



**Ask a Current MSW Student Webinar  
Chat Log  
June 2, 2014**

**Track Questions (16-month, 20- month, Advanced Standing)**

**Q: Can you also cover out of sequence 16 month student**

A: Some students will be out of sequence due to a field placement at the Hospital System or a number of other reasons. Your sequence will be unique, and so please feel free to email with any questions specific to your sequence. My email is [aschwedt@umich.edu](mailto:aschwedt@umich.edu)

**Q: Hi, my name is Sandy. I was admitted as a 20 month student however if I discover that I may need to change that to an extended program how would I go about that or should I wait to talk to an advisor.**

A: You can talk with the Office of Student Services to change your curriculum schedule.

**Q: Courtney, do you find the Advance Standing track is too fast? I was accepted into the Advance Standing program, but I am considering switching to the 16 month track**

A: Advanced standing students take a total of 45 credit hours opposed to the 60 credit hours that 16-month students take. Only students with their BSWs are eligible for advanced standing status because they have already taken the foundation courses in their undergrad. You're not actually doing an accelerated track when you do advanced standing; you just are exempt from a semester's worth of foundation classes that you've already taken.

**Q: Any 20 month students have suggestions of what to do to make the most of your summer break? Do you work? Find internships?**

A: In my experience, 20 months students work, find internships, volunteer, or take a break. It really depends on what you want to do with your summer!

**Courses, Professors, and Registration Questions**

**Q: When is the new student program session?**

A: You should have received information about registration and New Student Programs. We have them in late July and early-mid August. You can call the office at 936-0961 to schedule one if you haven't already.

**Q: What do you recommend I do if I will not be able to attend any of the new student program sessions?**

A: That's okay! Hopefully you were already able to call our office to set up your registration date. If so, anytime after 2:30pm on that day, you'll be able to log onto Wolverine Access to register. Make sure you sign up for your course advising webinar to get more information.

**Q: I am from a few hours away and my parents want to visit U of M this summer. Should they come with me to the "on-campus new student program?" What should I suggest them to do if they come to Ann Arbor on that day with me?**

A: I would recommend that they visit Ann Arbor while you are here for your summer student session. However, the Summer session is meant for students.

**Q: So we register for classes at the orientation in the summer, right?**

A: You should have received an email with information about signing up for a registration appointment time. Course registration takes place in July and August, depending upon your curriculum schedule.

**Q: How stressful is registration? Is it like in undergrad where it is impossible to get the classes you want?**

A: I feel that registration is not a stressful time. Your first time registering you will have assistance in doing so, as there will be staff and current students to help you through that.

**Q: have any of you taken more than the "required" course load for a semester? Meaning aside from the mini classes have you taken an extra 3-credit class.**

A: You have elective hours needed towards your degree you can look at using those for courses of your interest. Also I do know students that have taken a higher course load, if you can handle it, go for it.

**Q: If you're allowed to do so, can you recommend some of your favorite professors?**

A: A great way to learn more about professors is to look up their bios on the SSW website and read about some of the research that they're doing. Being able to align some of your interests with professors who are doing research in those areas can be a great way to enhance your learning and the experiences that you have in your classes.

**Q: I was informed that there is a biology test for those who have not met that requirement in undergrad. Could someone explain what this test is like, and how difficult it is to pass for someone who did not take a human biology class but is willing to study for the test?**

A: This is a multiple choice test, and you will be provided with the appropriate text to help study for this test. Most students do not have difficulty passing this exam.

**Q: What kind of outside-class engagement do students have with professors?**

A: It really depends on the professor and the initiative that the student takes. I have out-of-class relationships with a couple of my professors. I do some side-work with one professor who has me facilitate trainings in her undergraduate class. I also have helped a professor with an event he was organizing. There is another professor who has offered me countless resources in the city that I will be moving to when I graduate.

**Q: About how many hours of homework do you have for each 3 credit class?**

A: In my opinion, the amount of hours for homework will depend on your working style, schedule, and whether you are working in a group or alone. Some project or homework assignments may take longer than others.

