



Tips for Requesting Employer Sponsorship

Employers may offer education benefits such as tuition reimbursement to help fund your advanced education. Speak to your employer to see if this is available.

Beyond funding, employers can support your advanced education goals by adding flexibility to your schedule and providing new challenges and opportunities to take advantage of your growing skill set. Having a scheduled conversation to discuss your professional development goals is a great way to help foster support, in whatever form it may take. This tip sheet offers you some information to help you request employer support for the Master of Science in Library and Information Science program from Syracuse University.

HOW TO SHAPE YOUR SPONSORSHIP REQUEST

Schedule an appointment.

Plan a meeting with your supervisor or human resources representative. In this preliminary meeting, you should be prepared to discuss the program and identify reasons why you want to earn this degree.

Do your research.

See if your company has an educational benefits program or has sponsored individuals in the past. Familiarize yourself with these efforts before meeting with your supervisor.

Frame your argument.

Consider why you want to pursue your master's degree and make a list of the reasons why earning your degree will make you more valuable to your organization. Be sure your objectives and reasoning are clear and that you are prepared to discuss your plans.

Demonstrate your value.

Think about key issues your department/company is currently facing and align your skill development in the program with these key issues.

Drive action.

Let your employer know that they can speak with an iSchool@Syracuse Admissions Counselor if they have questions about the program or about the application process.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Syracuse University School of Information Studies

Syracuse University's School of Information Studies (iSchool)—The Original Information School—is proud of its position as a leader in the field. Nationally ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the top schools of information in the nation, the iSchool offers an online Master of Science in Library and Information Science.

The program is designed by iSchool faculty and brings the on-campus Syracuse University student experience to you through state-of-the-art online technology—no matter where you live.

Master of Science in Library and Information Science

Three core themes are highlighted throughout the program's curriculum:

- A focus on the users of library and information services
- The use of technology to provide exemplary services
- Management of information services and systems

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The 36-credit MS in Library and Information Science program can be completed in as little as 18 months.

Core Coursework

- Introduction to the Library and Information Profession
- Reference and Information Literacy Services
- Information Resources: Organization and Access
- Library Planning, Marketing and Assessment
- Management Principles for Information Professionals
- Information Policy

Electives

- 15 credits of electives allow students to extend their core knowledge and skills in a direction of their choice.
 - All iSchool graduate courses are acceptable electives.
 - Up to 6 credits can be taken from other Syracuse University schools, such as the Whitman School of Management and the College of Engineering and Computer Science.

Student Experience

No matter where you are in the world, iSchool@Syracuse offers you the same degrees as students who attend on campus. As a student in the program, you will experience:

- **A robust online learning environment.** Through live online classes, multimedia coursework, collaborative group projects, and hands-on learning opportunities, iSchool@Syracuse combines the collaboration of an on-campus degree with the flexibility of an online program.
- **Face-to-face interaction.** Through weekly, webcam-enabled classes, students meet face-to-face for candid discussions. The small, intimate classes are led by Syracuse University School of Information Studies and instructors who are formally trained in the unique aspects of teaching online.
- **An on-campus immersion.** Students have the opportunity to collaborate with classmates and professors in person during immersive learning experiences. Students meet with peers, learn from industry experts, and participate in workshops.
- **Dedicated student support.** As part of the Syracuse University community, students have access to meaningful academic and career support from start to finish.