

From: [Office of GSSW Dean](#)
To: [Amanda McBride](#)
Subject: [col-sw-stu-MSW] COVID-19: Denver Campus Updates
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2020 12:12:26 PM
Attachments: [image001.png@01D60367.C4042890](#)
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Denver Campus MSW students,

Thank you for your patience as we continue to work through these exceptional circumstances.

GSSW leadership is working lockstep with the other deans at DU under the direction of the provost and chancellor. All graduate and professional programs are in the same situation regarding the move to online learning, impacts on internships, and the like. As such, we have to work together to make similar, equitable decisions. This takes time.

My email today provides some answers to the questions you have posed, and highlights the questions that remain. We are committed to providing you with timely, accurate information that addresses your concerns, and we will continue to do this as answers become available.

Courses

Move to online learning:

The move to online pedagogy may not be how you envisioned your spring quarter, yet all of higher education is in an exceptional circumstance. Online learning is an effective pedagogy for learning outcomes. Many of our faculty have been teaching online for years and bring that expertise to this moment.

We also have a full-time instructional designer working with all faculty, and we have established one-on-one and group-based training for any faculty with our technology and instructional teams. We also have the [DU Office of Teaching and Learning](#) and their supports are available 24-7. These supports will continue throughout the quarter, in addition to a list of [technology resources](#) through DU IT to help you prepare to seamlessly continue your learning online.

Please note that, though your courses will be delivered online, you are not moving to the MSW@Denver online program. You are still Denver Campus MSW students. You are not switching programs; no action is required on your part.

Continuing education offerings:

Beginning in April, we will host regular continuing education workshops, all virtual and free for students. The workshops will count for remote learning hours in your field placement, and will support your professional development as a social worker. Topics will range from telehealth to mutual aid, and will provide the opportunity to learn and network alongside students, alumni, and community members.

Academic affairs virtual office hours:

Throughout the quarter, Academic Affairs is hosting weekly, virtual office hours open to all students to answer questions, hear feedback, and address concerns that arise.

- Every Tuesday and Thursday from 11 am to 12 pm
- <https://udenver.zoom.us/j/444456637>

Field Education

All field hours have been transitioned to remote learning activities until at least April 17, 2020. Please see the [Field COVID-19 Updates](#) in the GSSW Student Resource Portal.

As the situation and guidance evolves, please be on the lookout via email for updates regarding any further specific changes to field education.

Financial Aid

Tuition refunds:

Per Chancellor Haefner's email to you, tuition charges for the spring term will remain unchanged. DU has extended the add/drop period to give you more time to make changes to your course selection. For the spring quarter, the new deadline is April 12. If you withdraw (W) from a course within this window, you will receive a full refund. Thereafter, your tuition refund will be prorated, and you will receive a W notation on your transcript. If you are on a flat rate taking 12-18 hours, and you drop a class and your course load stays within the same range, your tuition will remain the same.

Fee refunds:

Some student fees are being refunded. Please check your DUPay account for the exact itemized refunds posted to your account. DU has refunded the graduate student activity fee (\$10); the RTD fee (\$45); and if you had previously elected to pay the fee, then the health and counseling fee (\$200).

Even if you did not pay the health and counseling fee, please remember that tele-mental health support is still available to all students through [MY SPP](#). The tech fee remains, because our technological infrastructure has never been more needed and critical to our success.

If you believe you are eligible for a refund that is not yet reflected on your bill (e.g., health services, etc.), please contact DU Student Financial Services at bursar@du.edu.

Parking refunds:

For those of you who had parking passes and wish to secure a refund for parking, please follow the "Permit Refund Request" instructions posted on the [DU Parking & Mobility website](#).

Emergency Resources:

If you are facing an emergency financial situation related to COVID-19, please consider applying for support funds through the [DU Student Assistance Fund](#). Please note that we are also establishing a GSSW Student Emergency Fund, which will be launched as soon as possible. We continue to raise money across our faculty, staff, and alumni for this fund.

If you have not already done so, please [login to PioneerWeb](#) and ensure that your personal information, including emergency contact information, is up-to-date.

Commencement

We do not yet have a decision from the university on June commencement. We have been told that this decision will be made by May 1, 2020, if not before. Should it be canceled, our team is exploring virtual options with the future possibility of an in-person ceremony.

Mental Health Support

We recognize that this situation is stressful. Please know that you are not alone and that it is okay to ask for help. Please visit the [GSSW Student Resource Portal](#) to learn more about resources to support you during this time.

Compassion and Grace

I have been heartened to see you on social media, helping to provide public health science and assisting with volunteer and donation opportunities. I have also appreciated the demonstrated commitment to equity and inclusion. Racism and discrimination related to COVID-19 has been flagrant and disgusting. We must remain vigilant in our commitment to social justice.

I continue to encourage our compassion and grace for one another. This is at its root an existential crisis. It is an affront to life as we have known it, and the future remains unknown. We are scared, hurting, and

some among us are ill or are caring for those who are.

If ever we were to hold space for each other to just be, to just be human, it is now. Please enter meetings, your classrooms, email exchanges, and every conversation with compassion for those with whom you engage. And please also give grace. We have never lived through moments like these before. Our expectations must prioritize our social work values and humanity; our assessments of ourselves and others must embrace adaptability to these ambiguous times.

If you have questions, please look at the resource links and updates in the [GSSW Student Resources Portal](#) or reach out to us during office hours or via email.

Thank you,
Amanda

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