**Q: Does the school offer a variety of evening classes that are available.**

A: There are some evening classes that start at 5pm, 6pm. And right now during the summer I know some people that are taking courses that start at 7pm.

**Q: Follow up question about class exemptions: the SSW will contact you about this; we do not have to ask a specific office?**

A: All students will be notified about exemptions by email. You do not need to request to be viewed for exemptions.

**Q: Is the registration process handled on-line or in person during the orientation day?**

A: Registration for classes happens online on the wolverine access page. You will receive more information about this process via email. You can also register for classes during the summer sessions!

**Q: How large are typical class sizes?**

A: From my experience, most of my classes have been on average 18-22 students.

**Q: How formal are classes? Do most students usually take notes on notebook paper or on laptops/tablets?**

A: The formality and style of the class depends a lot on the professor. Students take notes both by hand and on their laptops in most classes, although professors sometimes have a preference or request that you don't use your computers depending on what you're going to be doing/learning in the class in order to increase engagement.

**Q: For the course registration, do you get to pick the classes for each semester or is it predetermined based on your concentration?**

A: You are able to pick the course you would like to take each semester; however, be sure to take the courses you need for your degree. There is a course planning worksheet to help you keep track of your requirements for graduation. <http://archive.ssw.umich.edu/studentguide/course-planning-worksheets/>

**Q: Is the atmosphere of in classes more academic or practice oriented?**

A: I feel that it depends on the type of professors/instructors that you choose. I recommend looking at the director on the U of M School of Social Work website and taking a look at the staff and professors' profiles. That will give you an idea of teaching styles, interest of study, and background information.

**Q: I am a Community Organization and Community and Social Systems student, but looking at the class options, I also have interest in a couple of the classes generally offered to the Social Policy or Management students. Do we have many elective credits available so we can learn skills outside of our subject area?**

A: Look at the Course Outline on the U of M School of Social Work website, plug in your Method and Area. It will calculate what you need to take.

**Q: Will my tuition be higher if I am on the 20 month track and take more than the suggested amount of credits that the planning sheet provides? Is there a certain number before it costs extra, or do you pay by credit hour regardless?**

A: Tuition is set on a full-time schedule or part-time schedule. Full time is 9-19. If you fall above or below, you'll have to pay by credit.

**Q: I was told that if we took certain combinations of courses during our undergrad at UM, that we may be able to "get out of" taking certain classes during our time at SSW like some intro courses, have any of you done this?**

A: While I am not from UofM as an undergrad, my courses during undergrad at another college allowed me to be exempt from multiple classes in graduate school. Once all of your final transcripts have been sent to the college, they will be going through each students previous classes and determine which graduate courses you are exempt from. Traditionally they will let you know if you have any exemptions the weeks preceding registration. I came in with 3 exemptions and while this does not change the number of credits you have to take to graduate, it is nice that it lets you take a few extra electives of your choice.

**Q: How are classes work wise? Are there more test or papers?**

A: This will depend largely on the course and the professors teaching the course.

## **Concentration, Area, Minor, and Dual Degree Questions**

**Q: Hello. I was wondering if it is possible to be in the advanced standing track and have a minor?**

A: Yes, you can utilize your electives to complete a minor with the advanced standing track. It would utilize six of your elective credits, and require you to complete some of your field hours in that minor method. So you will need an internship that can accommodate that minor.

**Q: Do we have to decide if we want a minor now? Or will there be time at registration and later down the road to do so?**

A: You do not have to decide now if you want a minor. Many students wait until they get here or are a semester in to decide if a minor is something they would like and if so in what area of study.

**Q: could I get more information about community organization?**

A: Feel free to email me any specific questions you have! [aschwedt@umich.edu](mailto:aschwedt@umich.edu)

**Q: Courtney: I feel that the Management of Human Services concentration would be a smaller group of people versus interpersonal. Are my assumptions true?**

A: Yes. The MHS cohort is around 30 students, which is a smaller (but still great!) group of people.

**Q: Courtney, I'm planning on doing Management of Human Services too but perhaps in a different area. What skillsets have you gained from this concentration specifically?**

A: I've been able to take a variety of classes that have helped me develop and strengthen my skills in grant writing, human resources, group facilitation, policies, etc. I've also been able to put a lot of this classroom learning into practice at my field placement and really work on these skills in real life. Feel free to check out some of the management classes in the course catalog for the SSW online for more detailed descriptions too.

