

From: [GSSW Academic Affairs](#)

Subject: [col-sw-stu-MSW] Denver Campus MSW COVID Updates & Winter 2021 Plans

Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2020 2:54:13 PM

Dear Denver Campus MSW Students,

By all reports, the Fall Quarter is off to a great start with three weeks completed. Our return to in-person courses on the Denver Campus and for your field internships prioritize quality learning in a safe and healthy environment. We also are committed to online courses, remote field learning opportunities, and virtual social gatherings to keep all of us connected and moving forward on your educational journey.

Yet, we know this quarter has required added extra work and public health responsibilities on the part of all GSSW students, faculty, and staff. Please keep up these efforts and continue to share feedback with us. Similarly, we will continue to strive to provide updates and supports, like this message.

First, we want to reiterate our vigilant efforts to protect our community members. We need all in our GSSW community to keep up the extra efforts to mitigate risk (i.e., daily symptom monitoring, random testing compliance, mask wearing, and physical distancing). Please also maintain the privacy of health and educational information of all within the GSSW community as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

You can read more from DU on [what to expect](#) if someone in the GSSW community tests positive for COVID-19. We also offer a reminder of these protocols that must be followed in any GSSW in-person academic course or internship:

Individuals on the Denver Campus who Test Positive for COVID-19:

- o We will maintain privacy of identifying information when we are notified if a student, faculty, or staff member contracts the virus throughout our communications. If you experience a potential exposure or potential symptoms of COVID-19, please contact reportCOVID@du.edu or call/text **DU COVID line at 303-871-2683** for instructions on how to access health and testing resources from DU.

- Faculty are also required to notify the DU COVID Response team if students disclose that they have tested positive for COVID-19.

- o Students are not permitted to return to in-person class until cleared by the DU COVID Response team.

- Students should communicate with their faculty about needed absences or the need to engage in class virtually by Zoom/Canvas. Faculty are prepared to provide clarity on academic exceptions, alternative ways for engaging in learning activities for in-person classes, and to offer referrals for support.

- Student ID cards will not allow access to Craig Hall until the student is cleared by the DU COVID Response Team.

- o Students are not permitted to attend their field internship **in-person** until cleared by the DU COVID Response team.

- Students must alert their internship supervisor and GSSW field liaison that they are taking a short-term leave from the internship or consult with their agency supervisor to determine if they may engage in agency-supported remote learning activities.

-Students are encouraged to notify their internship supervisor and their GSSW field liaison of their COVID-19 status, which is in accordance with best practices for public health safety.

-If a student knowingly attends their internship in person while positive for COVID-19, they are in violation of the [DU Honor Code](#) and GSSW's Academic & Professional Standards of Performance, as described in the [MSW Handbook](#).

o GSSW is prepared to offer support to students if they test positive for COVID-19, along with the DU resources and DU COVID Response Team. Resources include the [DU Student Outreach and Support](#) team, [My SSP tele-mental health](#) resource, and other supports as listed on the [GSSW Student Resource Portal](#).

The overall infection rate among DU graduate students is currently below 1%, and among all at DU it is below 3%. It is important that we all monitor the [DU COVID-19 Dashboard](#), which provides daily updates. Random testing of students, faculty, and staff who have returned to **in-person** courses and work on campus is continuing. Communication regarding isolated cases at GSSW, specifically, will be handled in the manner outlined above.

Should there be an outbreak in Craig Hall—meaning that exposure within our building led to three or more infections—the GSSW Dean will email the community in coordination with the DU COVID Response Team.

Second, we want to share a timeline and updates about Winter Quarter 2021 Planning.

As of now, we are planning for courses to be offered in a similar format, timing, and modality as Fall Quarter. Yet, we are also prepared to move to emergency online format, if required by university and/or public health guidance at any time.

With that, here is an updated timeline for Winter 2021 Quarter:

- **October 19, 2020 – November 11, 2020:** A draft spreadsheet of the Winter schedule will be available on the [GSSW Student Resource Portal](#) in the Registration Toolkit. For GSSW you can meet with your advisors between October 19, 2020 and November 11, 2020.
- **November 2, 2020:** The schedule will be visible in the DU Online Schedule and you can use the Prepare for Registration and Plan Ahead features within PioneerWeb.
- **November 11, 2020:** Registration opens for MSW students. DU postponed graduate student registration until November 9, 2020. Doctoral students, dual degree students, and students with accommodations will register on November 9, 2020. All other MSW students will register on Wednesday, November 11, 2020.

We understand that this is an anxious time overall. We hope that any in our community who test positive recover quickly and fully, and we empathize with those who may learn they have come into close contact with a person in our community who has tested positive for the virus. Please work with us to promote the health and safety of all, while also protecting the identity of those involved. Please also take care of yourself and outreach to us for support. Keep up the great work in protecting our public health.

We welcome questions and further discussion by joining Denver Campus Program Director Kate Ross and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Leslie Hasche at our weekly virtual office hours on Mondays and Thursdays from 11:00 am – 12:00 noon at this [link](#) (passcode: SW2020). You can also connect with other GSSW Student Services Team members per the information posted on the [Contact Us](#) tab of the GSSW Student Resource Portal.

Thank you,

Kate Ross, Denver Campus MSW Program Director
Deana Ahmad, Assistant Dean for Students
Aneesha Bharwani, Assistant Dean for Field Education
Leslie Hasche, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Amanda Moore McBride, Dean

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