

From: [GSSW Academic Affairs](#)
Subject: [col-sw-stu-MSW] GSSW Updates for Winter 2021 Quarter
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 4:33:04 PM

Dear Denver Campus MSW Students,

We are grateful for all that you have done to promote everyone's health and safety during this Fall Quarter. We appreciate how you have helped prioritize all in our community, including the clients and organizations with whom we work. We understand that the pandemic has created differential stress and strain for so many of you and changed how we all live, creating collective trauma and grief. We sincerely hope that you will experience deep rest and will stay healthy in the weeks and months to come.

We write now to wish you well as you finish the Fall Quarter and to offer updates on what to expect for Winter Quarter. We also conclude this email by sharing how GSSW services and supports will continue to be available to you during the Winter Interterm.

Access to Campus and Winter In-Person classes:

Please know that we share your concerns for the rising numbers of COVID-19 in Colorado and across the country. We appreciate DU prioritizing public health and moving to online courses for the remainder of Fall Quarter. All decisions about current campus access are limited to Fall Quarter at this time and related to the COVID response level that is guided by the Colorado Department of Public Health, the City and County of Denver, and communicated on the [DU COVID Website](#).

For Winter Quarter 2021, access to in-person classes on campus will depend on the [DU Alert Level](#), at that time, so it is hard to predict what will be possible. This will be a DU-level decision, just as it was to move courses online for this week. The offering of in-person field and attending in-person classes in Winter Quarter will occur if DU is at the green or yellow levels. Since DU is now at the orange level, access to campus was impacted. In the future, if DU is at the orange or red levels, then the policy of engaging in either in-person field or in-person classes will be enacted as long as DU is at that level. Additionally, it is important to note, that these levels could potentially change throughout **Winter Quarter, which runs January 4 - March 15, 2021**. You will be notified by central DU first, if any change is made to Winter Quarter plans.

DU has specified the following [required Return to Campus Protocols](#) for both Winter and Spring Quarters:

- A minimum of **10 days quarantine** is required before attending in-person classes, so we will anticipate that the first two weeks of classes will be fully online to allow for this quarantine time. To start in person classes on January 4 would require us to ask students, faculty and staff to quarantine starting on December 25, 2020. We do not believe this is a realistic request to make of our community.
- Therefore, any **on-campus classes will resume in-person teaching on January 19,**

2021, as long as the DU alert level is below red (the highest alert level).

-Everyone will be required to **have a negative nasal swab PCR test for the virus that causes COVID-19 during the 10 days of quarantine** to have campus access. DU will be offering these [tests](#) for free, starting January 4, 2021. You will also have the option of uploading a nasal swab PCR test to the HCC website if you obtain a test off campus.

-Everyone will also be required to have [proof of a 2020-2021 influenza vaccination](#) on file by December 15, 2020.

-For those who have not completed the training, you will be required to **pass the “Pathway Back to Campus” Canvas training course** on public health guidance and protocols. If you completed this course before Fall Quarter, you do not need to complete this training again.

-You will be able to track your Return to Campus Status in [Pioneer Web](#) on the “Home” page, under the “COVID Information” in the upper right corner of the website.

Winter In-Person and Online Course Options:

For Winter Quarter, we plan to have both online and on-campus classes available just as we did for Fall Quarter. We also are prepared for the levels to potentially change during the quarter, which may necessitate a move from on-campus to online instruction.

-In-person foundation courses will continue to be offered in a modified, physically distanced, cohort format. From the survey we did of foundation students, a majority of students wanted on-campus classes, thus we built the schedule with those responses in mind. In the event you cannot attend an in-person course because you have symptoms, are in quarantine, or you test positive for COVID, your instructor will work with you to ensure you can make progress in your course.

-For concentration courses, we selected courses per instructor availability and recommendation per course content. We also ensured that online course options are available in either Winter or Spring Quarter for any on-campus course.

-We are now assessing enrollment and waitlist information, so we will be making adjustments to the course offerings to make sure that all students who want an online class session has access to those.

-We anticipate having the finalized Winter Schedule and cohort registrations by December 4, 2020. After that, we may have to make instructor changes, but the course times and section offerings should remain the same.

Field Internships:

We want you to be safe and supported as you learn in your field internships.

-As long as city and state public health guidance allows, you will continue to have the option to engage in your field internship in-person, if your agency can support in-person learning activities safely.

-Please continue to use the [Acknowledgement of Risk](#) form if you decide to switch learning modalities. (ex- if you originally indicated remote only learning on the form, and now will be completing in-person learning at your internship). Students beginning a new

internship in Winter Quarter, must submit a new form. If you need to switch to remote learning in your field internship, please coordinate with your agency field supervisor and your GSSW field liaison.

-Throughout, your GSSW field liaison can help support you in these decisions, any needed changes, and to answer questions.

Student Services & Support:

GSSW and DU support services will continue to be available during Winter Interterm 2020. You can find resources, mental health and wellness supports, links to the emergency student assistance funds, and engagement opportunities within the [GSSW Student Resource Portal](#).

-Additionally, many GSSW teams—including Academic Affairs, Career Services, Registrar, Professional Advising, and Student Engagement—have established regular, virtual office hours to support you, including during Winter Interterm. *Some even have direct messaging/chat available through Microsoft Teams.* For more details, please visit the [“Contact Us”](#) tab of the GSSW Student Resource Portal.

-Please note the entire University of Denver campus is officially closed November 26-27, 2020 and between December 25, 2020 – January 3, 2021. During these dates, some resources may not be available.

-The My SSP tele-mental health, student support program is accessible 24/7 and will be available during the Winter Interterm, as well as the University closure.

We wish you safety, health, wellness, and connection as we enter this Winter Break. Please take the time to care for yourself, for each other, and for our communities. DU and GSSW will continue to offer virtual services and supports during the interterm, so please stay connected with us, too.

Take care,

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

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