TO: First-Year Full-time Students  
FROM: Sarah Naylor, MTS, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Student Affairs  
DATE: July 1, 2014  
RE: School of Social Work Updates

Greetings!

I want to extend a warm welcome to you as you join the School of Social Work community. Many plans are underway as the School prepares for your arrival in August. In addition to welcoming you, this memorandum is intended to let you know what to expect when you arrive in the fall.

**Required attendance**

On **Friday August 15**, we will welcome all incoming students for the beginning of *JumpStart! Preparation for Practice* (the SSW orientation). *JumpStart!* is from 8:15am – 4:00pm at the UNC School of Social Work and will be followed by a student mixer hosted by SoWoSO (Social Work Student Organization) at 5:00pm at Top of the Hill’s Back Bar, 100 East Franklin St, 3rd Floor.

The name *JumpStart! Preparation for Practice* summarizes the goal for this week of activities: to prepare you for your social work graduate education and set the stage for you to develop the necessary knowledge, skills, and understanding of the profession to successfully complete the MSW program. *Please be sure to review the JumpStart! schedule and register through the Jumpstart! registration link that will be emailed to your UNC account this week.*

**Optional Activities**

On **Saturday August 9**, the School of Social Work will host the annual Students Achieving Graduate Education (S.A.G.E.), which is a pre-orientation program for entering students of color and international students. All incoming students are welcome to attend. S.A.G.E. will be held in Chapel Hill at the UNC School of Social Work, Room 300, 9:00 am -1:00 pm. You may register for S.A.G.E. through the *Jumpstart!* registration link.

**On Thursday, August 14,** the SSW will offer a campus tour in the morning and the UNC Graduate School will hold its orientation in the afternoon. You may register for the campus tour through the *Jumpstart!* registration link; for the UNC Graduate School orientation, please register at [http://gradschool.unc.edu/events/orientation/](http://gradschool.unc.edu/events/orientation/).

**Registration, Tuition & Fees**

Before arriving on campus, you must (1) register for courses and (2) pay your tuition and fees. Registration begins at noon **July 3** and closes **July 16**. Tuition and fees must be paid by **August 12. Classes begin on Friday, August 22,** immediately following *JumpStart!* Please refer to the registration memo for additional information about registering for your Fall 2014 courses.

Registration holds will not be lifted until your official transcripts are received by the UNC Graduate School and your SSW writing assessment is complete. If you have questions regarding your official transcripts, please contact Tracy Velez at the UNC Graduate School at tracyvelez@unc.edu. Please contact SSW Registrar Beth Sauer at bhsauer@email.unc.edu or call 919-962-6443 if you have any questions about registration.

**Health Insurance**

UNC requires full-time students registered as “on-campus” to have health insurance coverage. All eligible students will be automatically enrolled in and billed for the [UNC System Student Mandatory Health Insurance Plan](http://campushealth.unc.edu/general-info/feature-stories/mandatory-health-insurance.html) administered by BlueCross BlueShield (BCBS) of North Carolina unless they show evidence of an existing “creditable” health insurance policy. Please visit [http://campushealth.unc.edu/general-info/feature-stories/mandatory-health-insurance.html](http://campushealth.unc.edu/general-info/feature-stories/mandatory-health-insurance.html) for more details.
If your health insurance is covered by a Research Assistantship, you will be covered by the Student Blue RA/TA and Post Doc Insurance Plan which is also administered by BCBS. More information will be provided in August to students with a required Research Assistantship regarding BCBS. RAs will not be able to opt out of the UNC System Student Mandatory Health Insurance Plan until they have been matched with their RA appointment and complete their human resources paperwork.

On-line History of Oppression Course
A Brief History of Oppression and Resistance is a prerequisite that you must complete prior to registering for the Spring 2015 semester. It provides an overview of some of the key historical events that have shaped the legacy of oppression and resistance in the United States. There are no tests, assignments or academic credit assigned to this course. We want your focus to be on the critical knowledge base the course provides and to your study of social work practice and policy throughout your first year experience at the SSW. The History of Oppression will provide a foundation for you to begin thinking about social workers’ roles as advocates. We will begin to discuss the course material at JumpStart on August 15th with faculty-led small groups, so please be sure to begin exploring the first few modules by this date.

