

From: [GSSW Academic Affairs](#)
Subject: [col-sw-stu-MSW-N] GSSW Updates for Winter 2021 Quarter
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 4:57:50 PM

Dear Western Colorado 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 fellow students as well as 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 be well 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 to share how GSSW services and supports will continue to be available to you during the Winter Interterm.

Online Courses in Fall & Winter Quarters

Please know that we share your concerns for the rising numbers of COVID-19 in Colorado and across the country. We appreciate everyone's willingness to continue their courses online for Fall Quarter and for the upcoming Winter Quarter 2021, January 8 – March 15, 2021.

All decisions about in-person courses are guided by the Colorado Department of Public Health, the City and County of Denver, and communicated on the [DU COVID Website](#). While we anticipate the DU Alert levels to potentially change throughout Winter Quarter, for now, we are planning for Western Colorado MSW courses to be offered fully online.

Access to the Western Colorado classrooms at Colorado Mountain College or to the offices in the Grand Avenue Building to support your learning will be dependent on the [DU Alert Levels](#), as well as local public health guidance, and remains unavailable, at this time. If alert levels change, you will be informed of the safety precautions required before having access to the building.

We also appreciate the informal learning pods that you have created in your local communities. If you have an organized learning pod that will plan to meet during Winter Quarter, please tell Rachel Forbes, as GSSW is going to explore how we could support these pods.

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). 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 University of Denver 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 the Winter Interterm. 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,

Rachel Forbes, Western Colorado 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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