



# SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

## Ask a Current Student Webinar Transcript

June 2, 2014

### WELCOME:

Hi Everyone! Welcome to our Ask a Current Student Webinar. We'll be taking about an hour today. I'll walk through what will be happening and then at the end there will be time for everyone to ask questions that you have.

My name is Ashley. I am a current MSW Student and a Grad Student Staff Assistant in the Office of Student Services. Here in the OSS we do everything from recruitment to admissions to financial aid to student org advising. We're a central hub to the information you'll need while being here at the school. If you've ever visited the school, we've probably had email communication. If you haven't yet visited the school but would like to, feel free to go to our website and schedule a visit and I will email you back.

Here is an outline of what we'll be going over today. We're going to start with a timeline of what you should be doing and then go on to some websites that could be helpful for you. We'll talk about housing, parking and transportation on campus, student employment, what a typical schedule will look like depending on the track that you're in, some student life things, and then an introduction of the current students who we have with us today who will be answer the questions that you have, and then we'll move right into the Q&A. I'll be talking at you for the first ten minutes and then after that the time will be reserved for your questions. Please hold off on asking questions until that point. After, we will publish our Q&A log so that you'll be able to look back at it.

### TIMELINE:

Here is a timeline. If you haven't already, make sure you check your email for information about attending a New Student Program and your registration appointment. You can call the OSS at 936-0961 to schedule your date if you haven't already done so. We really recommend that everyone come to a New Student Program. We get a lot of positive feedback about them because you're able to meet other incoming students, learn about the resources of the school, and also we'll walk through registration with you so you don't have to do it by yourself. This Wednesday we'll be sending out our Mentorship Program Application. This is the first year for this program and so we'll be pairing up incoming students with current students to help make the transition into graduate school a little bit easier. There is an application to fill out because we do have a limited number of mentors and thus can only take a limited number of mentees. The application will be due on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Late in June, you'll need to attend a course advising webinar. You should have gotten information about this in the same email that had information about your registration date.

You can also go to this link to sign up for your webinar depending on the track that you're in. In July or August, you'll be attending a New Student Program session and registering for classes. On August 26<sup>th</sup>, we have CSD. Every year, our incoming students go into the community and do a day of service to get in the mood for doing social work. The next day will be orientation where you'll meet your faculty advisor, learn a bit more about the school and what kind of passion you have for SW. And then September 2<sup>nd</sup>, classes will start!

### **IMPORTANT LINKS:**

Here's some important websites that could be beneficial to you. Hopefully you already know we have a Facebook page and a blog. You can find more about these links and others on the blog itself. We also have a page on the SSW website for our admitted students. It has the timeline you just saw as well as other information that could be helpful. There is a checklist for things that you should do once you've been admitted. This was also published on our blog. If you're interested in trying to find a job while you're here, the [studentemployment.umich.edu](http://studentemployment.umich.edu) website has all of our work-student and non work-study jobs posted to it. You've probably already used wolverine access, but on it you can learn about your registration date, your financial aid status, and your class schedule. It's a hub for all of your personal information. And then U-M uses a google base for email accounts and so if you go to [mail.umich.edu](mailto:mail.umich.edu), it'll automatically take you to your U-M Gmail account.

### **HOUSING:**

Moving into housing, the majority of our students rent apartments in Ann Arbor or neighboring Ypsilanti. Ann Arbor can be kind of expensive, so many students will choose to rent in Ypsilanti or other nearby cities to save some money. Here are some different places where housing options can be found. A lot of grad students will use craigslist. The university has an off-campus housing website where different landlords and realtors will partner with the university to have their information available for U-M students. The um housing system also has graduate and family housing in Northwood Apartments. They are 1-3 bedroom units that can either be shared with roommates or for people with families but specifically for grad students. The School of Social Work also has a roommate and housing finder, so if you're looking to live with another social work student or just looking for a room for a short period of time, you can find it on there or post what you're looking for.

### **PARKING & TRANSPORTATION:**

When thinking about where you'll be living, it's important to also think about parking and transportation. U-M students can obviously ride a U-M bus for free and can also ride an AATA bus for free by showing their M-Card. There are also free commuter parking lots that provide serve to campus. The bus comes regularly and the schedules and routes can be found on [aata.org](http://aata.org). Parking on campus is really limited, which is why we give information about the buses. Not only is it limited, but it is also really expensive and not that close to the school. We recommend that you look at other ways of getting onto campus.

