

From: [GSSW Academic Affairs](#)
Subject: [col-sw-stu-MSW] GSSW Welcome to Fall Quarter
Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 4:58:18 PM

Dear Denver Campus MSW Students,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 Academic Year at GSSW. We hope you have slowed down over the summer and taken time to care for yourself and your loved ones. As we launch into the new academic year, please know that we continue to prioritize everyone's safety and well-being while offering meaningful educational opportunities and a supportive community to those at GSSW. We write now to summarize learning expectations and supports for Fall Quarter. For full additional details, please refer to these key resources and supports:

- [University of Denver \(DU\) COVID-19 Website](#)
- [GSSW Academic Calendars](#), with classes starting Monday, September 13, 2021

Required Steps to Access Denver Campus:

All decisions about current campus access are limited to Fall Quarter at this time and related to the COVID [response level](#) that is guided by the Colorado Department of Public Health, the City and County of Denver, and communicated on the [DU COVID Website](#). The response level will adjust as the level of COVID infections increase or decrease, with protocols changing as needed.

In order to have access to campus and enter Craig Hall for your classes, you **must**:

- Track your campus clearance and COVID testing timelines on the home page of [Pioneer Web](#) through "Campus Access Status."
- Upload your vaccine information to [myhealth.du.edu](#).
 - If you are not vaccinated or not fully vaccinated, you are required to quarantine for 7 days and log this quarantine in [Pioneer Web](#).
 - Denver Campus students are required to be vaccinated for in-person internships. If you are a Denver Campus student who is not vaccinated or not fully vaccinated, please contact covidcoordinator@du.edu for coordination with Disability Services Program and other supports. Please also let field@du.edu know if you may have to delay your internship start due to the vaccination requirement.
- Complete the required COVID testing within 48 hours before accessing campus from the [DU Campus Spit Lab and Free Testing options](#) that are open daily 8 am to 5:30 pm.
- Have your [DU ID card](#) to enter Craig Hall and swipe your card every time you enter.
 - During the first week of classes, GSSW members will be at the main entrance on the Craig Hall Patio to assist you.

In-Person Classroom Expectations:

Your faculty are ready to support you in your learning and to help navigate the updated in-person-classroom expectations. These include:

- Come prepared to know that eating is not allowed in the classrooms this year. Craig Hall kitchens are open. Please eat spread out in a communal area or outside.
- Know that physical distancing and cohort classes are not required this year.
- Students should sit in the same seat all quarter long as required by DU.
- Classes will vary in synchronous live class times from 2 hours to 3 hours, depending on the course content and instructor recommendation.
- If you signed up for an in-person class, the expectation is that you will attend in-person unless you need to quarantine or have other extenuating circumstances. Your instructors will let you know if you may join the class by Zoom or engage in an alternative learning activity. If you need to miss multiple in person class sessions, contact the [DU Disability Services Program](#) for consultation.
- If needed, report a positive COVID test or about COVID exposure to reportCOVID@du.edu or 303-871-COVD (2683).
- We ask for ongoing understanding and support for all in our community. For our faculty, many work in health care settings or have children under 12 who are unvaccinated, which means they may have to miss a class session due to required quarantine or illness. We have systems in place to ensure continuity of your learning should this occur, including a pool of high-quality, trained substitute instructors.
- Please communicate challenges related to your class attendance or to your health and wellness proactively, when possible, or as soon as feasible following an absence.

Student Services & Support:

GSSW and DU support services are ready to support you as a whole person. We recognize the stress you may be experiencing by the ongoing pandemic, the uncertainties of possible changes in COVID protocols, and the strains of balancing your learning in graduate school with your overall well-being. You can find resources, mental health and wellness supports, links to the emergency student assistance funds, and engagement opportunities within the [GSSW Student Resource Portal](#).

- Additionally, many GSSW teams—including Academic Affairs, Career Services, Registrar, Professional Advising, and Student Engagement—have established regular, virtual and in-person office hours to support you. *Some even have direct messaging/chat available through Microsoft Teams.* For more details, please visit

- the "[Contact Us](#)" tab of the GSSW Student Resource Portal.
- The [My SSP](#) tele-mental health, student support [program](#) is accessible 24/7 and will be available during the Winter Interterm, as well as the University closure.
 - DU's [Student Outreach & Support](#) services.

We are excited to welcome you to the 2021-2022 academic year. We are committed to dually promoting your safety and providing a high quality educational experience. Our central values remain to uphold safety, equity, and social justice as we respond to the pandemic and other current events. We wish you health, wellness, and connection as we start this academic year.

Take care,

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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