Congratulations and welcome to the School of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. We are pleased that you have chosen to spend the next three years with us pursuing professional social work education. We are especially looking forward to our face-to-face welcome and orientation activities with you in August, which we are planning now. This online information will help you get ready for us and will help us prepare for you.

**JumpStart! Preparation for Social Work Practice:** We have two required JumpStart! orientation sessions for distance education students. On **August 8, 2014**, your first session will be held at the UNC School of Social Work in Room 300. Plan to arrive no later than 8:45am. We will begin promptly at 9:00am and conclude by 4:00pm. Your second session is scheduled for **August 15, 2014**, at School of Social Work from 8:15am to 4:00pm. For those of you living more than 60 miles from Chapel Hill, the School will provide double-occupancy lodging for you on Thursday evening, August 14, 2014. Please contact Tiffany Carver (tscarver@email.unc.edu) by Friday, June 13, 2014 if you would like lodging.

These required programs are intended to prepare you for social work graduate education, ground you in knowledge and understanding of the profession and introduce you to skills needed to successfully complete the MSW program. More detailed agendas for both fall orientation sessions will be available on-line in late June. At the orientations, you will learn more details about the curriculum and the field education program, hear advice for success from students and recent graduates, have an opportunity to buy books and SSW merchandise on the UNC campus, and meet your new colleagues.

The School of Social Work will be hosting the annual Students Achieving Graduate Education (S.A.G.E) pre-orientation program for entering students of color and international students on **Saturday, August 9, 2014**. All incoming students are welcome to attend. More information regarding S.A.G.E will be provided in late June.

The optional UNC Graduate School orientation is scheduled for **Thursday, August 14**. For more information, please visit [http://gradschool.unc.edu/events/orientation/](http://gradschool.unc.edu/events/orientation/); the website will be updated this summer.

**Writing Assessment:** All incoming MSW students must complete an online writing assessment. Before your anxiety gets too high, let me explain. This is an assessment, not a test. For this assessment, you’ll read the first of a five-part series from *The New York Times* (“Invisible Child,” 2013, December 9) and then choose 1 of 3 prompts to respond to in a two-page essay. You will receive individual feedback on your writing sample that we believe can help you with written assignments throughout the MSW program. The writing assessment is not graded, and your performance will not affect your class standing in any way. Our goal is to capture a “snapshot” of your writing process to help you identify areas of strength and weakness in your writing, as well as to ensure all students are aware of the writing support available through the School of Social Work. Past students have said they found the feedback valuable because their reviewers offered practical suggestions specific to social work writing. The MSW program is writing intensive, so developing strong writing skills will be important to your success in the program and your career. Detailed instructions and a link to the “Invisible Child” article are included in the “Writing Assessment Instructions” on the JumpStart webpage. You must complete the writing assessment by **Friday, June 27, 2014**. You will not be able to register for fall classes until you have completed the writing assessment.

Don’t wait until the last minute because you’ll first need to obtain your UNC ONYEN (see “Computer Tips”) and UNC e-mail address before you can complete the writing assessment on the Sakai online site. Send your ONYEN and UNC e-mail address to Tiffany Carver as soon as possible (tscarver@email.unc.edu) so she can enroll you in SOWO.Writing.Assessment.S14 on the Sakai site ([www.unc.edu/sakai/](http://www.unc.edu/sakai/)).
Online Course: A Brief History of Oppression and Resistance Another activity you will need to complete is an online training, A Brief History of Oppression and Resistance. This 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. This knowledge will be crucial to your study of social work practice and policy, and 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 31, 2014, but 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.

We will provide more information and detailed instructions on how to complete this online training in late June. We plan to launch the course by July 3rd so you may begin completing the modules at that time.

NC Child Welfare Education Collaborative If you have a strong commitment to pursue a career in child welfare, we invite you to submit an application to the North Carolina Child Welfare Education Collaborative. The Collaborative seeks to strengthen public child welfare services in the State by increasing the number and diversity of well-trained and highly-committed BSWs and MSWs in local departments of social services. Offering special educational opportunities emphasizing public child welfare practice, the Collaborative provides financial support for selected social work students who will commit to employment in child welfare in a North Carolina county department of social services.

The application deadline for the Collaborative is May 19, 2014. (See the “NC Child Welfare Education Collaborative” section on the orientation page for more information.)

Advising: Travis J. Albritton will serve as your faculty advisor during the first two years of the program and will assist with coordinating your enrollment, registration, and educational activities. Individual advising appointments will be scheduled with each new student during the Fall semester. During this appointment you will begin to explore your specific learning goals. Travis can be reached at 919-962-6432 or via email at travis_albritton@unc.edu.

Plan of Study: The Foundation Curriculum consists of 32 credit hours completed over the first two years. The final 30 credit hours (Advanced Curriculum) are completed as a full-time student during the third year of the program.

Courses during the first two years of the distance education program are offered according to a set schedule. This ensures that each student will complete the required Foundation curriculum during the first two years. Students in the distance education program may not elect to take alternate sections of required foundation courses. All foundation courses must be taken through the Triangle Distance Education MSW Program on Fridays.

