



Ask a Current Student Webinar Chat Log

June 13, 2016

Question: Hello! I was wondering how a couple of the current MSW students were able to secure field placements at University settings?

Answer: Some of the field placement options are on campus. They are limited, but there are a few on-campus options available.

Q: Any students living on campus/Munger hall? If so, what has your experience been like?

A: I enjoy living on campus. It's pretty quiet, and I have access to the 24 hour library within walking distance. I don't live in Munger, but it's beautiful and a great place to live. It's also about a 5 min walk from the SSW.

Q: For the dual MPH/MSW students: How is the course load? I am interested in applying to the School of Public Health, but wanted to start my MSW and see how that goes before I make that jump.

A: The course load is a bit heavier than most students but definitely doable, and great! Many students do their first year at either SPH or SSW and then apply to the other school.

Q: If you choose a field placement that you end up not liking, does it make school year less enjoyable?

A: The field placement process is intended to match you up with a field placement that is a good fit for your educational goals. Your Field Liaison will work with you to match you up with a placement that is a good fit for you. More information about the field placement process can be found here: <http://ssw.umich.edu/offices/field-instruction>.

Q: Do most jobs on campus and in Ann Arbor fill positions fairly quickly? Would an out-of-state student have trouble applying if they would wait until September?

A: Places in Ann Arbor are usually hiring. I have found it really easy to find part-time employment.

Q: Rachel, can you provide an overview of your experience in the DCS program?

A: Hi! I enjoy the DCS program. It's great preparation for a clinical mental health career working with racial and ethnic minority children and youth. As a DCS student, most of my classes have been with the other students in the DCS program, so it has been a great way to build a community here at the SSW. We also get a lot of specialized trainings for working with racial and ethnic minority children and youth. I've learned a lot. Feel free to email me at radiet@umich.edu if you have more questions.

Q: When do you get your student ID?

A: Your ID can be obtain right now, or at the summer sessions.

Q: For anyone who went into the MSW program straight from undergraduate, how do you feel the workload compares?

A: The workload is similar to the workload in undergrad. However, this is graduate level coursework, so it may be more complex and advanced than undergraduate topics.

Q: Camille, can you tell me about your program? This the same concentration and practice method that I am doing.

A: My program is great! I love my concentration and practice method. I think there are a few classes for the Children and Youth side that have a lot of direct practice information but I think it is really worthwhile and is making me a better management student. I think the Management classes are really great and really strong classes. I love Barb Hiltz and Mat Despard for the Management classes.

Q: Is it possible to work full time as a full-time MSW?

A: I think most students work part-time rather than full-time due to the academic demands of the program.

Q: Hi Aisha - You mentioned that you had a previous placement at an elementary school. How many hours a week were you there? How long did it take to complete the 500 hours for the school social work certification?

A: At the elementary school, I worked approximately sixteen to twenty hours per week. I typically worked two to three days per week. Many times, I worked eight hour days. It took about five to six months for me to complete the 344 field hours that were required for me to complete for the semester, due to my other classes. I also started my internship in August, prior to the start of SSW classes, because the elementary school was open year round. It took me a full semester and almost three-quarters of the next semester to get the five hundred hours for the certification.

Q: What are some of the jobs in the SSW?

A: One job at the Office of Student Services includes answering questions for new and prospective students, giving tours of the school, and other office tasks.

Q: Did I hear right that showing your student ID means you can ride both the blue and city busses for free?

A: Correct! You can ride both buses for free with your student ID!

Q: Do most commuter students park at a park and ride and then ride the bus in, or do many park right on campus with a student parking pass?

A: Most students park at a park and ride and then ride the bus to campus. The parking passes can get pretty expensive!

Q: For Aisha, how does your field placement help with your concentration? What kinds of things do you do there?

A: I am IP and in my internship, I work with students to assist them on their journey at the school of social work.

Q: Camille, could you tell me about the structure of the MPH program and how manageable that is with the MSW program?

A: Hi, I love the Dual MPH/MSW. I think they make it very manageable. The two schools work together to make it work for you. It is a two and a half year program (6 semesters of classes). Most dual MPH/MSW students are in the Health Behavior Health Education department. Feel free to email me at chanoll@umich.edu if you want to ask more questions.

