



DATE: July 1, 2020
TO: New First-year Full-time Students
FROM: Lisa Zerden, MSW, Ph.D., Senior Associate Dean for MSW Education
Sarah Naylor, MTS, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Student Affairs
RE: Welcome and Important Information

Congratulations and welcome to the School of Social Work (SSW) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill! We are pleased that you have chosen to spend the next two years with us pursuing professional social work education. We recognize this year is different to how any of us had anticipated beginning the academic year but we are working hard to make sure you feel connected and have what you need for a successful matriculation through the MSW program. We are looking forward to our orientation activities with you in late July and early August, which we are planning now. This information will help you get ready for the upcoming academic year that begins on Monday, August 10, 2020 (please note this is a change from previous dates you may have seen when you applied).

JumpStart! Preparation for Social Work Practice: JumpStart!, the SSW required orientation for new MSW students, will be held via Zoom on **Friday, August 7, 2020**. Additional JumpStart! activities will be held throughout the first several weeks of the semester. We will begin at 10:30am EST on August 7 with welcomes and presentations from several faculty and staff members. We will take a break for lunch and then host separate meetings for our three entering fall cohorts – 2-year Full-time, 3-year Chapel Hill, and 3-year Winston-Salem – at 2:00pm EST. Please complete the JumpStart! registration process by **July 20**: [Fall 2020 JumpStart! Registration](#). 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.

The SSW will host a LGBTQ+ Welcome Event for entering students who are members or allies of the LGBTQ+ community on **Tuesday, July 28**. Additionally, we will host the annual Students Achieving Graduate Education (S.A.G.E.) pre-orientation program for entering students of color and international students on **Thursday, July 30**. Both events are scheduled for 5:00 – 6:30pm EST. All incoming students are welcome to attend, however they are optional events. Please visit the [Fall 2020 JumpStart! Registration](#) link to sign up.

The optional, virtual [UNC Graduate School orientation](#) is unfortunately also scheduled for **August 7** this year. JumpStart! is a required activity for all first-year students, so we expect to see everyone on August 7 during the SSW activities. We anticipate that the Graduate School orientation will be recorded so that students may access the information at a later time.

Summer Reading: Several courses in the first year of the MSW curriculum have selected [Dying of Whiteness](#) by Jonathan Metzl as required reading this year. The book examines the politics of racial resentment and its impact on public health in the United States. We encourage you to begin reading the book this summer so you may have a head start on your course readings for this fall. During JumpStart! you will receive an explanation of how instructors will use the book in both courses.

Field Placement Planning: Field education is an important part of your MSW experience. The Assistant Dean of Field Education, Rebecca Brigham emailed everyone earlier this month with instructions on how to complete the Generalist Placement Planning Guide and begin the placement process. We have included the "[Field Placement Letter](#)" on our JumpStart! page. If you have not already done so, please complete the planning guide as soon as possible.

Transcripts: Your official transcripts must be received by the UNC Graduate School in order for you to register for fall classes. Please be sure to send an official copy of your transcript(s) with your degree conferred from each post-secondary school attended as soon as possible.

Due to the developments concerning COVID-19, all members of The Graduate School staff are working remotely until further notice. At this time, they are unable to process hard copy paperwork that arrives at The Graduate School, including official transcripts. If possible, official transcripts should be sent to The Graduate School electronically. Please visit the [UNC Graduate School](#) website for more information.

Registration and Tuition: You may begin to register for courses **July 1** at 12:00pm EST as long as your official transcripts have been received and processed. Registration should be completed **by July 16**. **Tuition and fees must be paid by August 17**. Fall 2020 classes begin on **Monday, August 10**.

You may register online or by contacting the SSW Registrar Ms. Beth Sauer at bhsauer@email.unc.edu. For more details, please carefully review the information in the [Registration memo](#). In order to give you a little more information as you choose your courses for the fall, we have asked all of the faculty who teach our multi-section generalist classes to provide you with a brief description of their interests and approach to the class. A compilation of their responses is shared on our website: [Faculty Descriptions and Generalist Courses](#).

Tuition and fees are set by the University of North Carolina System and not UNC Chapel Hill or the SSW. The estimated cost of tuition and fees per semester for 2020-2021 is \$8,465 for in-state students and \$17,451 for out-of-state students; there is also a \$300 field fee for each semester you are registered for field education. Tuition and student fees will be finalized mid-July for the upcoming academic year. We are seeking clarity regarding student fees based on remote instruction for this fall but have no additional information to offer at this point. The cost of books and supplies for any semester can range from \$300-\$400. Additional costs such as travel expenses to field placements are sometimes overlooked in planning. For the most up-to-date tuition rates, check the [UNC Cashier](#) website.

Fall 2020 tuition invoices will be issued in July and will only be available in [ConnectCarolina](#). Students will be notified by email to their UNC email account when their bill is ready to be viewed.

Students receiving a 50% Tuition Remission, Merit Award, Weiss Fellowship, Dean's Research Award, SSW Scholarship or a loan from the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid may defer tuition and fee payments for the Fall semester once they receive their tuition bill. Instructions for deferring your tuition payment will be included in your July bill. Please note that awards will not be processed until mid to late August on student accounts.

Financial Aid: By completing the 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>, you will be considered for loans by the University's Office of Scholarships and Student Aid (OSSA). Please visit <http://studentaid.unc.edu/> for more information.

