



DATE: May 11, 2009
TO: New Triangle Distance Education MSW Program Students
FROM: Anna Scheyett, PhD, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
RE: Welcome and Important Information

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.

New Student Orientation - Orientation will be held on **Friday August, 7th, 2009** at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work (Tate-Turner-Kuralt Building). On this date, you will learn more details about the curriculum and field education program, hear advice for success from current students, have an opportunity to buy books and SSW merchandise on the UNC campus, and meet your new colleagues. We will also take photos of the cohort and of individual students.

JumpSTART: Preparation for Social Work Practice will take place at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work Friday, August 21, 2009. 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 for success in the MSW program. A tentative agenda for both orientation sessions is at this website. Detailed agendas for both orientation sessions will be sent to you in early July.

Advising - Travis 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 discuss your leadership assessment and 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 2009-2010 School of Social Work Curriculum Manual will be available soon at <http://ssw.unc.edu/index.php?q=students/academic/advising>. The Foundation Curriculum consists of 32 credit hours completed over the first two years of the program. 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 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 program on Fridays.

You will find a link to the Acknowledgement of Policies form at the student orientation website. **You will need to sign, date, and return this form by June 5th** 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.

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. Enclosed is more detailed information on the Foundation course exemption process as well as related forms (see the Curriculum and Registration section). Please contact Dr. Sarah Naylor at (919) 962-6444 or smnaylor@email.unc.edu if you have questions.

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. The fall and spring schedules for 2009-2010 are listed below:

Fall 2009

SoWo 500	Infancy to Adolescence Fridays, 9:00 – 11:50 am Instructor: Travis Albritton, MSW	and	SoWo 530	Foundation of Social Welfare Fridays, 2:00 – 4:50 pm Instructor: Dr. Iris Carlton-LeNay
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Spring 2010

SoWo 501	Confronting Oppression & Institutional Discrimination Fridays, 9:00 – 11:50 am Instructor: Travis Albritton, MSW	and	SoWo 505	Adulthood to Older Adulthood Fridays, 2:00 – 4:50 Instructor: Dr. Deborah Barrett
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If you are interested in taking summer school courses, you should consult with your faculty advisor Travis Albritton. A schedule of summer 2010 courses will be available in mid-November. Please direct all questions about registration to Beth Sauer.

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 the UNC Cashiers Office. **Tuition is due Friday, 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.

Distance Education Format - 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

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.** All students admitted to an academic program in The Graduate School are initially classified as nonresidents for tuition purposes. Students who wish to apply for In-state Residency for tuition purposes should complete the online residency application. The Graduate School only processes on line residency applications. The link can be found on our web site: <http://gradschool.unc.edu/residency>

Field Education - All Triangle Distance Education MSW students are required to complete two separate field placements. The foundation field placement (which will take place during your 2nd year) requires a 12-16 hours per week internship in addition to your Friday classes on the UNC campus. Your final 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.

Special Needs - It is helpful for us to know if you have a particular condition that will require special arrangements in order for you to attend classes and do field practice. Not all UNC-Chapel Hill buildings are handicapped accessible and certain field sites may not be accessible. You can notify us about special classroom or field placement needs by letter. If applicable, there are services provided through the Department of Disability Services.

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.

Email and Computer Literacy - Please take note of the Computer Literacy section of this webpage which explains how to set up a UNC email address. It is very important that you inform Student Services Manager Linda Wilson of the ONYEN and email you set up. **Please send your ONYEN to Linda at LWilson@unc.edu by June 5th.** 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 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 919-962-4372 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
Travis Albritton, MSW, Director, Distance Education Triangle Program
Linda Wilson, Student Services Manager

Helpful Links Provided:

Acknowledgement of Policies form
Computer Literacy & Email
Curriculum & Registration (Foundation Course Exemption)
Financial Aid information
Parking Information
Student Organization (SoWoSO) greetings
Map of UNC campus
University Resources
Things We Wish We'd Known