**Q: If a student has an interest in the dual MSW/PhD program, is there an option to take any Doctorate level courses as electives in the first term to get a feel for the type of courses one might expect?**

A: Yes, it is possible to take certain doctoral level courses as an MSW student, but it is dependent on the faculty member.

**Q: Has anyone tried doing a minor and a school social work certificate at the same time? Is it possible? Would I have to take an extra term to make it fit?**

A: My concentration method is IP with children, family and youth with a minor in social policy and evaluation. In addition, I will be receiving a Child Welfare certificate. With that being said, it is possible, you will just need to adhere to your course planning worksheet, and working closely with your advisor to make sure the classes you are taking will put you on track to graduate.

**Q: I have heard that community-organizing students are in the minority compared with IP. Do you feel that there are as many opportunities for students with this focus?**

A: One thing that I really like about our program is the variety of field placements for macro students! However, we are definitely a number minority. I think that there are still plenty of opportunities though in both courses and in placements.

**Q: I am on the 16-month track and I want to add a minor in management, how can I go about doing that?**

A: You can send an email request to [ssw.oss@umich.edu](mailto:ssw.oss@umich.edu).

## **Field Placement Questions**

**Q: Is the field placement seminar required all semesters, or just the first semester?**

A: Field seminar is only required for your first semester of field. Also, advanced standing students are not required to take a field seminar.

**Q: Generally speaking, when do we find out about our internship placements?**

A: Depends on what term you will start field.

**Q: Do people typically cover tattoos or take out piercings, etc. for field placements?**

A: From my experience this depends on the individual field placement. Some will ask students to cover or remove piercings and tattoos, while others allow it. You will need to ask your individual field site.

**Q: I am a 16 month student and have already had my resume/goal statement critiqued by the SSW office. Is it ok for me to submit it in the month of June instead of waiting until SEP/OCT?**

A: You will need to wait to submit your resume/goal statement until October.

**Q: Ester I will also go into Interpersonal Practice but still indecisive between Children and Youth and Mental Health. What do you do at your field placement?**

A: Hi Doris, as a child welfare scholar my placement is at the Family Assessment Clinic. My major is IP and minor is SP&E. At my field placement I am doing IP with family and children.

**Q: Is there a pay compensation for field placements that are over 45 miles away from SSW?**

A: Some field placements offer a stipend, but not all. This information is usually provided once you have secured your field placement.

**Q: Is it too late to try and get a hospital placement?**

A: There are many hospitals that UofM has for placements. If you wanted to apply for a UMHS they have a separate deadline.

**Q: Do many internships require in person interviews?**

A: Many of the internships do prefer in person interviews so that they can get to know you as well as give you an opportunity to get to know more about them. This is of course situational and may change based on the internship you are pursuing.

**Q: I'm a 16 month IP student. Is it too early for me to start looking into the field placement?**

A: No need to start looking yet! The process for 16 month students won't start until you're already in your first semester. You can view the events calendar on our website for specific dates, but you'll also get email notification and there will be a required session for you to attend to learn more about field placements. The process is facilitated by the Office of Field Instruction.

**Q: I will be an advance standing student. Do I find a field placement before Sep 2nd?**

A: If you have not done so already, you should apply for your field placement as soon as possible. The placement process takes place throughout the summer so you should have your field placement secured before classes begin.

**Q: I am 16 month Interpersonal Practice Concentration (Mental Health) - would you please explain how field placement would work? I have already applied for several field placements with UM.**

A: You will start field in January 2015. Also, UMHS placements are notified in Fall term. You will learn more during orientation and the Summer sessions. Also UMHS holds a special session to explain their process.

**Q: I've read that it is possible to do a field placement in Washington, DC. From what I saw, you have to take classes while doing your field placement. How does it work if I want to do a field placement in DC?**

A: I have a colleague that is doing a placement in D. C. over the summer. The Office of Field can help you further with this.