Q: Do any of you live on campus? What would you recommend when searching for a place to stay?

A: I live on North Campus in the graduate housing. I enjoy living on campus because it's pretty affordable and everything is included in the rent.

Q: Is the degree earned from the advanced standing program different than the traditional programs?

A: Regardless of your degree program here at the School of Social Work, all students earn the same MSW degree.

Q: This is for either Lenora or Rachel because of your concentration and practice area. What populations do you hope to work with in social work? Why did you choose interpersonal practice and mental health?

A: I hope to work with college students in the future. I enjoy working with people, that's why I chose IP. I chose mental health because I was extremely interested in mental health services, especially with college students.

Q: Is it too early to start looking for work study jobs?

A: I'd say it might be a little too early. There may be some jobs listed for the fall but the majority of jobs listed at the moment are probably for the summer. You should definitely keep your eye on it, though, because new opportunities may be posted as it gets closer to the fall semester!

Q: Can I pick up my Student ID card anytime from now?

A: Yes, you can. You should go to the Student Activities Building to get it.

Q: What would you recommend doing to prepare for the program before courses start?

A: I would recommend relaxing! You're going to be very busy during the MSW program, so take this time to relax and enjoy spending time with your friends & family :) You can also use the time to get organized, and review the admitted students section of the SSW website, located here: <http://ssw.umich.edu/programs/msw/admitted-students>.

Q: Rosalee, I am interested in working in the juvenile delinquency arena, could you talk more about what your days look like at your current field placement?

A: I used to be in the sex offender treatment program for youth and now I am in the diversion and truancy department. We see youth once a week and I do home and school visits, meetings with parents, intake assessment and a lot of interpersonal work, including indirect therapy with youth about their choices, their court contract, etc.

Q: Can I speak with someone that has/had an internship at a hospital?

A: None of us on the webinar are placed at a hospital. You can contact the Office of Student Services and they can set you up with someone to speak to. Their phone number is (734) 936-0961. I have a friend who has hospital placement, though, so I can tell you that the hospital placements are 3 days a week for 3 semesters.

Q: Good afternoon! How does one add a minor to their course of study?

A: At this point it is really easy to add a minor. Contact the Office of Student Services (OSS). The number is (734) 936 – 0961.

Q: For those that have done work study, how do you recommend scheduling classes? For example, should I try to fit them all into the same days?

A: I had classes on Mondays and Tuesdays, with field and work study during the rest of the week. If you want to have your days structured differently, that can work too.

Q: I'm a queer identified person and am curious what sort of programming and/or supports there are for LGBTQ students. Could you talk a little about that, please?

A: The School of Social Work has student groups for LGBTQ students, an Office of Field Instruction LGBTQIA Liaison, & the Dean's Initiative TBLG Matters. The University of Michigan also has the Spectrum Center, which has a lot of great resources. You can find more information about the Spectrum Center here <https://spectrumcenter.umich.edu/>

Q: Do you think it is necessary to live on campus/near campus as a grad student to get the full experience? Or after undergrad living proximity doesn't matter as much?

A: I'd say it's up to you and what your preferences are. Students live in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti and there are tons of things to do in both areas.

Q: Where will this PowerPoint be posted? Thanks a lot for helping us tonight!

A: The PP and transcript will be posted here:

<http://ssw.umich.edu/events/list/2016/06/13/51523-ask-a-current-msw-student-webinar-for-incoming-students>

Q: Good evening! Are the practicum experience very different from the ones in undergrad?

A: They are very different from undergrad practicums because they are master's level field experiences, therefore, they are more hands-on.

Q: For the 16 month program, how does it work to do field 4 days a week and still complete course work? Are you only attending class once a week?

A: I am doing that now. I take two classes on Monday and am in field the rest of the week. It works out with the credits you need.

Q: How many students are typically in each class?

A: There are about 20-25 students in a class.

Q: Rachel, I'm also going to be a Detroit Clinical Scholar! How do you feel the program benefits you in regards to your studies? Also, what can I expect?

