

UHCL School Library and Information Science Program Accreditation Information

Educational accreditation is a quality assurance process under which services and operations of educational institutions or programs are evaluated and verified by a Government (national or state) recognized external agency to determine if the applicable and recognized agency standards are met.

State accreditation provides the assurance that an educator preparation program is qualified and certified to offer degree programs leading to certification, licensure, or endorsement, and that students meet all the requirements for certification upon successful completion of the program. Programs must be approved, or accredited, by the state education office for each state in which they offer students the ability to certify at the end of their program. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) accredits all educator preparation programs offering educator certifications in Texas each year.

National Accreditation is an additional, optional accreditation that programs may seek and is usually done to accredit a specific degree program through the associated national professional organization. For Library Science programs the national accrediting bodies include the American Library Association (ALA), the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). The major benefit of accreditation at the national level is that it may allow easier transferability of a professional certification/license from one state to another.

National accreditation of a program is not a guarantee that your earned certification/license will transfer from one state to another. State Offices of Education work together to establish their licensure agreements and requirements for transferability, independently of any national accreditation. If you decide to leave the state in which you completed your program and state certification requirement to receive your state educator license, you must check with the state office of education in your new state to determine the transferability of your license. Regardless of national accreditation of your program, you may be required to complete additional coursework or testing to meet the different state licensure requirements.

During our last program area review under CAEP, the UHCL School Library and Information Science program earned national recognition from ALA. Since then, our university has followed suit with many other universities and has removed ourselves from the CAEP accreditation process for a number of reasons. However, we continue to align our program with ALA and CAEP standards. ALA accredits programs which educate public, school, and special librarians. The UHCL SLIS program focuses solely on educating school librarians and, thus, does not fall into this accrediting category.

The UHCL SLIS program is accredited by TEA, the accrediting body through which state certification is issued. Thus, upon successful completion of the program and passage of the state exam, you will earn your School Librarian state certification.