**Q: Is it possible to get 2 field placements while on the 16 month track? Or maybe that would work with a study abroad trip only?**

A: Typically 16 month students only have one field placement.

**Q: How soon after applying for your Field Placements were you contacted for an interview?**

A: I heard from my field placement within two weeks after the submission date. I know that the time frame has varied for others.

**Q: Ethnic diversity and opportunities to work with Spanish-speaking clients would be important aspects for me in my field placement. Are these things easily found in the Ann Arbor/Detroit area, or will I need to make a special effort to seek them out?**

A: These opportunities are available at many field placements, but this is also something that you will want to convey in your goal statement when you are applying for field.

**Q: How do I get in contact with the field office?**

A: I suggest going on the School of Social Work website and the field office website can be found on there.

**Q: I'll be an out of state student and am dreading driving in winter. Are most field placements far from Ann Arbor? I'd prefer to take public transportation if possible.**

A: Many of the field placements are within a 40 mile radius of the Ann Arbor area. Public transportation is difficult outside of the Ann Arbor area, but this is something that you can discuss with the Office of Field Instruction if you have restrictions on how far you are able to drive.

**Q: Would it be difficult or very time-consuming to get to most field placements without a car?**

A: This will greatly depend on where your field placement is located and where you will be living. If you have an Ann Arbor field placement, many of these are on bus routes or (depending on where you live) in walking distance, but there are a few that are not. If you are at a field placement in the Metro Detroit region, you will need a car to get to each of these field placements.

**Q: I thought I was on a 16 month track, but it looks like I am on a 20 month track. At least that's what my scholarship makes it look like...anyway, I have definitely missed the deadlines for field placement then, haven't I? What do I do now?**

A: Please call the Office of Student Services at 734-936-0961.

**Q: Maliaka- What area in Beaumont is your placement and can you describe the type of work you are doing?**

A: I am split between two clinics. A peds unit and neuro (brain injury) clinic. I have been able to have a lot of exposure. Also I have had the opportunity to shadow other areas of the hospital with other social workers.

**Q: Maliaka, I know that medical social work is a growing field. How is working with clients in a hospital different than in a nonmedical setting?**

A: All placements vary. I know for me, my placement is not as sit down and do therapy. Always moving around

**Q: Do any of you commute to Detroit now for your internship or do you know how the commute is?**

A: Several students commute to Detroit and are able to make things work. Like most places, traffic can be unpredictable, but a lot of folks do it. Travel time can range anywhere from 45 min-2 hours depending on traffic, weather, and construction.



**Q: What does the field placement interview process entail? Do y'all feel that you're well-suited to your respective internship sites?**

A: My field placement was my #1 choice. The field office does a good job of matching you. Also it's best to dress and present as you would for a formal interview.

**Q: If we are out of state and get called for an interview, is it usually possible to do it through Skype or some other format?**

A: It is possible to schedule an interview via Skype, but it depends on the field placement. You should communicate with the prospective field placement about interview method options.

**Q: Esther, which field placements did you apply to (I'm in the 16 month with interpersonal and child & youth as well)**

A: Hi Jenna, I am a Child Welfare Scholar and applied for my placement at the Family Assessment Clinic inside Catholic Social Services in Ann Arbor.

**Q: If I am interested long-term in working in Detroit should I aim to get a field placement in Detroit or stick around Ann Arbor?**

A: If you are interested in working in Detroit long-term I would suggest aiming from a field placement in Detroit. While it is not a make it or break it deal, it is definitely beneficial to make those connections and network during your time here at U of M.

## **Financial Aid, Scholarship and Work Study/Job Questions**

**Q: How manageable is it to do work-study along with classes?**

A: I think that it is manageable as long as you don't try to do too many hours. Many of our students work 5-15 hours per week on top of classes. Each work study job will have different expectations in terms of schedule and hours, but the best thing about work study is that they know and expect that you are a student first!

**Q: I would also like to know more about scholarship opportunities...**

A: If you go to the financial aid page of the School of Social Work website, you can find out more about SSW-specific scholarships as well as the link to University-wide scholarships.

