



DATE: May 7, 2009

TO: 2009-2010 First-Year Mountain Area Distance Education MSW Students

FROM: Sarah Naylor, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

RE: Foundation Course Exemption, Advising, and Curriculum Information

Congratulations on your admission to the Mountain Area distance education MSW program! I know your years ahead will be exciting, challenging, and rewarding. My purposes in this memo are to discuss the opportunity for exempting from foundation courses and to introduce you to the advising system.

### *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: Infancy to Adolescence, SoWo 505: Human Development in Context II: Adulthood to Older 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 three 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.

Your faculty advisor for the first two years of MSW study will be Kelly Reath, Director of the Mountain Area Distance Education program. 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 and to ensure that your educational plan of study is consistent with curriculum requirements.

### 3. *Curriculum Information*

The 2009-2010 *Curriculum Manual* is available at <http://ssw.unc.edu/fiels/web/pdf/currman09-10.pdf>. Please review it to become more familiar with your curriculum options. You will complete your educational plan of study during your second year in the distance education program, the year before you come to Chapel Hill for your final year of MSW study.

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 getting to know you and working with you over the next few years!

Sincerely,

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