

From: [Amanda Moore McBride](#)
Subject: [col-sw-stu-all] COVID-19 Update: GSSW Information on Summer & Pass+/Pass/No Pass Grade Option
Date: Friday, April 17, 2020 2:02:50 PM

Dear Current GSSW Students,

I write with a few updates on what to anticipate for the upcoming months at GSSW. These decisions and timeframe for decisions are being made to keep your health and well-being as a priority and to promote continuity in meaningful learning activities.

Commencement: The university will make a decision about the June commencement ceremony in May. If a decision is made to postpone the ceremony, they will include dates in that communication for the rescheduled in-person ceremony. Please be assured, if you plan to graduate in June, you will still earn your degree in June.

Summer Quarter: For the Denver Campus and Western Colorado Programs, any currently planned summer quarter classes will be offered in the remote, online format for all of summer quarter.

Fall Quarter: The university continues to track the evolving public health guidance, and will make a decision this summer about the fall quarter and whether courses will be in-person, online, or some combination. We will follow-up with details as soon as the decision is made. Again, continue to watch your emails and the [DU COVID-19 Website for updates](#).

Field Internships:

- For field internships across all programs, students may have the option to choose between in-person or remote learning activities beginning in summer quarter, though this will be completely dependent on agency capacity, DU requirements, and public health guidance at that time. More details on this process will be provided in May.
- In the next academic year, we are considering a range of field education options for Denver Campus, Western Colorado, and Four Corners students, which anticipates varying continued public health restrictions in field and gives you choice. It is possible for students to engage in field internships in the standard Fall / Winter / Spring schedule or to consider a Spring / Summer block placement, which would result in an August graduation. More information about these two options will be detailed in a communication from the Field Office next week, and available during your advising

sessions and on the [GSSW Student Resource Portal](#).

Pass Plus/Pass/No Pass: On April 9, 2020, the University of Denver (DU) Chancellor communicated with all faculty, staff, and students about the students having the [optional Pass Plus / Pass / No Pass](#) grading model for Spring 2020 Quarter. This option is a relief valve and a bit of grace that is being provided by many universities in response to the COVID-19 public health crisis.

The University of Denver has provided guidance in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for all students. For GSSW, please take note that:

- This optional grading model is available to **all GSSW students** across **all programs** for **only the Spring 2020 Quarter**.
- As a student, you may opt into this grading model for specific courses or for all or none of your courses. The choice will be yours.
- The system to opt into this grading model is **not** available now. You will have plenty of time to decide. You will be able to opt into this grading model up until 72 hours after grades are posted, so until June 22, 2020.
- Faculty will still assign letter grades for all students as usual. **Faculty will not know which students selected to opt into the grading model of Pass Plus / Pass / No Pass.**
- Please review the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) specifics on academic probation implications, incompletes, and how your decision for this grading option is irrevocable, once you enact it.
 - Note: References in the Frequently Asked Questions to the “Dean’s List and other honors” and “Latin Honors” apply only to DU Undergraduate Students. Instead please see the GSSW Student Resource Portal for updates on the Phi Alpha Social Work Honor Society.

Implications for Social Work

- Your decision to opt into the DU grading system is supported by the Council for Social Work Accreditation (CSWE), and your degree will still meet the standards for being awarded by an accredited school of social work.
- **You do still need to receive a ‘Pass Plus’ grade** for your courses to count toward your graduate degree at GSSW. The [DU Graduate Bulletin](#) and [MSW Handbooks](#) still stand for what is considered passing. For the MSW Program, you need a C- and above (i.e., the Pass Plus).
- Because each state sets their own standards for licensure and credentials which may include *SOWK 4715: School Social Work Interventions*, clinical diagnostic courses (i.e., *SOWK 4330, 4334, 4338*), the opting into the Pass Plus / Pass / No Pass may impact your ability to be licensed. GSSW cannot guarantee that the option of Pass Plus / Pass / No Pass will meet current or future licensure standards across the United States.
- **Thus, because of licensure implications and the potential to impact future education choices, the general GSSW guidance is that this option of Pass Plus /**

Pass / No Pass should only be chosen in unique and exceptional circumstances. You are encouraged to review all information and to consider making your informed decision after your Spring 2020 Quarter grades are posted before the June 22 deadline.

Please know that we are offering several supports to students this Spring 2020 Quarter, as described on the [GSSW Student Resource Portal](#). We have also instructed all faculty to approach grading, assignment deadlines, and absences with leniency.

If you want to discuss the Pass Plus / Pass / No Pass grading options or any other questions or concerns, please join me at the [GSSW Academic Affairs Virtual Office Hours](#) (Every Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 am – 12:00 noon), speak with your Program Directors, or contact the GSSW Professional Advisors.

Sincerely,

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