



UNC
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

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July 10, 2009

Greetings Incoming MSW Student!

I know you are receiving lots and lots of information as we welcome you to the School of Social Work, but I want to ask you to pay particular attention to this letter, since there are two important things I am going to ask you to do prior to beginning the program.

The first thing I'd like for you to do is to complete an on-line writing assessment. Now, before your anxiety gets too high, let me explain. This is a writing *assessment*, not a writing *test*. You will not receive a grade for it. The purpose of this assessment is to help each student identify his/her areas of writing strength and weakness. This MSW program is very writing intensive, so having good writing skills is important. By helping you identify areas where you need to build your writing skills, and then connecting you with the resources to help you do so (including writing workshops and in-house editorial support), we hope to provide you with the tools you need to be successful in our program. You can take this assessment any time **July 10** through **August 7, 2009**. If for some reason that timeframe doesn't work for you, please let me know as soon as possible.

Detailed instructions for how you access and complete this assessment accompany this letter.

The second thing I'd ask you to do is to begin work on an on-line training, The History of Oppression. This is a pre-course that will be available starting **July 10** and that you must complete prior to enrolling in SOWO 501, Confronting Oppression and Institutional Discrimination, in Spring 2010. Completing this course counts as 10% of your SOWO 501 grade. That means you must be finished with the course no later than November 1, 2009. However, I strongly encourage you to do as much as possible over the summer, since the course can take 20-25 hours to complete.

The course consists of 6 modules, each containing slides, readings, podcasts, and other multimedia learning. At the end of each module is a brief practice self-assessment (optional) and then a quiz that you must complete—you can take it as many times as you need to until you pass with a grade of 80% or higher. Just as with the writing assessment, don't worry about a grade. When you complete the course it will count as 10 points towards your SOWO 501 final grade, whether you got an 80% on each quiz or a 100%. We want you to take the time to learn about these historical issues of oppression, so that this can inform your thinking when you take SOWO 501 in the Spring. The goal is learning, not grades.

Again, detailed instructions on how to access and begin the on-line History of Oppression accompany this letter.

To access either the History of Oppression or the on-line writing assessment you will need to send us your Onyen as soon as possible so that we can register you in Sakai (at the platform for the courses). Students must provide their Onyen and e-mail addresses to the School's Office of Student Services **by July 10** so they can be enrolled in the site. E-mail this information to Linda Wilson at ltw2517@email.unc.edu ; put **Sakai Enrollment Information- Last name, first name** in the subject line.

If you have any questions about any of this, please feel free to contact me (919.962.4372 or amscheye@email.unc.edu). Also, if you have a documented disability and require an accommodation in order to complete the assessment or the pre-course, please let me know as soon as you can.

We all look forward to meeting you in the near future and welcoming you to the School.

All the best and have a great rest of the summer,

Anna

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