The entire course (6 modules in all) must be completed no later than October 15, 2014. This is a new deadline. We strongly recommend that you complete it before the start of the semester, or by mid-September at the latest, so that you don’t experience time conflicts with your other course assignments.

The URL for the History of Oppression course is included in the "Accessing Online Courses via Sakai" document, along with instructions for logging on to the website so that you can begin exploring this course. Please read this information carefully. Faculty member Laurie Selz-Campbell will be your contact person for the course, and her contact information will be posted on the course site.

Transitioning to the UNC SSW
Starting the MSW program at UNC can be an exciting time, but it can also be a time of anxiety and apprehension. It can help to have someone to turn to who has been there before. To help with your transition, all incoming students will be assigned to one of our student ambassadors based on areas of interests. The student ambassadors can be helpful resources for answering questions related to housing, transportation, buying books, etc. You will be contacted by your assigned ambassador prior to JumpStart!

Residency
The Graduate School handles concerns related to North Carolina residency for tuition purposes. If you have residency questions, please visit their website (http://gradschool.unc.edu/studentlife/resources/residency/) or email them at grad_residency@unc.edu.

You should complete a residency application if you have an undetermined or nonresident status and wish to be considered for in-state residency status for tuition purposes. Applications with all supporting documentation must be filed online by 5 p.m., September 2, 2014. The application is located on the Graduate School’s website at: http://gradschool.unc.edu/student/residency/

Financial Aid / Jobs
Students with questions regarding loans or federal aid should contact the UNC Office of Scholarships & Student Aid: (919) 962-8396 or aidinfo@unc.edu. You can also find helpful information on their website at http://studentaid.unc.edu/. A limited number of research and program assistant positions will be emailed to all students by mid-August.

ONYEN (Only Name You’ll Ever Need)
If you have not done so already, it is imperative that you create an ONYEN for your UNC e-mail address immediately, and send your ONYEN and UNC email address to Tiffany Carver at tscarver@email.unc.edu. Instructions for creating an ONYEN are located in the Computer Tips section of these orientation materials.

Purchasing Books
Textbooks can be purchased by logging into the Course Materials portal, http://connectcarolina.unc.edu/ at UNC Student Stores (919-962-5066). Another option is to get the title of the textbooks from the course syllabus and place an
order online or at a local bookstore. SoWoSO is coordinating a used book sale via Google docs; information will be emailed to all students the first week of August.

**Change of Address**
Please notify Student Services Assistant, Tiffany Carver, at 919-843-8452, or tscarver@email.unc.edu with any name, address, phone, and e-mail changes you made over the summer. You should also make the changes at [http://connectcarolina.unc.edu/](http://connectcarolina.unc.edu/).

**Parking – Chapel Hill campus**
Parking is at a premium on campus. Please give yourself ample time to find parking for all orientation and JumpStart! activities. For free campus and commuter options, please visit [www.chtransit.org](http://www.chtransit.org) and [http://www.dps.unc.edu/Transit/transitnav.cfm](http://www.dps.unc.edu/Transit/transitnav.cfm) The Chapel Hill and on-campus buses run frequently and are free. We have included directions to the Rams Head parking deck (cost: $1.50/hour).

**2014-2015 Special Events**
We hope you will join us on **Saturday, September 13**, 11:00am – 2:00pm, for the annual SSW Potluck at Wilson Park in Carrboro. This event is a yearly tradition that brings together faculty, staff, and students for a wonderful afternoon of fun activities and great food! Another tradition is Harambee, a multi-cultural celebration, which will be held Spring 2015 in the UNC School of Social Work in the 5th floor lounge.

**Additional Important Information**
Please be sure to review the “Important Information for all Students” section of the JumpStart! webpage ([http://ssw.unc.edu/students/orientation](http://ssw.unc.edu/students/orientation)) for additional information.

If you have questions or concerns about the enclosed materials, please feel free to contact Sharon Thomas, Assistant Dean of Recruitment, Admissions & Financial Aid, at 919-962-4367, sharon_thomas@unc.edu or Annie Francis, Coordinator of Student Affairs at 919-843-9227, amfranci@email.unc.edu.

On behalf of the entire School community, welcome!

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**Upcoming events:**
Sept. 2, 5:00pm – **Deadline** for NC Residency applications
Sept. 13, 11:00am – 2:00pm – School of Social Work Potluck, Wilson Park, Carrboro NC
Oct. 15 – **Deadline** for the History of Oppression course