media Specialist candidates.