



DATE: May 5, 2009
TO: New Distance Education Mountain Area MSW Program Students
FROM: Anna Scheyett, PhD, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
RE: Welcome and Important Information

Congratulations on your admission to the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work Distance Education (DE) Mountain Area MSW Program! We are excited you will be joining us this fall. It is our hope that your enrollment in the program provides a rich educational experience.

Kelly Reath is the Director of the DE Mountain Area MSW Program and will serve as your faculty advisor during the first two years of the program. He will also 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 explore your learning goals and discuss your initial leadership assessment. Kelly can be reached at 828-251-6725 or via email at kbreath@email.unc.edu.

New Student Orientation

We have two **required** orientation sessions for distance education students this year. On **August 14, 2009**, your first orientation will be held at the Distance Education and Technology Center on the Blue Ridge Community College campus, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. On **August 21, 2009**, Jumpstart! Preparation for Social Work Practice will be held in Chapel Hill at the UNC Chapel Hill School of Social Work from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The School will provide double-occupancy lodging for you on Thursday evening, August 20, 2009 at the Holiday Inn Express, 6119 Farrington Rd., Chapel Hill, NC.

This required program is 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. Detailed agendas for both fall orientation sessions will be mailed to you in early July. 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.

Foundation Course Exemption

To ensure that students do not have to repeat content they have already mastered in previous coursework, the School offers all incoming students an opportunity to exempt from four Foundation courses. More detailed information on the Foundation course exemption process can be found at <http://ssw.unc.edu/index.php?q=students/academic/advising>. Please contact Registrar Beth Sauer at (919) 962-6443 or bhsauer@email.unc.edu if you have questions.

Field Education

MSW students are required to complete two separate field placements. The foundation field placement (which will take place during your 2nd year at Blue Ridge) requires a 12-16 hours per week internship in addition to your Friday classes. Your final (3rd) year concentration field placement requires a 16-24 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.

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. All degree requirements must be completed within a five-year period.

Courses during the first two years of this 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 programs may not elect to take alternate sections of required Foundation courses. All Foundation courses must be taken through the DE Mountain Area MSW Program on Fridays. In past years, optional summer courses have been offered in the Mountain Area program as electives.

You will need to sign and date the Acknowledgement Form and return by June 6th to Dr. Sarah Naylor at the address designated at the top of the form. It is very important that you understand these policies and procedures and that we have confirmation of your understanding.

Registration

The School of Social Work Registrar, Beth Sauer (919-962-6443, bhsauer@email.unc.edu), will register you for all of your courses. The fall and spring schedules for 2009-2010 are listed below:

Fall 2009

SoWo 530	Foundations of Social Welfare Fridays, 9:00 – 11:50 am Instructor: Kelly Reath	SoWo 500	Infancy to Adolescence Fridays, 2:00 – 4:50 pm Instructor: Dayna Guido
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Spring 2010

SoWo 505	Adulthood to Older Adulthood Fridays, 9:00 – 11:50 am Instructor: Dayna Guido	SoWo 501	Confronting Oppression & Institutional Discrimination Fridays, 2:00 – 4:50 pm Instructor: Kelly Reath
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Tuition and Fees

The cost of tuition and fees for 2009-2010 will remain uncertain until the final state budget is approved by the North Carolina state legislature and signed by the Governor. Once tuition and fees are determined you will receive an invoice from UNC Cashiers Office. **Tuition is due by Tuesday, August 4, 2009.**

Note: An estimate for the 2009-2010 academic year tuition and fees for in-state, first-year distance education students is \$3,412 per year. We estimate about \$6,532 per year for out-of-state, distance education students.

Residency

The UNC Graduate School handles residency concerns. If you have a question, please contact Shalonda Arnold at sgarnold@email.unc.edu. Please note that even though you may have lived in North Carolina all of your life, you still will need to complete an online residency form if you are claiming North Carolina residency for tuition purposes. The form is on the Graduate School's website at the following URL: <http://gradschool.unc.edu/student/residency/>.

Distance Education Format

Students in the DE Mountain Area MSW program are enrolled in a distance education program. The UNC-CH Library offers specialized services for all distance education students to be reviewed in the fall semester. 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. In your third year of studies, when you take classes on the UNC Campus and will be enrolled as a full-time student, you will pay university fees on campus and be eligible for these services.

Special Needs

It is helpful for us to know if you have needs that require special accommodations to attend classes. Not all UNC-Chapel Hill classrooms are handicapped accessible. For classroom needs, please inform us in a return letter. Also, if you need to obtain accommodations for your classroom instruction you must speak with the Office of Disability Services first. Their website is at <http://disabilityservices.unc.edu/>.

Purchasing Books

Textbooks can be purchased by logging into the Course Materials portal, <http://my.unc.edu> at Health Affairs Book Stores (919-966-2208). Another option is to get the title of the textbooks from the course syllabus and place an order online or at any local bookstore. The Social Work Student Organization (SoWoSo) will be coordinating a book sale in August for those students wanting to buy used books. There is usually a NC Tax-Free Weekend in August. Due to the bad economy it may be cut this year, but historically it is the first weekend in August.

Email and Computer Literacy

Please take note of the "Computer Literacy and Email" section of these materials which explains how to get an ONYEN and set up a UNC email address. It is very important that you inform Student Services Manager Linda Wilson of your ONYEN. Please send your ONYEN to Linda at LWilson@unc.edu by **May 15**. This UNC email address (not a Yahoo, Earthlink, etc.) is used to communicate important messages from faculty, staff and students.

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 the materials we provide at this website which 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 919-962-4372 or email me at amscheye@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.

c: Jack Richman, Ph.D., Dean and Professor
Sharon Thomas, MSW, Director of Recruitment, Admissions & Financial Aid
Kelly Reath, Ph.D., Director, Distance Education Mountain Area MSW Program
Linda Wilson, Student Services Manager
Sarah Naylor, Ph.D., Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

Online Welcome documents:

Orientation Schedule for August 14
Checklist for Mountain Area DE students
Lodging Arrangements in Chapel Hill
Distance Ed. Contract and Acknowledgement of Policies form
Computer Literacy & Email
Foundation Course Exemption, Advising and Curriculum Info.
Financial Aid information
Directions and Parking