**Q: I am interested in trying to get a GSI position and studied both Psychology and Sociology in undergrad. Who should I contact to get that position and is it unrealistic to plan to do that as well as do the 16 month track (for IP Mental Health)?**

A: GSI positions are posted on our employment website, [umjobs.org](http://umjobs.org). We do have a few students who GSI, and so if you'd like to speak to someone directly, please email me your contact information and I will have someone reach out to you! My email is [aschwedt@umich.edu](mailto:aschwedt@umich.edu).

**Q: What type of payment plans does Umich offer for tuition? My scholarship may arrive after classes begin, will I be kicked out of classes if I don't pay by September 2nd?**

A: You will not be kicked out of classes. I had the same concern, but it was all taken care of for me, once I arrived to Ann Arbor. You can always follow up with the Financial Aid office if you have additional concerns or questions.

**Q: Do many advanced standing students work and/or have time to engage in research with faculty members?**

A: As an advanced standing student, I have worked around 10 hours/week each semester. While it makes things busier, it's definitely doable for me and many other advanced standing students. There are sometimes opportunities for work-study doing research with professors, so it could certainly be an option for you!

**Q: Any suggestions on what types of part-time jobs to look into while attending school?**

A: Many of the work study jobs offered by U of M are great places to find part time jobs. They understand you are a student and from my experiences are good about working with your schedule.

**Q: Are any of you in a scholarship program? If so how many hours are you able to dedicate towards a work study job?**

A: I'm in the Geriatric Scholars Program and I have found that I can typically dedicate 5-15 hours a week to work study. This will depend upon your personal life/family commitments/etc. but it is definitely possible to do work study while attending school.

## **Special Programs Questions**

**Q: Do you have to be placed in a school to receive the school social work certification? Or can it just be a placement that works directly with children?**

A: It can be at a placement that gives you direct work with children. It does not have to be in a school. Here is the website for more information <https://ssw.umich.edu/programs/msw/specialization-and-certification-programs/social-work-in-school-settings>

**Q: For those of you in scholarship programs, have you found that the program helps you connect with fellow students with the same interests/specializations?**

A: From my experience as a Geriatric Scholar I have had many wonderful opportunities to connect with my fellow students that are either in this scholarship program or share an interested with me. At times the staff have organized events for those in our scholarship program, while at other times we have organized our own outings and events to get to know one another.

**Q: How does the first semester look like if you are a child welfare scholar? An average week**

A: In my experience the first semester was primarily adjusting to the demands of graduate school, while balancing the remainder of my life off campus. Most classes in the fall and winter are 3 hours long, which means I studied for 2 hours each hour. Hope this helps.

**Q: Are there opportunities for study abroad type experiences for 16-month students, since we go 3 terms straight with our field experience?**

A: It is possible to complete a global special studies abroad as a 16-month student. You would be able to go abroad for a few weeks once you complete your local internship in the summer. Katie Lopez (kalopez@umich.edu) in our Office of Global Activities is the best contact for these types of opportunities.

**Q: Jewel or Esther, as your concentrations are in Interpersonal Practice and Children & Youth, are either of you considering school social work? If so, how do you find the certification program?**

A: The information about the school social work program can be found on the website. Here is the link!: <https://ssw.umich.edu/programs/msw/specialization-and-certification-programs/social-work-in-school-settings>

**Q: For a family and child welfare scholar, (16 months) what is your typical schedule like first semester? Are classes in the morning, night, later in the week?**

A: Hi Alejandro. My typical first semester as a 16 month Child Welfare Scholar was taking 18 credits. My first term, my classes varied, with times and days. It is possible!

## **After Graduation Questions**

**Q: What is the process of licensing and does UM help with it?**

A: Hi Clare, UM has many resources available. It may be helpful to use the UM MSW website and look at the Office of Career Services. They provide a lot of resources, including licensing.

**Q: Do you find many students are graduating with jobs lined up?**

A: Yes! A lot of my friends graduated this May and either had jobs lined up or were offered jobs within a few weeks of graduation.

