



April 17, 2020

TO: 2020-2021 Advanced Standing Students

FROM: Sarah Naylor, Associate Dean for Student Affairs

RE: Advising, Curriculum, and Registration Information

Congratulations on your admission to the Advanced Standing MSW program! I know the year ahead will be exciting, challenging, and rewarding for you. Please review this memo for important information on the advising system, plan of study orientation, and the registration process.

### **1. Advising System**

We provide academic advising to assist students in the development of meaningful educational plans that are compatible with their career goals. On admission, each student is assigned both a faculty advisor and a plan of study advisor. Ms. Tauchiana Williams will serve as your faculty advisor. Either Ms. Beth Sauer (if your last name begins with A-K) or Ms. Monique Tuset (if your last name begins with L-Z) will serve as your plan of study advisor throughout your time in the program.

Ms. Tauchiana Williams 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 as well as decision making about your concentration 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. We will discuss the advising system in more detail at the Plan of Study Orientation described below.

### **2. Plan of Study Orientation**

On orientation day, Tuesday May 12, we will prepare you for your summer Bridge curriculum and your fall/spring specialization year of study. We will describe the specialization curriculum and the different concentrations we offer, discuss your elective course options for the second summer session, discuss the significance of your plan of study and how to complete it, and review the registration process for the fall semester. By Friday, June 5, we will ask you to submit your plan of study for approval. This will give you an opportunity to consult with your advisors if you have any questions.

Several School of Social Work academic resources are available for your reference. Course schedules are available at <http://sww.unc.edu/index.php?q=students/academic/advising>. The *School of Social Work MSW Curriculum Manual* is also available at <http://sww.unc.edu/index.php?q=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.

### 3. Registration

a. *Summer Sessions* – During Summer Session I, you will be registered for four Bridge courses that are 1.5 credit hours each, 6 credit hours total:

- SOWO 772 Social Work Practice
- SOWO 732 Confronting Oppression and Social Welfare Policy
- SOWO 702 Human Development in Context
- SOWO 712 Research and Evaluation

In Summer Session II you will be registered for the following courses, 7 credit hours total:

- SOWO 709 Pre-Specialization Field Planning (1 credit hour)
- Depending on your concentration declaration (Direct Practice or Community, Management, and Policy Practice), you will be registered for either SOWO 740 Implementing Evidence-Informed Practice with Individuals, Families, and Groups (3 credit hours) or SOWO 770 Implementing Evidence-Informed Practice with Organizations and Communities (3 credit hours)
- Specialization elective(s) (3 credit hours) – see additional information regarding these electives in the next section of this memo.

Beth Sauer, the School's Registrar, will enroll you in all of your summer courses. She will enroll you in all of your first summer session courses as well as SOWO 740 or SOWO 770 by April 30, and she will enroll you in the remainder of your second summer session courses after your plan of study has been submitted. If your enrollment in SOWO 740 or SOWO 770 needs to be changed based on your plan of study, Ms. Sauer will make that update. Please contact Ms. Sauer (919-962-6443 or [bhsauer@email.unc.edu](mailto:bhsauer@email.unc.edu)) if you have any questions or concerns regarding registration.

b. *Fall 2020 Registration* – After your plan of study has been approved, you will be able to register for the fall semester. Early registration for the fall semester is open until Thursday, July 16. We will explain more about the registration process for the fall semester at Plan of Study Orientation on May 12.

*Summer and Fall Tuition and Fees* – Students will be notified by email to their UNC email account when their bills are ready to be viewed. Summer tuition and fees must be paid or deferred by Friday, May 8 for Summer Session I and paid or deferred by Tuesday, June 9 for Summer Session II. Otherwise, your early registration will be cancelled and you will need to register again. Fall tuition bills will be issued in July and only available electronically via ConnectCarolina ([connectcarolina.unc.edu](http://connectcarolina.unc.edu)) and must be paid or deferred by a date that is TBD. The University will accept online payments through the

Student Center from a checking account with no charges or fees. They will accept online payment through the Student Center by credit card with a transaction fee. Please contact the University Cashier's Office if you have any questions or concerns regarding payment of tuition and fees.

#### **4. Second Summer Session Specialization Electives**

During the second summer session, you will take 3 credit hours of SOWO course electives. You will have an opportunity to make final decisions regarding which course(s) you would like to take to fulfill this requirement during the first summer session, and Beth Sauer can register you for the electives at that time. While you do not need to make a decision now, we wanted to highlight these courses for you here so that you can begin to think about which one(s) might be most relevant for you and your learning. Please visit the [database of syllabi](#) available on the SSW website (<https://ssw.unc.edu/students/coursedata>) if you would like to learn more about the content of these courses. Please remember that the courses will be taught remotely and the syllabi will be adjusted to accommodate this change. The full summer course schedule, including instructors for many of the courses, can be accessed [here](#).

- **SOWO 700 Substance Use and Addictions Specialist (SUAS) – Foundations of Addiction (3 credit hours)**  
Introduces students to the field of problematic substance use and addiction. Explores historic and current theories of addiction, competencies of addiction counseling, and applicable ethical and legal considerations.
- **SOWO 758 Process of Differential Diagnosis of Mental Health Disorders (1.5 credit hours)**  
This course focuses on the process of conducting a differential diagnosis of mental health disorders using the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-IV.
- **SOWO 769 Professional Use of Self (1.5 credit hours)**  
This course explores students' professional use of self in direct practice. Using scholarly literature, students examine practice situations in which personal characteristics and experiences positively and negatively shape clinical work.
- **SOWO 799 Facilitation Skills within the Organizational and Community Context (1.5 credit hours)**  
Building from group relations theory, this course develops facilitation skills (e.g., agenda setting, process checking, participatory planning, navigating conflict) to engage culturally diverse task group members to achieve identified objectives.
- **SOWO 831 Substance Use and Addiction Policy: Implications for Practice (1.5 credit hours) – *Satisfies advanced policy requirement***  
The course will examine alcohol and drug policies, particularly as they relate to the exacerbation and resolution of health and social inequities for those with substance use disorders.
- **SOWO 834 Advanced Policy Practice (1.5 credit hours) – *Satisfies advanced policy requirement***

Advanced Policy Practice focuses on skills development in advanced policy analysis and change at administrative and legislative levels and on multiple levels of advocacy and lobbying strategies.

We look forward to accompanying you on your MSW journey. I am happy to offer assistance and clarifications as needed, and can be reached through the email address at the bottom of this letter. Another resource is your faculty advisor, Ms. Tauchiana Williams ([tjvan@email.unc.edu](mailto:tjvan@email.unc.edu)).

Again, welcome, and I look forward to seeing you via Zoom in May if not before!

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