

ARE YOU WORKING IN A LIBRARY OR ARCHIVE AND WANT TO EARN A MASTER'S DEGREE ONLINE?



College of
Communication & Information Sciences
School of Library and Information Studies

Please consider applying to the *SJ4A* Scholarship Program: Training of Community-Embedded Social Justice Archivists (*SJ4A*) [a.k.a. Archival Studies Social Justice Master's Scholarship Program]. Funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services' Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program – FY 2022 Guidelines (LB21) [[RE-252356-OLS-22](#)].

PROGRAM GOAL To recruit 12 Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) paraprofessionals working in community-based archives settings to earn a library science master's degree with an archives concentration in the University of Alabama's (UA) School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) synchronous distance education program.

PROGRAM BENEFITS Full tuition scholarship for two years, living subsistence, stipend for books and supplies, laptop computer, conference travel support, part-time program with a structured, individually tailored archives and social justice curriculum with formal/informal professional mentoring by educators and practitioners.

Archival studies courses in the *SJ4A* Program

- Introduction to the archival professions, institutions, and functions
- Collections development and preservation
- Development of archival outreach programs
- Organization, description, and representation of archival materials, with an emphasis on community focused approaches

Social justice courses in the *SJ4A* Program

- Community-engaged scholarship, services, and programs
- Social justice, inclusion, and advocacy
- Applying diversity leadership theories and praxis in organizations
- Outreach services to diverse constituencies

APPLICATION & ADMISSION For additional admissions information, please see: <https://slis.ua.edu/mlis-admissions-faqs/>. For submitting your application materials, including the *SJ4A* program essays, visit URL: <https://slate.ua.edu/apply/> (Spring 2023 application forthcoming).

Eligibility & Requirements

- BIPOC paraprofessional currently working in an archive or library in the United States
- Completed bachelor's degree
- Normally, a 3.0 cumulative GPA in graduate and undergraduate coursework
- Committed to applying principles of social justice and equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility in your future work

How to Apply

- Complete applications for admission to UA Graduate School and SLIS
- Send transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
- Submit three academic and/or professional recommendations
- Complete application for the *SJ4A* scholarship program, including program essays, and submit through UA SLATE: <https://slate.ua.edu/apply/> (Spring 2023 application forthcoming)

DEADLINES/TIMELINES Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Applications will be accepted through November 1, 2022, with a priority given to applications received by October 1, 2022. Admissions will be closed after the 12 cohort positions have been filled. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications as soon as possible.

CONTACT For more information, please contact Dr. Bharat Mehra (205-348-5259; bmehra@ua.edu) or Dr. Robert Riter (205-248-6232; rbriter@ua.edu), SLIS, UA. Project website: <http://socialjusticearchivists-sj4a.ua.edu/>

PARTNERS SLIS faculty Drs. Bharat Mehra and Robert Riter are partnering with multiple state archives-related agencies, including the Alabama Department of Archives and History and the Alabama Public Library Service (AL), Multnomah County Archives (OR), New Mexico State Library (NM), Society of American Archivists, Special Collections and Archives at the California State University (CA), and others to lead the various grant activities that will be documented on the project website.



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