A: Congrats! :) I would advise taking a look at the DCS course planning sheet, located here: <http://ssw.umich.edu/programs/msw/admitted-students/course-planning>. Make sure to look for Detroit Clinical Scholars course sheet because the DCS course curriculum is a bit different than the curriculum for other 16 month students. You'll have more courses in Integrated Health and your internship will be in Detroit or Wayne County. You will also have a bunch of specialized trainings. I've learned so much from my field placement and from my coursework. Feel free to email me at radiet@umich.edu if you have other questions.

Q: If you purchase books from amazon/ebay, how much would you estimate for a semester?

A: It is hard to say exactly how much textbooks will cost because it depends on the courses you take. However, I would hold off on buying your books until you attend your first classes. Used books and book rentals are good options as well. First semester was around \$200 for me. Second semester was \$50. We also have a great library here with tons of textbooks.

Q: Hello! Do we have to register for SEED week and is it only for incoming students or for all MSW students?

A: Our SEED/Orientation programming is only for incoming students, so it will be a great way to meet your cohort! The Office of Student Services will be sending information out later this summer about registration. We look forward to seeing you there!

Q: What is the probability of being able to carpool to a placement or at least near a placement?

A: Lot of us carpool! There are many of us who have Field Placements at agencies/organizations very close to one another, so carpooling works great. Students will coordinate carpools in person or use the cohort-specific Facebook page to link up!

Q: I am a 20-Month Schedule student. Am I listening to the wrong webinar?

A: Hopefully we are answering your question now. Let us know if you have any more questions.

Q: How competitive are the field placements? How satisfied are you with your placement?

A: Hi! I would say the hospital field placements are the most competitive. I wouldn't be worried about not getting something you like. Your field liaison will work with you to get you a placement that you are happy with :)

Q: For 20 month students, are classes and field placement on separate days?

A: I am 20 month, and I set it up so I had a class in the morning and then field in the afternoon. However, you can create your schedule in whichever way works best for you, and depending on when your field placement would like you to be in.

Q: Student who receive scholarships: did/do you have time for a part-time job?

A: Most of us have jobs on campus. They tend to be more understanding of our busy schedules.

Q: How/When do we get our student IDs?

A: You will receive your student ID when you arrive at campus. You will pick it up at the Student Activities Building.

Q: Any tips for registering for and/or picking classes?

A: Do not wait. Register early! Class fill up quickly.

Q: How are any of you paying for the program? Are all of you taking out loans?

A: I have taken out loans in the past, and right now I have a few scholarships. There are many scholarships on the ssw web site that you can apply for. Get started on your applications early!

Q: Are there many graduate assistantships available to students to cover tuition (even outside the social work department)? I couldn't find them on the student employment site.

A: Graduate Students are allowed to apply to any graduate assistantship on campus. You would have to visit the respective website of the position you would like to apply to.

Q: Rachel: What are some of the unique opportunities you have received being a clinical scholar?

A: We have unique trainings (such as CAFAS, Power & Oppression, IPOS) and unique sections of courses, such as Interpersonal Practice with Children and Families and Integrated Health. Also, we have a different field placement process. We work with Prof Daicia Smith and Prof Mary Ruffolo who are both amazing :) Our curriculum focuses on working with racial and ethnic minority children and youth and our trainings prepare us to find a clinical jobs post-graduation.

Q: If you wanted to have a dual track working in clinical mental health and also school social work is that possible?

A: It is possible. You can get the certification for School Social Work as well. Talk with a course planner at Office of Student Services before registration. Their phone number is (734) 936 – 0961.

Q: When and how does one register for classes?

A: Registration will happen at the New Student Sessions during the months of July/August. We'll be here to assist you throughout the Registration process!

Q: Do you know any students that work part time and go to school full time?

A: I went to school full time, had 2 part time jobs, and my field placement. It was definitely a lot but it was important to be to make money and not have to take out extra loans for living expenses.

Q: Hello! I am having trouble finding housing both on and off campus. Does anyone have any advice? Thank you! :)

A: Sure! Here are some links: housing.umich.edu and offcampushousing.umich.edu

Q: I am currently on the 16-month track, but may be doing a national field placement, so I am considered out-of-sequence. Do you know how many hours my field placement will be in the fall? Also, if I intend on applying to the MPH program as well, would it be too late to do this in the fall?

