



May 6, 2009

TO: 2009-2010 First Year Full-time MSW Students

FROM: Sarah Naylor, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

RE: Foundation Course Exemption, Advising, and Concentration Curriculum Information

Congratulations on your admission to the full-time MSW program! I know your year ahead will be exciting, challenging, and rewarding. My purposes in this memo are to discuss the opportunity for exempting from foundation courses, introduce you to the advising system, and notify you about Concentration Orientation.

*1. Foundation Course Exemption*

Although all students must meet Foundation Curriculum requirements, some entering students may have had previous course work related to Foundation Curriculum content. To ensure that students do not have to repeat content they have already mastered, the School of Social Work offers all first year students an opportunity to exempt four Foundation courses, SoWo 500: Human Development in Context: Childhood and Adolescence, SoWo 505: Human Development in Context II: Adulthood, SoWo 510: Foundations for Evidence-Based Practice and Program Evaluation, and SoWo 530: Foundations of Social Welfare Policy. Exemption of Foundation courses does not result in course credit but rather enables the student to fulfill those credit hours by enrolling in other social work courses. If you believe your prior course work mirrors any of these four foundation courses, you should consider requesting an exemption. Syllabi for the foundation courses may be reviewed online at <http://ssw.unc.edu/sowoso/courses.html>. Information about the foundation course exemption process and related forms:

- Foundation Course Exemption Information  
[http://ssw.unc.edu/files/web/pdf/foundation\\_course\\_exemption\\_information\\_0.pdf](http://ssw.unc.edu/files/web/pdf/foundation_course_exemption_information_0.pdf)
- Foundation Course Exemption Form  
[http://ssw.unc.edu/students/academic/ssw.unc.edu/files/web/pdf/foundation\\_course\\_exemption\\_form.pdf](http://ssw.unc.edu/students/academic/ssw.unc.edu/files/web/pdf/foundation_course_exemption_form.pdf)
- Foundation Course Exemption Student Checklist  
[http://ssw.unc.edu/files/web/pdf/foundation\\_course\\_exemption\\_checklist.pdf](http://ssw.unc.edu/files/web/pdf/foundation_course_exemption_checklist.pdf)
- Foundation Course Objectives  
<http://ssw.unc.edu/files/web/pdf/CourseObjectives-500-505-510-530.pdf>

## 2. *Advising System*

We provide academic advising to assist students in the development of meaningful educational plans that are compatible with their career goals. On admission, each student is assigned both a faculty advisor and a plan of study advisor. You will receive a letter during the summer that describes the advising program and identifies your faculty advisor. Your plan of study advisor will be either Beth Sauer (last names A-J) or me (last names K-Z).

Your faculty advisor will be available to orient you to the School's mission and curriculum, help guide your academic and professional development, and assist you in integrating field and class work as well as decision making about concentration and course selection. Your plan of study advisor will be available to communicate with you regarding MSW curriculum policies and procedures, ensure that your educational plan of study is consistent with curriculum requirements, and clear you for registration each semester. You will have a chance to meet with your faculty advisor at orientation in August.

## 3. *Concentration Curriculum Information*

On Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 12-1pm, we will host a dual degree, licensure, and certificate program fair. At this time the faculty liaisons for these programs will be available to share information and respond to questions about the different dual degree, certificate, and licensure opportunities that are offered through the School of Social Work.

Early in the spring semester on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, we will host Concentration Orientation Part II: Curriculum Planning to share information about the concentration curriculum and the plan of study process. You will hear much more about Concentration Orientation as the spring semester approaches.

The 2009-2010 *Curriculum Manual* will soon be available at <http://ssw.unc.edu/files/web/pdf/currman09-10.pdf>. Please review it to become more familiar with your curriculum options.

I am happy to offer assistance and clarifications as needed, and can be reached through the email address and telephone number listed below.

Again, welcome, and I look forward to seeing you in August!

Sincerely,

Sarah M. Naylor, M.T.S., Ph.D.  
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs  
UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work  
Telephone: 919/962-6444  
Email: smnaylor@email.unc.edu