**Q: Do you find it important to be licensed (for macro students) in order to find employment after graduation? What is the licensing process like for macro students?**

A: It depends on which state you live in after graduation! Not all states license macro social workers. For more information, you can email Michelle Woods at micwoods@umich.edu

## **Housing Questions**

**Q: Do many SSW students say in the grad housing on campus or do most stay off campus?**

A: Some students do choose to stay in the graduate housing through the University of Michigan, but from my experience a majority of students choose to find local apartments or houses to rent in the surrounding communities. While these apartments/houses are not owned by U of M, there are still places available all over central/north/south campuses.

**Q: On campus housing is currently unavailable for graduate students. Do you suggest I wait for a possible room reassignment or should I secure off-campus housing as soon as possible?**

A: Because of a larger than expected incoming class as well as one residence hall being under renovation, the availability of graduate housing is limited this year. Next year, a brand new graduate residence hall will open on central campus, though! I would suggest finding off-campus housing if you are able. Although it might be more of a hassle, it is generally cheaper than living in Northwood.

**Q: What are some difficulties I should anticipate when looking for housing in and/or around Ann Arbor, especially if I'm looking from out of state?**

A: Finding housing can definitely be stressful, especially since many undergraduate students started securing their housing in December of last year. There are a couple of options that work well for students who are trying to find housing but cannot physically look at the space. You can try to rent from a larger complex or community so that you have a better idea of what the place is like and what the unit will look like. If you'd like to live in a house or smaller apartment building, you can look on craigslist or the roommate finder to find something where you'll have a roommate.

## **Grad School Life and Ann Arbor Questions**

**Q: I am from out of state and unfamiliar with Ann Arbor or the university. I will not be able to move until towards the end of August. Will it be difficult for me to adjust and is there anything I should do to become more familiar with the area and the campus?**

A: From my experience, I moved to Ann Arbor the day before orientation started and while it was a bit chaotic the SSW was extremely helpful. Make use of opportunities like the Community Service day and orientation to meet people and get to know the community! The best way I found to adjust to the new

city was to get out and walk around it. I have found the adjustment to be quite simple since the SSW has so many friendly students and staff (& remember many other students will be looking for people to go out with and explore the city with!)

**Q: A major reason I wanted to be a part of UM was to experience life at a large university. Is it easy for grad students to get involved in clubs and campus social life?**

A: The school of social work and the larger university campus has numerous clubs and social events that you can join!

**Q: I am commuting from about 45mins each day for classes and fieldwork. You mention there is limited parking. What do you suggest I do?**

A: As a student that lives off campus, it has been helpful to utilize the commuter lots. Detailed information can be found at Ann Arbor Transportation website in terms of which bus to take and the times that they stop at the lot you will be at. Another option is to look at the UM Ann Arbor buses schedule.

**Q: Regarding the free commuter parking, does this mean that there are parking lots that are free for students that drive to campus?**

A: Yes! There are a few different commuter lots managed by the AATA. The most frequently used one is on State Street, just north of Eisenhower. You can drive to Ann Arbor and then park in this lot. The #36 bus will pick you up and drop you off right in front of the School of Social Work! You can see the routes at [aata.org](http://aata.org).

**Q: The cost of out of state tuition is extremely high. Is Michigan really worth it?**

A: I am an out of state student, and have found that many students come here from around the country. As well we have an international students in our programs. U of M has been a great experience for me, but you have to decide what fit in a school you are looking for.

**Q: Can you please describe your typical week as a 16-month student in your first semester? Specifically class/work/personal life balance?**

A: As a 16 month student, my first semester felt pretty light compared to later semesters. I had 5 classes, each of which was three hours long. I took two classes on Monday, two classes on Tuesday, and one class on Wednesday. Classes are generally offered morning, afternoon, or evening, so it is technically possible to take three in one day. This left me two and a half week days to do school work, to work my part-time job, and to hang out with my new school friends! I like to save weekends to be active and spend time outside, so I was able to keep them almost completely blank for "me" time.

**Q: When/where do we get our Mcards?**

A: You will get a tour of the campus if you are interested of important places to know. The tour we do during Summer Session, will take you by the building where you will need to go to get your MCard.