## **EMPLOYMENT:**

Many students do work part time while here in school, anywhere from 5-15 hours a week. This helps subsidize living costs but doesn't take away too much from your main focus, which is obviously your studies! You can find jobs like I mentioned earlier at [studentemployment.umich.edu](http://studentemployment.umich.edu). Both U-M employers and outside employers can post positions to this website. The school of social work also has some positions available for students to support faculty and staff. These are called temp positions and can be found on the School of Social Work website under temp employment.

## **CLASS/FIELD SCHEDULES:**

Now I'm going to walk you through what a current week will look like if you are a 16-month student. If you are a 16 month student, the main thing to know is that you will not start field until your winter semester. As you can see here, you'll be taking 15 credits of classes during your first semester. Each class is generally 3 hours long and thus three credits, so this means you'll register for 5 classes. We also have 1-credit mini courses. You'll start field in the winter and be there 2 days a week while still taking 4 classes. In the spring/summer, you'll be in field 4 days a week so you'll only be taking two classes. In your final semester or second fall semester, you'll go back to being in field two days a week and take 12 credits of classes. You'll see the winter year 1 is different than fall year 2, because you'll be in field seminar as well as being in your field placement, which is why the number of credits you'll be getting for field is different even though both are two days.

For the 20 month schedule, you'll start field right away. You'll do two days a week in field for the entirety of your time here. 20 month students do not take field or classes during the summer, and so although both 16 and 20 monthers take 4 semesters, the 16 month students graduate in December and the 20 month students don't graduate until April. Advanced standing students are also in field two days a week during their entire time here, but they only take 3 semesters instead of 4 due to already having the foundation social work information. They will graduate in August, after the spring/summer semester.

This may not apply to people who are in the Peace Corps Masters International, Extended Degree, or Extra-Term option. We recommend that everyone go to my social work, which can be found on the main social work website and look at your personal course planning forms. The forms that are up right now are from this past year, but they'll still give you an idea of what your time here will be spent doing, and new forms will be posted before the fall semester begins.

## **STUDENT LIFE:**

Let's talk a bit about student life here on campus. One of the great things about being here is that we have this really nice small community of social work students, but are also a part of a huge university community. One thing people really like is Michigan athletics, which you can learn about

at mgoblue.com. We also have a student governing body in the school of social work called the student union. If you're interested in getting involved in things outside the school of social work, you can visit Maize Pages, which is a listing of all student orgs and their contact person. Lately on the blog there have been a lot of posts about different activities and areas of involvement in the school, at the university, and in Ann Arbor.

### **HOW THIS WORKS:**

So it is about the time where I'm going to stop talking after I walk through how the next part will go. You'll simply type your questions into the question box. All questions will be responded to publicly unless you type private in front of your question in which case we'll send you an individual response. No names are shown on the screen. You can also send questions to a specific student by putting their name in front of it. The pp and chat log will be posted on our fb page.

### **CURRENT STUDENTS:**

Here are our current students. This is me! Like I said, my name is Ashley. I am a Community Org student with an area in Community and Social Systems and a minor in Management of Human Services. I am a 16 month student, but I'll be taking a fifth semester and thus not graduating until April of 2015. And my field placement is at the University of Michigan's spectrum center.

We also have jewel Johnson with us today. She is interpersonal practice with an area in children and youth. She is 20 month and thus will be graduating with me in April of 2015. Her field placement is currently with community action network.

Courtney is also with us today. Her concentration is management of human services with a area in community and social systems. She is advanced standing, and so she'll be graduating soon in august of 2014! She is placed at the corner health center in Ypsilanti.

Leah is also here with us. Her method is IP with an area in aging & families in society. She is a 16 month student and so she'll be graduating in December of 2014. And her placement is with Jewish senior life.

Maliaka is also here in IP and health. She is 16 month and so she'll be graduating in December. Her placement is at Beaumont hospital in Royal Oak.

And Esther is also here. She is also IP but with an area in children and youth. She is 16 Month and so she'll be graduating in December and her placement is at catholic social services.

Here is a summary of who we all are and so if you have any questions to direct to any of us individually you can. I'm going to go ahead and mute myself now so that y'all can start asking your questions! Thank you very much.