

Department of Medical Library and Information Science
Overview

By
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Introduction

From the earliest times, libraries were concerned to be the proper places for collecting, cataloguing, classifying and circulating materials related to literature, culture, science and technology. The rapid development of human-beings and the increase of traditional and modern publications concerning different fields of knowledge made it necessary to increase and expand libraries. The main factors for our development and independence in our cultural activities is to get benefits from the written and oral cultural heritage, scientific and technical information in our research, decision making and planning. These factors also cause economic progress and also a way towards self-reliance and providing general developments among medical students, tutors, physicians and all health-care and research medics.

Aims

Although increasing publications has a direct effect on dissemination of information and culture among individuals of a society, it also may bring about problems in retrieving rather easily the needed sources from the flood of knowledge all over the world. As a result, it is necessary to try to organize those acquired

traditional and modern publications in a suitable arrangement that they can be retrieved rather fast, easily and in a desirable condition.

By the way, for the establishment, expansions and initiating library network systems; collecting traditional and modern reading materials, classifying and administrating medical libraries and information centers in all levels, made the authorities necessary to train undergraduate and post-graduate medical librarians and information scientists.

The present curriculum is based on education and research basis for BA and MA medical library and information science students. In the undergraduate courses, the program is concerned with class education and practical library trainings. The aim of the program is to secure needed manpower for all levels of medical sciences libraries and other medical information centers.

In large medical libraries and information centers, work of medical undergraduate librarians and information scientists work are mostly supervised and controlled by medical librarians and information scientist holding MA and Ph.D. degrees in the respective field.

The Course Length and the forms of the Disciplines for undergraduate and Post-graduate Courses in Medical Library and Information Science

1. Undergraduate

The course length is from 4 to 4/5 years, and the maximum period allowed for a student to complete his/her studies might be extended to six years. The educational Discipline is based on the *Unit Scoring* and the rules and regulations of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology and also The Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Training.

All courses are in seven to eight terms maximum. The length of each term is 17 weeks which is equal to one semi-academic year. The period of each *Theoretical Class* is equal to 17 hours, while each Practical Unit(p) is 34 68 hours for library practical work. The total course units are 136 that are divided into five categories as the following:

a. General courses	22 units
b. Basic Units	22 units
c. Special Library Science courses (mandatory)	58 units
d. Special Library Sciences Courses (Optional)	4 units
e. Non-Library Science Subjective Courses	30 units

Total	136 units

Necessity and Importance

Medical Libraries and Information centers sponsoring various activities for which they need some trained individuals in various academic fields and high enthusiasm. The curriculum of Medical library Science undergraduate level is prepared in such a way that it can educate and train students both comprehensively and professional in the field of their studies, so that they can later perform various tasks in different medical libraries and documentation centers, and also to assist higher ranking medical professionals in those libraries and other information centers.

Length of the Course

The Course Length and the Disciplines for Medical Library and Information Science Graduate Course is similar to all other undergraduate Courses in Iran which is normally from 7 to 8 semesters/terms, or 4 academic years as follows:

First term/semester

Name of the course	Unit	Type	Precedence
Islamic texts	2	General	No.
Farsi	3	General	No.
Foreign Language	3	General	No.
Physical Education (1)	1/p	General	No.
General Physics	2	Subjective	No.
General Chemistry	3	Subjective	No.
Library and Library Science	3	Special	No.
History of Civilization	2	Basics	No.
Total	18/1p		

Second term/semester

Name of the Course	Unit	Type	Precedence
Islamic Knowledge	2	General	No.
History of General Philosophy	2	Basics	No.
Bio-Chemistry	1/1p	Subjective	No
Anatomy and Physiology	3/1p	Subjective	Biology
General Sanitation	2/1p	Subjective	No.
Basics of Sociology	2	Basics	No.
General Psychology	2	Basics	No.
Special English (1)	2	Basics	No.
History-Literature of Iran	2	Basics	No.
Total	18/2		

Third term/semester

Name of the Course	Unit	Type	Precedence
Islamic Training and Ethics	2	General	No.
Family Planning	2	General	No.
Social Psychology	2	Basics	No.
History-Literature of the World	2	Basics	No.
Collection Building(1)	1/1p	Special	No.
General Reference Sources (Farsi and Arabic)	1/1p	Special	No.
Computer and Programming Basics	2/1p	Subjective	No.
Organizing Collections(1)	$\frac{1}{2}$		
Special English (2)	2	Basics	Special English (1)
Total	15/5p		