**Q: How much time outside of class would you say you spend doing work for school?**

A: It definitely depends on the week and on what classes I am taking! Some weeks I will spend about 10 hours doing work outside of class, and others I only spend 2 hours.

**Q: I don't have a car. Should I try to get one or is there any way I'd be ok without one? (The field placement puts a lot of emphasis on getting a car)**

A: From my experience, this greatly varies on a person by person basis. If you are a student who will only have one internship and it ends up being in Ann Arbor on a bus route then having a car is not necessarily needed, but in my cases I took a field placement in West Bloomfield, MI, which required me to have my own to get back and for to field. Having said that, it is not possible for us to guarantee each student an internship in Ann Arbor so this is something to consider.

**Q: How long does the student summer session go for?**

A: This year, our Spring/Summer classes are going from May 12th - July 22nd, but field starts a week earlier and ends a couple of weeks later. More can be found about the specific schedule on our website - [ssw.umich.edu](http://ssw.umich.edu)!

**Q: For those of you on the 16-month track, how often are you in the classroom? (Twice a week, three times a week, etc.). I am going to be commuting from Bloomfield Hills and was wondering if this was going to be "doable"**

A: As a 16 month student that also lives off campus, it has been my experience to try schedule classes that would allow me to be on campus the same days. It is doable; just schedule your classes accordingly. Currently I am on campus once a week, and at field three days a week.

**Q: I am a non traditional student and I am nervous about going back to school. Any tips from other non traditional students?**

A: I am a non traditional student. Everyone is welcoming. I suggest that you network, and ask for help when uncertain. Also I enjoyed going to the Community Service event was a great way to acclimate myself back into school, and meet people. I took 4 years off before coming back to school. I'd say that there were a few challenges. One was that the majority of students are 22-25, and so I had to find a community of students who were also non-traditional. Also, something that has worked really well for me is scheduling things on my calendar other than just work and school. I schedule out homework time, reading time, exercise time, friend time, etc. to hold myself accountable for getting everything done.

**Q: Are the classes in one building or spread across campus?**

A: All of the social work classes take place in the School of Social Work. However, students in the Community Based Initiative (CBI) program often have classes in Detroit. Another option is to take classes in different schools such as the School of Public Policy, Public Health, Business, etc. You can take them as electives and/or sometimes substitute them for some of your required classes in the SSW.

**Q: Sorry to repeat, but I'm really not sure what the range is for homework time for each class, and I'm trying to figure out how many hours I can give to a job. In college it was estimated at about 3 hours of homework per credit (9 hrs. per week for a 3 credit course). Can you give a maximum & minimum? I won't hold you to it :)**

A: I hate to do this, but it really just depends on the class! I have some classes that have three large projects over the course of the semester, each of which could take anywhere from 2-10 hours. I have other classes that have a one-page paper due each week, which only takes about 30 minutes each week. Some classes will have a lot of readings, while others will not. Unfortunately, there is no prescribed time for out-of-class work. We recommend that students not work more than about 15 hours per week.

**Q: For anyone in the twenty month program, how stressed did you feel that first semester in. Jewel, currently I am interpersonal practice and children and youth but I might be changing that to interpersonal practice and health, or community organization/management of health services**

A: In my opinion, the first semester is a time of change and adjustment. This may be more or less difficult depending on the person. I really enjoyed my first semester and learn more than I had expected while also being challenged. If you, decide to change your practice area be sure to communicate your decision to the office of student services!

**Q: I'm sure it varies by person, but is it common for students to be very active/involved with student groups? What kind of social activity do you usually find among social work students?**

A: You are able to make this experience what you want it to be. I myself am involved in student organizations, research assistant, and have part time employment at U of M. You have to assess what you can handle and how you organize your schedule.

**Q: Can you please describe a typical week as an advance standing student like it was described previously for a 16 month student? Aka is it manageable to do research and/or work while doing Advance Standing?**

A: Advanced standing students are in field throughout the full 12 months and go 2 days or 16 hours/week. Students generally take 3-4 classes (that are 3 hours long each) during each semester. Many advanced standing students work 5-15 hours a week, and I've worked an average of 10 hours/week throughout the program without it causing a burden on my other class and field responsibilities.

