

# LIS-S 577: Designing for Informal Learning Environments

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Credit Hours: 3

Library professionals are increasingly asked to facilitate learning. Facilitated learning within libraries traditionally took place in story times, book clubs, crafts, and information literacy sessions. Although these traditional services are still needed, library professionals are challenged to design and facilitate learning environments that are less structured and more emergent with the use of digital tools and technology. Libraries are also well positioned to support learners who may not flourish in the formal educational settings by considering non-traditional and culturally-relevant ways to support learning across time and space. Do you want to cultivate conceptual and practical tools that can be used while designing for informal learning environments? Come on board!

This course serves as one of the two learning design core courses in the Facilitated Learning Specialization, emphasizing facilitation in informal settings (i.e., libraries, museums, nature centers, digital space, home environments). The first learning design core course is LIS-S 574 Information Instruction. As such, students must take LIS-S 574 or have a teaching license prior to taking this course. Additionally, students are required to bring the final assignment from LIS-S 574 or a video record of their instruction delivery from prior professional experience to analyze. In this course, students extend beyond what they learned in LIS-S 574 to explore, analyze, and apply past and current theories and methods of learning and teaching used in diverse informal learning settings involving youth, adults, families, and community members.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze and evaluate multiple theoretical traditions, strategies, and frameworks for understanding and designing for learning outside of schools.
- Analyze and design for the learning needs, interests, and culture of a target learner group to create an informal learning environment.
- Apply the connected learning framework, facilitation strategies, design tools, and appropriate technologies to design and facilitate a high-quality informal learning environment in a library or professional setting.
- Engage in peer critique iterations and design cycles to evaluate and improve the informal learning environment and facilitation skills.

If you do not meet the prerequisite requirement but would like to enroll in the class, email me at [skim541@iu.edu](mailto:skim541@iu.edu).  
Let's talk!