Fourth term/semester

Name of the Course	Unit	Type	Precedence
History of Islam	2	General	No.
Building Collections(2)	1/2p	Special	Library Classification(1)
General Reference Sources (Western)	1/1	Special	No.
Farsi Word Processing and			
Desk-top Publishing	/2 p	Special	No.
Library-Practical Work(1)	/3p	Special	Library Classification(1) Library Collection(1) General Reference Sources
Collections Building(2)	2	Special	Library Collection (1)
Report Writing	1/2p	Special	No.
Physical Education(2)	/1p	General	Physical Education(1)
Pathology	3	Subjective	Anatomy and Physiology
Total	10/10p		

Fifth term/semester

Name of the course	Unit	Type	Precedence
Islamic Knowledge(2)	2	General	Islamic Knowledge(1)
Western Word Processing and			
Desk-top Publishing	/2p	Special	No.
French (1)	2	Basics	No.
Basics of Reference Works	2	Special	Farsi-Arabic and Western Reference Sources
Organizing Collections(3)	1/2p	Special	Organizing Collections (1) and (2)
Pharmacology	2	Subjective	General Chemistry, Biochemistry
Medical Sciences Terminology	2	Subjective	No.
Practical Library Work(2)	/3p	Special	Practical Library Work (1), Organizing Collections (2)
Laboratory Sciences	1/1p	Subjective	Anatomy and Physiology
Total	12/8p		

Sixth term/semester

Name of the Course Unit	Type	Precedence
Islamic Revolution and Its Roots	2 General	No
Library Buildings and Equipments	2 Special	No.
Organizing Collections(4)	2/1p Special	Organizing Collections (1),(2) and (3)
Special Reference Sources	1/2p Special	General Reference Sources (Farsi-Arabic, and Western)
French(2)	2 Basics	French (1)
Library Practical Work(3)	3 Special	Collection Building(2), Organizing Collection(2) General Reference Sources
An Introduction to Medical Sciences Data Bases	3 Subjective	No.
Total	17/7 p	

Seventh term/semester

Name of the course Unit	Type	Precedence
Materials and Services of Libraries for Children and Young Adults	1/1p Special	No.
Medical Sciences History	2 Subjective	No.
Library Public Services	2 Special	General Reference Sources (Farsi-Arabic), Library Buildings and Equipments
A/V materials	2/1p Special	Organizing Collection (1) and (2)
Library Administration	3 Subjective	Library and Library Science
Library Practical Work(4)	/3p Special	Library Practical Work (3) Organizing Collections(4) Special Reference Sources
An introduction to the Industry of Printing and Publication	3 Special	No.
Total	12/5p	

Medical Library and Information Science Post-Graduation trend is the only post-graduate course that we are allowed to start getting candidates through the Iranian National Entrance Examination.

This is the first time in the long running 60- years-history of Tabriz Medical Sciences University that this course is going to take off in the Paramedical Faculty of the Medical Sciences University of Tabriz, from September 2005/ Mehr 1384 A.SH.

The aims and necessities

The very rapid expansion and Development of Medical establishments in Iran and the ever-increasing traditional and modern software and hardware searching tools, research activities, and collecting, doing technical processing tasks and circulating materials among patrons in the field of Medical Sciences, made the Department of Medical Library and Information Science to begin training young and able men and women with high morale and enthusiasts to carry these responsibilities in the medical libraries and other medical studies and research centers.

Length of the Course

The Course Length and the Disciplines for Medical Library and Information Science Post-Graduate is similar to all other Post-Graduate Courses in the Islamic Republic of Iran which is normally in 4 semesters/terms, or 2 academic years according to the following Tables:

First term/semester

Name of the course	Unit	type	precedence
Research Methods	2	Basics	No
Data Bases Services of Iran and other Countries	2	Special	No
Special English (1)	2	Special	No
Statistics (1)	2	Basics	No
Cataloging and Classification of A/V and Electronic Material	/ 2p	Special	No
Abstracting and Indexing	2	Special	No
Total	12		

Second term/semester

Name of the course	Unit	Type	Precedence
Medical Sciences Special Reference Sources	1½	Special	No
Special English (2)	2	Special	Special English (1)
Statistics (2)	2	Special	Statistics (1)
Library Science Basics	1	Basics	No
Medical Sciences Terminology	1½	Basics	No
Total	8		

Third term/Semester

Name of the course	Unit	Type	Precedence
Medical Sciences Electronic Reference Sources	1/2p	Special	No.
Medical Sciences Universities Designing Websites	1/1p	Special	No.
Seminar Research	/1p	Special	Statistics (1) and (2)
Field Course Training	/ 1p	Special	No.
Total	2/6p		

Fourth term/semester

Name of the course	Unit	Type	Precedence
Internship	/ 4 p		Dissertation
Total	/ 4 p		

Note: /p stands for practical