Students awarded UNC and SSW funding have been notified. If additional scholarship resources become available, students will be notified this summer. Available program and research assistant positions will be posted by late August; all students will be notified by email once the positions are available for review.

There will be an opportunity to apply for a SSW scholarship for the 2021-2022 academic year. The application deadline will be early May 2021. Please visit the SSW's updated [additional resources for funding document](#) for a list of potential scholarship opportunities. The [UNC Grant Source Library](#) also has a list of funding opportunities to review. Please contact Sharon Thomas (sharon_thomas@unc.edu) if you have further questions concerning scholarships and student aid.

Residency: Any student admitted to and enrolled in a graduate degree program administered by The Graduate School with an undetermined or nonresident status is **required** to submit a North Carolina residency application in order to be considered for re-classification for in-state tuition benefits. The online residency application can be found at <https://ncresidency.cfnc.org/residencyInfo/>. For more information, please visit <https://gradschool.unc.edu/studentlife/resources/residency/>.

Purchasing Books: Textbooks can be purchased by logging into the Student Stores Course Materials portal found in <https://connectcarolina.unc.edu/>. Click on "Student Center", and then "Order My Textbooks". You can also contact UNC Student Stores at 919-962-5066. Another option is to get the textbooks online or at a local bookstore.

The SSW Office of Academic & Student Affairs' summer program assistant is coordinating a used book sale via Google docs. We will send information via email to all first-year students by mid-July.

Health Insurance: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, along with all the other UNC system campuses, require on-campus students (undergraduate and graduate/professional) to have health insurance coverage. This does not mean a student must enroll in the UNC System Student Health Insurance Plan; it means a student must provide proof of active [creditable](#) health insurance.

On-campus students (2-year and 3-year Chapel Hill programs) will be automatically enrolled in and billed for the UNC system student health insurance plan, which is administered by [Blue Cross / Blue Shield of North Carolina called Student Blue](#), until they show evidence of an existing "credible" health insurance policy. *If you will have a research assistant position this fall that covers health insurance, please do not complete any UNC health insurance forms this summer. You will be given the option in late July to enroll in the [Graduate Student Health Insurance Program](#) which is a different program than Student Blue.

One Card: Your UNC One Card is your student ID for UNC. To obtain your One Card, please visit this site: <https://onecard.unc.edu/orientation/>. Although the site states that you should pick up your One Card at the beginning of the fall semester from their office, the SSW has made arrangements to pick up new students' cards this fall. We will coordinate a date in August for students to visit the SSW to pick up their cards or have the cards mailed to students who are not able to come to campus.

It is very important for you to complete the One Card application process no later than **July 15**. This process requires you to upload a photo to their site. For more information about photo requirements, please refer to this help sheet: <https://onecard.unc.edu/features/get-a-unc-one-card/photo-requirements/>.

Student Wellness: Student Wellness at Carolina seeks to enhance the individual and collective health of the community through a wide range of programs, services, and resources. Through partnerships with other campus departments, community agencies, student organizations, and peer mentors, Student Wellness works to develop and advocate for a campus and community environment that creates, emphasizes, and supports healthy choices and positive decision-making regarding health, safety, and wellness. Student Wellness offers programs such as the

Collegiate Recovery Initiatives Program, Sexual Violence Prevention Program, and Counseling and Psychological Services. For more program information and services, please visit <https://studentwellness.unc.edu/>.

Accessibility Resources and Service: The SSW aims to create an educational environment that supports the learning needs of all students. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill facilitates the implementation of reasonable accommodations, including resources and services, for students with disabilities, chronic medical conditions, severe allergies, a temporary disability, or pregnancy complications resulting in difficulties with accessing learning opportunities. The Accessibility Resources and Service (ARS) Office at UNC has been established to coordinate all accommodations. If you might need accommodations at any point during the semester for course work or field practice, please contact ARS prior to the beginning of the semester or as early in the semester as possible so that they can assist you; this process takes time.

You can visit their website at <http://accessibility.unc.edu> and contact ARS by email: accessibility@unc.edu. The accommodations process starts with ARS and helps instruct SSW faculty on how best to proceed. As a School, we are committed to working with ARS and students to implement needed accommodations for all of our students. In addition to seeking ARS supports, please also reach out to your instructor to communicate how best your needs can be met once you have begun the ARS process. It is helpful for us to know if you have needs that require special accommodations to attend classes and field practicums. Please be aware that not all field sites are physically accessible because some require visits to client homes and other places in the community. The Field Planning Guide will have a place for you to note special field learning needs.

Change of Address and UNC Email Address: Changes to your mailing address should be made on the [ConnectCarolina](#) website. See the "[Computer Tips](#)" document for instructions on how to set up your UNC email address.

Preferred Names: If you have a preferred name that is different from your legal name, please go into [ConnectCarolina](#) and update your name. You will have the option to indicate which name you want shared on student documents from the school as well as your diploma.

Other: On the JumpStart! [webpage](#), you will find answers to many of your questions about advising, the curriculum, registration, field placement, housing, financial aid and parking. Please look at each section carefully; each section lists a person you can contact if you have questions, concerns, or need additional assistance

Please contact us, Dr. Lisa Zerden (lzerden@email.unc.edu) or Dr. Sarah Naylor (smnaylor@email.unc.edu) if you have questions concerning the MSW program. We look forward to spending the next two years with you as you prepare for professional social work practice. 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 life-long friends.
