

From: [GSSW Academic Affairs](#)
Subject: [col-sw-stu-MSW] GSSW - Denver Campus Program
Date: Thursday, May 27, 2021 1:06:30 PM

Key points from this email:

- The video recording from the May 19, GSSW Updates & Listening Session is now available.
 - Fall Denver Campus classes are planned for 2-hours, with some classes extended to 2 hours and 50 minutes per faculty guidance based on class content and activities.
 - Future meetings and engagement activities will continue to be offered.
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Dear GSSW Denver Campus Students,

Thank you to those who could attend the May 19th GSSW Fall Updates & Listening Session with the GSSW Deans, Directors, and Faculty. You may now access the [recording](#) on the GSSW Student Resource Portal in the [COVID-19 Update tab](#) > Denver Campus MSW drop-down list of recordings.

Some of the primary questions that we addressed or received in the chat, included:

1. What is the rationale for setting classes at 2 hours instead of 2 hours and 50 minutes?

- As shared in the meeting, faculty and students reported mixed preferences for length of class time.
- Prior to the pandemic, faculty were already using more asynchronous learning activities because of best practices from adult learning pedagogy and because of feedback that students wanted more flexibility in their schedules.
- Faculty want to take time to re-imagine how to emerge from the pandemic with an improved structure for our courses that supports student learning, meaningful interactions and dialogue on course content, and the many competing demands on students' time and ability to come to campus.

2. How are tuition costs set and applied across GSSW and with field internships?

- [GSSW Cost of Attendance](#) is program specific and set annually by DU.
- As of the June 2020, all DU students are now on a tuition per credit payment structure. GSSW Faculty worked to make the degree more accessible by implementing a reduction in total credits required for the MSW, by reducing required field credits by 6 credits and removing a required 3-credit research course, while still maintaining our accreditation

requirements.

- [GSSW Curriculum](#), including field and course requirements are set at 81 quarter-credits for two-year students and 54-credits for advanced standing students. These courses must meet [Council of Social Work Education's Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards](#), which include specific social work competencies required to meet licensure criterion.
- Master's degrees across DU can vary in total number of credits required for their degree, depending on their discipline specific norms or professional accreditation needs.
- Tuition costs related to field education provide the following to ensure the quality of your field learning experience:

- Staffing of GSSW Faculty Field Liaisons and off-site MSW Field Instructors,

- Identification and approval of new field agency partners, which also includes management of required legal contracts and insurance details,

- Liability coverage for students,

- Orientation, ongoing trainings, and supervision of agency-based and off-site Field Instructors and GSSW Faculty Field Liaisons,

- Documentation, assessment, and program improvement activities for CSWE accreditation reports and to fulfill transcript requirements of your field internship experiences (which may be needed for your future licensure), and

- Host and update the database of approved field agency partners.

- The GSSW Dean offered to hold a budget overview meeting with students in the future.

3. What is planned to continue to collaborate, to engage students, and to promote transparent communications?

- We will offer our quarterly *Casual Conversations with the Dean*, including this summer. The focus of these meetings will be to hear from students. The next meeting is offered on Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 12:00 pm MT. Please register via this [link](#).
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- Your spring course evaluations will ask students to rate the need for longer class times by course.
- We have set the plan for Fall Quarter, as stated above. Winter and Spring Quarter 2022 class lengths will be review as we gather more feedback and offer more meetings during Fall Quarter to re-imagine how to structure GSSW classes to meet the differential needs of students.
- We will continue to partner with GSSW Graduate Student Association (GSA) leadership to improve methods for gathering feedback, including topic-specific meetings, and strategies to improve transparency in communication.
- Additionally, GSA class representatives are eligible to participate in GSSW curriculum meetings to represent the Denver Campus student perspectives and to participate in the governance process.
- We are planning optional GSSW social events on campus over the summer, once we have updated DU protocols for events given the improving public conditions in the Denver metro area.

Thank you for the dialogue and ongoing feedback on how to improve our Denver Campus MSW

Program. Please do continue to outreach to us, join our [virtual office hours](#), or stop by Kate Ross or Leslie Hasche's offices with questions. We wish you well as we wrap up this spring quarter.

Sincerely,

Kate Ross, Denver Campus MSW Program Director

Aneesha Bharwani, Assistant Dean for Field Education

Deana Ahmad, Assistant Dean for Students

Leslie Hasche, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Amanda Moore McBride, GSSW Dean

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