**Q: What is the most challenging part of this program?**

A: Emily, in my experience I have found most challenging balancing the demands of academia, field, and making time for Self Care.

**Q: How much do you typically spend on books per semester?**

A: Varies. My first semester I spent about \$150, in the winter I spent no more than \$20 total.

**Q: What is the competition level of U of M SSW? Are students overly competitive?**

A: I've found that students are actually not competitive at all! We really care about helping each other and making sure that everyone is getting the most out of this experience.

**Q: I am an advance standing student and will be commuting. How many days a week will I have to go to AA?**

A: It depends on when your classes are offered and how you are able to coordinate them. During the fall and winter terms, many advanced standing students end up at the SSW for classes 2-3 days/week. You can take as many as 3 classes per day though (depending on when they're scheduled), so you might be able to get it down to 1-2 days depending on the semester.

**Q: When do we send our final transcripts in? Are we told to do so, or do we just do it?**

A: You should send them as soon as they are final.

**Q: Where do we send our official transcript to?**

A: Office of Student Services, Room 1748, School of Social Work, 1080 S. University Ave, Ann Arbor Michigan 48109.

**Q: Will we be getting an email once the Mentorship Program apps are out?**

A: Yes, the mentorship applications will be sent out by email!

**Q: I'm really nervous about the workload and having a difficult time choosing specifically what I want to be doing. My problem is I find so many different aspects of social work interesting and I've participated in many internships in undergrad, which has increased what I have found interesting. Currently I'm interpersonal practice. My concern and main question is here career wise, will I be limited in any way if I find another aspect of social work for my career work more interesting, for instance management, as opposed to interpersonal practice which I am currently enrolled in?**

A: The great thing is that you'll graduate with a MSW, not a degree in a specific area of focus. You'll also have to take classes in all areas of social work, so you'll have some level of experience with everything. If you decide to get licensed after, there is a macro test and a micro test, so you can choose at that point which, if either, you'd like to pursue.

**Q: Are the student organizations made up of mostly undergraduate students?**

A: No. We have graduate student organizations available too. There is normally an organizational fair held during orientation week for you to learn more about what may be available. Also you are able to start your own organization as well, there are procedures to follow for this.

**Q: Any advice students with children?**



A: Hi Emily, as a mother with four boys the best I advice I can provide is to enjoy the small, simple things because grad school is demanding. Balancing is an everyday, ongoing process.

**Q: If I am interested in attending most of the football and basketball games, which ticket packages should I consider purchasing?**

A: I got season tickets to the football games this year and was glad I got to experience all of the home games. It depends on how many of the games you really want to attend and how much money you're willing to spend, but check out the packages online and feel free to check out m.go.com!

**Q: How competitive is the mentoring program?**

A: We're not sure because it is the first year! We will accommodate as many students as possible.

**Q: What is the mentoring program people keep mentioning?**

A: We will be sending out an application on Wednesday with more information!

**Q: I am currently working a full time job, what will my schedule be when I begin my field placement and Advanced Standing MSW program?**

A: Barb, Advanced Standing students are at their field placements two full days a week throughout the full 12 months. First semester, you'll be in 4 classes (each class is 3 hours long). The amount of classes you take during the Winter and Spring/Summer terms vary a little bit, but you'll need to take a total of 45 credit hours in order to graduate.

**Q: We just flew through the advanced standing schedule page; will we have access to this to go back?**

A: The slides will be posted on the Facebook page.

**Q: If I apply for a peer mentor and am part of a scholarship program, will my mentor be a member of the same scholarship program?**

A: Not necessarily. If chosen for the mentorship program, you will be matched with someone the best OSS can to meet your needs.

**Q: Can you please describe a typical week as an advance standing student like it was described previously for a 16 month student? Aka is it manageable to do research and/or work while doing Advance Standing?**

A: Advanced standing students are in field throughout the full 12 months and go 2 days or 16 hours/week. Students generally take 3-4 classes (that are 3 hours long each) during each semester. Many advanced standing students work 5-15 hours a week, and I've worked an average of 10 hours/week throughout the program without it causing a burden on my other class and field responsibilities.