



June 16, 2020

TO: 2020-2021 First Year Full-time MSW Students  
FROM: Sarah Naylor, Associate Dean for Student Affairs  
RE: Generalist Course Exemption, Advising, Curriculum Information and Technical Standards

Congratulations on your admission to the full-time MSW program! I know your next two years will be exciting, challenging, and rewarding. My purposes in this memo are to discuss the potential opportunity to exempt from Generalist courses, introduce you to the advising system, and explain how we will orient you to the MSW curriculum.

### *1. Generalist Course Exemption*

Although all students must meet Generalist Curriculum requirements, some entering students may have had previous course work related to Generalist 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 Generalist courses, SOWO 500: Human Development in Context I: 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. To be approved for course exemption, students need to have taken identical or very similar courses within the last five years, and grades earned for these courses must be equivalent to a grade of "B" or better. Students requesting exemptions from SOWO 510 also need to take and pass a course exemption exam with a score of 70% or better. Exemption of Generalist 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 four Generalist courses, you should consider requesting an exemption. Syllabi for the Generalist courses may be reviewed online at <http://ssw.unc.edu/students/coursedata>. Information about the Generalist course exemption process can be found in the "Generalist Course Exemption Policy" document at <http://ssw.unc.edu/students/academic/advising> in the "MSW Curriculum Forms" section. The deadline for requesting exemption from SOWO 500 is August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The deadline for requesting exemption from spring 2021 Generalist courses (SOWO 505, SOWO 510 and SOWO 530) is December 15<sup>th</sup>.

### *2. Advising System*

We provide academic advising to assist students in the development of meaningful educational plans that are compatible with their career goals. Upon

admission, each student is assigned both a faculty advisor and a plan of study advisor. You will meet your faculty advisor and plan of study advisor virtually in August and learn more about the advising system at that time.

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. Your faculty advisor can also help you think through your concentration declaration and course selection. Your plan of study advisor will be available to communicate with you regarding MSW curriculum policies and procedures, ensure that your educational plan of study is consistent with curriculum requirements, and clear you for registration each semester.

### *3. Curriculum Information and Technical Standards*

At JumpStart! orientation we will provide an overview of the MSW curriculum. We will also provide you with contact information for the faculty liaisons of dual degree programs.

During the fall semester we will share information with you about the concentrations within the Specialization Curriculum and ask you to declare your concentration prior to registering for the spring 2021 semester. Early in the spring semester we will host a Specialization Curriculum Planning session to share more detailed information about the Specialization Curriculum and the plan of study process.

The *2020-2021 School of Social Work MSW Curriculum Manual* will be available later in the summer at <http://ssw.unc.edu/students/academic/advising>. The *Manual* describes the MSW curriculum requirements, options, policies, and procedures. The *Manual* also contains important resources for students including the School of Social Work Technical Standards that share minimum expectations regarding students' skills, attributes, competencies, and academic performance upon admission and throughout their time in the program. Please review it to become more familiar with your curriculum options.

The *2019-2020 MSW Curriculum Manual* is available at <http://ssw.unc.edu/students/academic/advising>, in case you would like to review it before the *2020-2021 MSW Curriculum Manual* is published.

I am happy to offer assistance and clarification as needed, and can be reached at [smnaylor@email.unc.edu](mailto:smnaylor@email.unc.edu) if you have any questions. Again, welcome, and I look forward to seeing you remotely in August!

Sincerely,  
Sarah M. Naylor, Ph.D., M.T.S.

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