

Frequently Asked Questions

2020-2021 Denver, Four Corners, and Western Colorado Curriculum Updates

Who does this Apply to?

All MSW students that entered GSSW prior to Summer Quarter 2020, who will be continuing students during Academic Year 2020-2021. This includes all MSW students continuing into the next year from the Denver Campus, Four Corners, and Western Colorado programs. These changes do not apply to any student that graduates in or prior to Summer Quarter 2020.

What are the Curriculum Updates?

To meet requests for greater degree flexibility and opportunities for electives, we will replace six required concentration credits with six elective credits.

Curriculum Update Snapshot
<p>Field credit change: Students will now take 12 total credit hours of <i>SOWK 4970: Concentration Field</i>, as opposed to 15 total credit hours. These three credits of Concentration Field will be replaced by a three-credit elective of your choice. <i>See note in FAQ below for details.</i></p>
<p>Research requirement change: <i>SOWK 4901 Applied Practice Evaluation and Research</i> is no longer a required course and may be replaced by a three-credit elective of your choice.</p>
<p>For degree completion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional, two-year students who entered GSSW prior to Summer Quarter 2020 must still complete 90 total credits. • Advanced Standing students who entered GSSW prior to Summer Quarter 2020 must still complete 60 total credits.

**For elective course options you can explore the [Graduate Bulletin Course Descriptions](#) for GSSW.*

Field change FAQs:

Three credits of *SOWK 4970: Concentration Field* will be replaced by a three-credit elective.

- **Who does this change apply to?** Continuing Denver Campus and Western Colorado students entering concentration field internship in or after Summer Quarter 2020.
- **What steps do I need to take as a continuing student?** Successfully complete three elective credits, in lieu of the three credits previously required for concentration field.
- **In order for these changes to take place, do I need to do anything further?** GSSW will oversee the implementation of these curriculum updates. It is the student's responsibility to register appropriately in subsequent quarters, in order to satisfy degree requirements per these updates.
- **How many hours of concentration field will I do per week once the change takes effect?** Students will now complete a total of 500 hours in concentration internship, as opposed to 600 hours. Thus, students will now complete 16.5 hours per week, instead of the previously required 20 hours per week.
 - *Note:* There are several pre-approved field agencies that require students to complete additional field placement hours above the regular required 500 hours. These agencies are pre-approved by the Field Office based on the enhanced learning opportunities and trainings required in the agency. Students at these agencies may use the additional field hours as an elective credit, which will require an exceptions form (contact field@du.edu).

- **When does this change to field take effect?** Summer Quarter 2020.
- **If I have additional questions about field changes, who should I contact?** field@du.edu.



Research requirement change FAQs:

The research credit requirement is reduced to one concentration research course (three-credits), instead of two concentration research courses (i.e. SOWK 4900 [three-credits] and SOWK 4901 [three-credits]).

SOWK 4901: Applied Practice Evaluation Research can be replaced by a three-credit elective course.

- **Who does this change apply to?** Continuing Denver Campus and Western Colorado students who have not yet taken *SOWK 4901: Applied Practice Evaluation Research*.
- **What steps do I need to take as a continuing student?**
 - You must successfully complete a three-credit, concentration research course. Most students will take *SOWK 4900: Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs*. We will offer some special topic courses that meet this concentration requirement. More information on these special topic courses will be available during the April 2020 advising period.
 - Students may choose to replace the *SOWK 4901: Applied Practice Evaluation Research* course with a three-credit elective. Alternatively, students interested in research and evaluation, may still take *SOWK 4901: Applied Practice Evaluation Research* as an elective course, in a subsequent quarter, after taking the required three-credit, concentration research course (i.e. *SOWK 4900: Methods for Evaluating Practice and Programs*) or pre-approved special topic course.
- **When does this change to the research requirement take effect?** Summer Quarter 2020.
- **If I have additional questions about the research requirement, who should I contact?** Additional information is listed on the self-service [GSSW Student Resource Portal](#) and you may contact your academic advisor.