A: In the fall you would be at field 2 days a week or 16 hours/week. You would still be able to apply to the MPH in the fall. It just has to happen during your first semester.

Q: Do any of you commute to campus? If so, do you find it difficult to be involved on campus or with peers?

A: I do not commute, but there are a few students I know who commute from Detroit and other areas. It's definitely possible to stay involved on campus and with peers despite the commute. The fall semester is a great time for making new friends and getting involved in activities at the School of Social Work :)

Q: LaMar and D'Arcy: As members of the CBI program, how did your schedules differ from those not participating in a special program? And do you have any advice when starting to pick out classes?

A: Hey! We spend a lot of time in Detroit. During the Winter semester, we take our SW 647/SW 697 classes in Detroit. The class is specific for the CBI cohort. I would say that we have a lot of room to take the classes that we want to take and that we are interested in. If you have any specific questions, you can email me at lamarth@umich.edu.

Q: Do any of you have favorite professors that we should keep in mind when registering for courses?

A: Yes, Julie Ribaud, Rich Tolman, Barb Hiltz...the list goes on! There are tons of great professors :)

Q: In your opinion, is work study better than getting a job off campus? I'm trying to decide if I should do work study or not.

A: I have a work study job and the benefit is that I am right on campus so I don't have to spend time commuting. This allows me to go from work right to class or to my field. I really like the benefits of work study. However, I do have peers that get off-campus jobs near their apartment in order to work evenings and nights.

Q: Should we have an idea of which electives/professors we would like to register for when coming to the summer session, since they fill up quickly?

A: I think it is a good idea to come up with a list of electives that you would like to register for, and/or to come up with a list of professors that you might want to take courses from. You can explore the course planning worksheet for your curriculum here:

<http://ssw.umich.edu/assets/course-planning-worksheets/>

Q: Leonora what kinds of things do you do at your field placement?

A: I work with students from U of M that are experiencing any crisis that interrupts their life here on campus. For example, financial concerns, roommate issues, mental health or physical health concerns, etc. I don't do counseling, but I listen to the students, help them problem solve, and provide them with resources. Sometimes the students come in on their own and other times they are referred by faculty.

Q: Are the job prospects pretty positive for MSW students right after graduation? Do they often get hired by an organization that they did their internship with?

A: We've got a 95% rate of MSW students receiving jobs right after graduation (if not before!)! Many students do pursue positions with their field placement and also organizations and agencies that do similar work as their placements.

Q: In applying for scholarships, I looked at the website and wasn't sure how it works. Is there an optimal time to apply, or is there someone I can talk to?

A: All scholarships have deadlines. You will receive an email regarding scholarships that you can apply for in the fall. Always check your email for information on scholarship opportunities because opportunities will arise throughout the year:)

Q: Did anyone come from out of state? If so, how did you prepare? What would you recommend as a time frame for getting to MI before classes begin?

A: Hi! I moved here from out of state. I would say your preparation depends on the type of housing you are trying to secure. Some apartments come furnished and others do not- that was

the main thing I prepped for before moving. In terms of when to move to MI, I'd say it up to you. Some people get here as early as June to get acclimated to the area and others arrive late August, closer to orientation.

Q: Can you still earn a LCSW through the Advance standing program?

A: If you have your BSW degree and are pursuing an MSW through the Advanced Standing track - you can certainly earn your LCSW! :)

Q: Is there anyone that is a commuter? If so, what has that been like?

A: I commuted to UM as an undergrad for 2 years. It was difficult sometimes because I was just here for class and did not make as many friends, but it is what you make of it!

Q: Does anyone know when students in the Integrated Health Scholarship Program will start getting information about the program and maybe any differences in the course registration process?

A: I would suggest utilizing the course planning worksheet located here: <http://ssw.umich.edu/assets/course-planning-worksheets/> Make sure to select "Integrated Health Scholarship Program." This will assist you in your course planning process. You can also contact the Office of Student Services at (734) 936-0961 if you have additional questions.

