



A Dual-Degree Pathway to Developing Medical Information Specialists: Transforming Physicians into Informationists

Dual-Degree MD/MSLS or MSIS Track

Duke Third Year of Medical School: 10 to 12 months of scholarly and research experience, including laboratory and clinical research, as well as dual-degree tracks of one or more years.

Maximum Student Enrollment: 2 students per year; 4 simultaneously enrolled.

Duration of Program: Two years for MSLS or MSIS; may be completed in 18 months. The expectation is that the students will complete the program and their research project within two years and will return to their fourth year medical school program by August, two years after starting the MSLS or MSIS.

Registration for Classes: Registration process for both schools.

Transfer of Credit: None; No relevant courses between the degree programs.

Tuition and Fees: IMLS grant provides in-state tuition and annual stipend of \$21,000 for two cohorts of 2 students over 3 years. Duke and UNC are negotiating a permanent arrangement for in-state-tuition for 2 medical school students per year.

Degree Requirements:

The following UNC degree requirements for the **Master of Science in Library Science (MSLS) or Information Science (MSIS)**:

- Forty-eight semester hours of graduate-level course work
- Completion of a satisfactory comprehensive examination
- Completion of a master's paper or project

Mentors: Duke faculty mentor, approved by the Third Year Committee, to provide general guidance and advice, and ensure that the student is meeting Duke's criteria for completion of the third/scholarly year. A UNC faculty adviser is assigned to each student to monitor their progress through the curriculum and ensure they are meeting the criteria for UNC graduation.

Thesis Requirements: Must meet the requirements for both schools.

- UNC SILS requires the completion of a master's paper or project.
- The Duke University School of Medicine requires the completion of a quantitative thesis by all students enrolled in medical school.
- When feasible, the master's thesis may be used for both programs, but this must be discussed with the Duke mentor to ensure all criteria are met.

IRB Approval: Required at both schools.

Continuity Ambulatory Care Experience (Duke): Expected to complete a continuity ambulatory (outpatient) care experience during the two-years spent pursuing the MSLS or MSIS degree. The outpatient clinic experience is 34 weeks, one-half day a week.



Supervised Field Experience: UNC SILS provides credit for a supervised field experience. Duke University Medical Center Library will offer field experiences to interested medical students.

Why Consider an MSLS or MSIS? You will learn about and understand:

- The skills and knowledge needed to provide input into the design and implementation of computer systems, new electronic resources, and clinical information systems
- How information systems, databases and other resources are designed, developed, and implemented
- The elements that are needed to create a new biomedical resource
- Information seeking behaviors and the human factors in system design
- The dynamic world of libraries and how today's libraries deliver high quality information resources and services
- The challenges and concerns of operating a medical library and information service

As Part of the Program, Able To:

- Pursue a project that relates to how clinicians and researchers use information in general or within the Duke setting
- Work with faculty at Duke and UNC who are experts in library and information services and systems

Future Roles For Medical Information Specialists:

- Changing and creating the library of the future through virtual collections and services
- Developing and delivering innovative and responsive information services to clinicians and researchers
- Creating new information resources
- Assisting in the design and implementation of clinical information systems and tools
- Working with Web-based tools and technologies
- Developing, evaluating and implementing emerging technologies
- Influencing institutional and public policies and standards
- Working in a collaborative environment with subject and technology experts

Career Paths:

Medical information specialists be able to play a number of roles in a variety of settings. Below are a few of the numerous possibilities that are available and new roles are emerging every day.

- Change agent in biomedical libraries and health care settings
- Creator of Websites and resources
- Developer of new information products and services
- Knowledge manager in a pharmaceutical research firm
- Information specialist on a clinical or research team
- Administrator with oversight of the library or IT functions or member of IT team
- Business entrepreneur in software or hardware
- Indexer of biomedical resources
- Biomedical expert in data mining
- IT expert in a group practice
- Leader in a public agency concerned with national information standards and policies
- Participant in the formation of institutional information and IT policies
- Consultant with commercial firms developing information systems and tools
- Faculty members in a library school or informatics program