Registration: The School of Social Work Registrar, Beth Sauer (919-962-6443 or bhsauer@email.unc.edu) will register you for all of your courses in July after you have completed your writing assessment and your official transcripts have been received. The tentative fall and spring schedules for 2014-2015 are listed below:

Fall 2014
SOWO 500 Human Development in Context I: Infancy to Adolescence
Fridays, 9:00am – 11:50pm
Instructor: TBD

SOWO 530 Social Welfare Policy
Fridays, 2:00pm – 4:50pm
Instructor: Dr. Iris Carlton-LaNey
Spring 2015
SOWO 505 Human Development in Context II: Adulthood to Older Adulthood
Fridays, 9:00am – 11:50 am
Instructor: Laurie Selz Campbell, MSW

SOWO 505 Confronting Oppression & Institutional Discrimination
Fridays, 2:00pm – 4:50 pm
Instructor: Dr. Iris Carlton-LaNey

**Tuition and Fees:** The 2014-2015 estimated cost of tuition and fees per credit hour for in-state residents in the Distance Education Program is ~ $600 per credit hour. (The tuition and fees rate for undetermined and non-residents is ~ $1,400 per credit hour.) All first year DE students will be registered for 6 credit hours.

Fall 2014 tuition invoices will be issued in July and will only be available online at [http://my.unc.edu/dt](http://my.unc.edu/dt). Students will be notified by email to their UNC email account when their bill is ready to be viewed. Tuition and fees must be paid by **August 12, 2014**.

**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/](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/](http://gradschool.unc.edu/student/residency/)

**UNC Library Services, Health Insurance and On-campus UNC Recreational Resources:** The students in the Triangle program are enrolled in a distance education program. The UNC-CH Library offers specialized services for all distance education students. As a student in a distance education program you do not pay on-campus student fees, so you are therefore not eligible for student health insurance or access to recreational facilities on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus during the first two years of the program. During the third year of the program, when you are enrolled as a full-time student, you will pay university fees and be eligible for these services.

Prior to your first class you will be given a library card so you can use the libraries on campus during the first two years of the Triangle DE MSW program. Please note, in your final year of the Triangle DE MSW program, you will need to obtain a UNC ONE card which will allow you to access many other services on campus including the use of recreational facilities.

**Field Education:** All Triangle Distance Education MSW Program students are required to complete two separate field placements. The foundation field placement (which will take place during your 2nd year) requires a 16 hours per week internship in addition to your Friday classes on the UNC campus. Your final year concentration field placement requires a 24 hours per week internship in addition to classes on the UNC campus Mondays and Tuesdays. We will spend time at orientation discussing options for field placements and the criteria for completing a field placement at your place of employment.

**Accessibility Resources and Services** It is helpful for us to know if you have needs that require special accommodations to attend classes and field practice. Not all UNC-Chapel Hill classrooms are handicapped accessible, and some field sites may not provide accessibility. The Field Planning Guide will have a place for you to note special field-learning needs. Also, if you need to obtain accommodations for your classroom instruction you must speak with the Office of Accessibility Resources & Services first. Their website is [http://accessibility.unc.edu/](http://accessibility.unc.edu/). You may also contact them at 919-962-8300, 711 (NC RELAY) or accessibility@unc.edu.
**Purchasing Books:** Textbooks can be purchased by logging into the Course Materials portal, http://my.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.

**Email and Computer Literacy:** Please take note of the Computer Tips section of this webpage which explains how to set up a UNC email address. It is very important that you inform Student Services Assistant Tiffany Carver of the ONYEN and email you set up. **Please send your ONYEN to Tiffany at tscarver@email.unc.edu by May 23, 2014.** Your UNC email address is the only address we will use to communicate important messages from faculty, staff and students.

**Change of Address** – Please notify Student Services Assistant Tiffany Carver at 919-843-8452, or tscarver@email.unc.edu of any name, address, phone, and email changes you may have over the summer. You will also need to make these changes at http://my.unc.edu/dt.

**Parking** – Parking is at a premium on campus. You will need to give yourself ample time to find parking on your first day of orientation and class. For campus and commuter options, please visit www.chtransit.org and 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 for parking on August 8th. Keep in mind that it does cost $1.50/hour to park at Rams Head parking deck.

We are looking forward to spending the next three years with you as you prepare for professional social work practice. The UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work faculty and staff are involved in a variety of research, program planning, evaluation and training projects on local, state, national, and international levels. We are working to bring you the best opportunities to expand your knowledge and develop your skills. We welcome you to our learning community. Expect to work hard, question assumptions and meet some life-long friends. Please review all documents posted at this orientation website. These documents provide further information concerning the organization and structure of the distance education courses and some recommended activities to help you prepare for classes in the fall.

Please contact me at 919-962-6444 or email me at smnaylor@email.unc.edu if you have questions concerning the program. We are pleased you have selected our program for your MSW education and look forward to working with you over the next three years.