Youth Literature

The Master of Arts in Youth Literature is ideal preparation for advanced service to children and young adults as a teacher, librarian, reviewer, editor or writer. Our powerful, values-based curriculum emphasizes the practical application of leading-edge theory in professional practice.

Prepare for leadership—side by side with the experts

Our School of Information Studies, Chicago’s iSchool, has a long and distinguished history in the study of literature and other materials for children and young adults. In small classes, you’ll work face to face and online with recognized experts in the field, supported by the unique presence on campus of the Butler Center for Children’s Literature and its rich collections. You’ll study the vast variety of formats and genres of youth literature—from board books to graphic novels and beyond—and situate each work in its cultural and historic contexts. You’ll evaluate literature for a variety of ages from the personal, pragmatic and professional perspectives while examining the dynamic relationship between young readers and their texts.

A program designed for the busy professional

With all the demands of home and career, who has time to earn a high-impact master’s degree? You do. You can complete the program in as many as six years or as little as two years. You’ll enjoy the flexibility and support you need to meet your job and family obligations while advancing your intellectual and professional objectives.

“Each student is assigned a faculty advisor, and every faculty member is readily available to answer any question you have, about the subject matter or the profession. If they don’t know the answer, they’ll refer you to someone who does.”

Bridgette Thoma
Graduate, School of Information Studies
Prepare for a life of purpose and impact

This high-impact program will prepare you for outstanding service in a range of dynamic fields. Jobs in elementary and secondary schools and public libraries are projected to grow steadily in coming years. What’s more, the prospects and salaries of teachers, librarians, reviewers and editors are enhanced for professionals with master’s degrees. The MAYL program will provide you with a concentrated focus not only on youth literature as an aesthetic object but also on the intended audience for that literature as well as on the practitioners who use it. The program has a strong foundation in ethics and a commitment to social responsibility and radical inclusion in the field of children’s and young adult literature.

The iSchool at Dominican: an amazing legacy of excellence

Since 1930, Dominican University has produced generations of leaders in the ever-evolving field of library and information science. Today, the iSchool at Dominican offers powerful graduate and undergraduate programs within a relationship-based learning environment. You’ll find graduates from Chicago’s iSchool contributing to the success of libraries, schools, research institutions, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, corporations, and cultural institutions across the United States. Join these skilled professionals by earning a degree in the field of children’s and young adult literature with a foundation of ethics, social responsibility, and radical inclusion.

Learn More

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“We have an 80-year tradition of inspiring learners and producing leaders who understand that access to literature and information is essential to success and a basic human right. At the I-School, you’ll gain not only knowledge and skills but a deep understanding of ethics and social responsibility in this indispensable profession.”

Kate Marek
Director, School of Information Studies