

I.6 Standards for Accreditation overview

The COA develops standards for accreditation through a consensus-building process that involves various communities of interest, including educators, students, and library and information practitioners. Throughout the standards-development process, the COA seeks, receives, and uses comments and suggestions from the communities of interest in both the United States and Canada. The 2015 *Standards for Accreditation of Master's Programs in Library and Informational Studies* were adopted by the approval of the ALA Council on February 2, 2015. Previous standards were adopted in 1925, 1933, 1951, 1972, 1992, and 2008.

The *Standards* describe the essential features of programs of education that prepare library and information professionals. Within the context of the school's and program's rights and obligations regarding initiative, experimentation, innovation, and individual programmatic differences, these standards identify the minimum achievement consistent with the needs of the