



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update: GSSW Supports for Students, March 12, 2020

Dear MSW@Denver students,

The [Chancellor's update from March 11, 2020](#) stated that all University of Denver (DU) classes will be offered **online from March 17, 2020 until at least April 10, 2020** (i.e. through the first two weeks of Spring Quarter), in response to the Coronavirus and DU's plan to protect the health and safety of our community during this situation.

Through March 16, 2020, we have encouraged faculty to offer online options for their class sessions, and each faculty will communicate directly with you about any of your upcoming classes.

We understand that navigating the ambiguity of this situation can be stressful. We write to emphasize our care for you, for your health, and for your ongoing learning and professional growth during these times. GSSW is using three key guiding principles in our approach. First, we are following public health science. Second, we are committed to the continuity of your learning. Third, we support individual well-being for all our students, staff, and faculty at GSSW.

In this comprehensive email, you will learn how GSSW is prepared to support you during this transition. As available, additional updates will be sent to you by email and provided in the [GSSW Student Resource Portal](#). **YOU MUST PRIORITIZE READING EMAIL DURING THIS CRITICAL AND EVOVLING TIME. PLEASE PLAN TO CHECK YOUR DU EMAIL ACCOUNT EVERY DAY FOR ANY RELATED UPDATES.**

GSSW Academic Affairs and Courses

- We spent the last several weeks preparing resources to support meaningful learning in remote, online formats, across all programs. Faculty are receiving support with technology, curriculum design, and best teaching practices online.
- We informed faculty instructors of the importance of offering leniency in terms of absences and potential extensions for assignments during Winter and Spring Quarter. When, and if needed, we will also provide guidance on alternative learning activities to ensure students are able to complete their degree requirements during Spring Quarter.

- For MSW@Denver courses from GSSW, your instructor will provide class materials and Zoom class links in *.learn*, as usual.
- Student questions about courses should be directed to instructors and/or your Program Director:
 - MSW@Denver Program: Stephanie.George@du.edu
- You may also outreach to GSSWAcademic.Affairs@du.edu for broader questions about your education or how what we are planning in our responses.

Field Education

- Your GSSW Field Liaison will support you with individual guidance to determine how to proceed with your field placement. Please consult with your GSSW Field Liaison if you need support in determining whether to continue attending your field placement in-person or if you have concerns about completing all required field hours.
- To ensure that you're able to both prioritize your health and safety, while also continuing to engage in field internship learning, **GSSW is providing all students with the option to elect to complete hours remotely due to concern over COVID-19.** Students should factor in their personal health (physical and emotional) and the health of the persons/communities/agencies with whom they are in regular contact when making this decision.
- If a student needs to temporarily stop their field placement for either of the following reasons due to COVID-19, they should work with their agency supervisor to develop off-site alternative field learning activities using the [Temporary Interruption of Field Policy](#):
 - Agency temporarily closes due to agency or government decisions.
 - Individual student concerns for their own health or the health of others.
- ***Student travel and field internships:*** Students are advised to discuss with their agency supervisor, how their travel plans may impact their colleagues and clients at their field agencies. Some organizations have put forth policies that suggest that anyone who travels (domestically or internationally) proactively self-quarantine themselves for a period of 14 days to mitigate transmission of COVID-19. Students who are advised by their field agencies to self-quarantine should work with their agency supervisors and GSSW Field Liaisons to enact the [Temporary Interruption of Field Policy](#).
- ***Tips for Success when Using the Temporary Interruption of Field Policy:***
 1. Maintain regular weekly supervision with your Agency Supervisor via Zoom or phone.
 2. **Notify your GSSW Field Liaison** that this policy will need to be enacted.
 3. Set clear expectations and identify clear learning opportunities with your Agency Supervisor.

- Student questions about field should be directed to their GSSW Field Liaison.
- MSW@Denver Students who are beginning their first quarter of field placement in Spring Quarter, and who have not yet been assigned a GSSW Field Liaison, should contact their Placement Specialist with any questions about field.

GSSW Registrar and Student Services

- Our student facing teams remain ready to help you navigate the processes and systems that support your overall student experience.
- Please use these GSSW contacts, for area specific questions:
 - Career Services: gssw.careers@du.edu
 - Professional Advising: gssw.advising@du.edu
 - Registrar: gsswregistrar@du.edu
- Additional information—including virtual drop-in hours for our student services teams—can be found on the [GSSW Student Resource Portal](#).

Additional Student Supports

- [Student Outreach & Support](#) is a University resource where trained staff members ensure that students are connected to appropriate campus resources, have a plan of action to meet their goals, and learn how to navigate challenging situations. Activate these services by completing an SOS referral at sos@du.edu or by calling 303-871-2400.
- We recognize that these can be anxious and stressful times. For students interested in support, we suggest contacting DU's My SSP: Student Support Program. All degree seeking students at DU have free, 24/7 access to tele-mental health support through My SSP. Please download the app today and [click here to learn more](#).
- Perspectives helpline: 1-800-456-6327. Please consult your orientation materials for login information.

Please be assured we are ready to respond and offer support. We are also keeping track and monitoring what supports we need to offer to ensure you are able to complete your degree requirements during this Spring Quarter. For those planning to graduate in June 2020, please know we are keeping that goal in mind as we build our response. We look forward to celebrating your success and completion of your MSW degree in June.

Sincerely,

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