Q: Is there a required course for CBI? I can see 3 units of special program requirement on my worksheet, but it doesn't say what the exact course is.

A: The required courses are SW 722, SW 647/697, and an integrative capstone during your last semester.

Q: I'm sure everyone is busy with their courses and fieldwork/work study, but is there a social side to the student body within the department?

A: There is definitely a social side! We emphasize self-care a lot here :) The Student Union plans a lot of activities, there are tons of student orgs to join and local bars and restaurants nearby.

Q: Do y'all have any suggestions or tips in terms of student health insurance?

A: Hi. I have the student health insurance and it is working well so far. While all students can use the Student Health Center, if you have the student health insurance, they are set up to bill directly to your insurance. It makes it really easy to be able to see a doctor here on campus. UHS also offers free services to students that do not have the student health insurance. Those services can be found at this link <https://uhs.umich.edu/feestudents>

Q: Rosalee or Camille - I have been going back and forth about dual majoring (MPH/MSW), but I am not sure. Can you tell me what you think are the pros of studying both?

A: Hi! I think the programs complement each other very well. I find it very easy to see the connections in my course work too. Also, I like that the MPH degree includes a bit of the hard

sciences and the MSW degree balances it out with a lot of social science work :) Ultimately, thinking about my career goals helped make my decision to pursue both degrees.

Q: Is it easy to have a minor for the 16-month track curriculum?

A: Yes! There are only two requirements a) You need 6 elective credits in your minor b) 171 hours of advanced field work providing service in your minor method concentration.

Q: For any of the 16 month students, do you work as well?

A: Yes. I work 10 hours a week at the school of social work.

Q: Considering exams: for interpersonal practice concentrators is there a lot of oral/role play type exams?

A: Hi! For the IP courses that I have taken we mostly have to write-up psychosocial assessments and treatment plans or a papers.

Q: How does having a minor benefit you? Do you know what some of the minors are that people with Social Policy and Evaluation go for?

A: The main benefit is you will get applied field experience through your internship in both your practice method and minor concentration. I also think it's beneficial to have a minor (as opposed to just taking classes in the field) because you will be able to have your minor on your resume for the rest of your career. You can minor in any of the concentrations.

Q: Roughly how much time is spent working on assignments, homework, projects, etc.?

A: There will be lots of assignment due. In my experience, some due dates do overlap in different classes. I would imagine that I spent roughly 10 hours a week per class--or more

Q: Where do we go for the New Student Session once we have picked a date?

A: The New Student Sessions are in the School of Social Work. The address is 1080 S. University Ave, Ann Arbor, MI, 48109.

Q: Shelby- I'm curious to know more about what you do at Kids Talk Advocacy Center. Thanks!

A: Hi! Kids-TALK Child Advocacy Center is a community agency that serves children throughout Wayne County with an open allegation of abuse or neglect. We provide Forensic Interviews, Therapy (free of cost), Child & Family Advocacy and Outreach work. As a Community Organization student I intern with the Outreach & Prevention Department within Kids-TALK, which means I get to work within the community through coalitions, community networks, schools, religious institutions, and community centers doing presentations & trainings on child abuse prevention, trauma, secondary traumatic stress, healthy relationships and child maltreatment. I also work directly with children and their families in connecting them with resources that can meet their immediate and long-term needs within the community. Sorry for the super long sentence, I love what I get to do and totally recommend it!

Q: Are textbooks and course materials very expensive? What would you recommend for those purchasing on a very tight budget?

A: Hi. A lot of the textbooks will be on reserve at the library. However, if you would like to purchase I would suggest amazon and ebay!

Q: If you wanted to have a dual track working in clinical mental health and also school social work is that possible?

A: It is possible. You will be able to get the certification for school social work. I recommend talking with a course planner at the Office of Student Services before registration. The number is (734) 936 – 0961.

Q: I heard some students travel out of state for field work, have any of you done that?

A: It is possible to have a national placement over the summer but other than that, placements will be within MI.

Q: LaMar or D'Arcy: I am an incoming CBI Scholar :) How has your experience been and do you have any recommendations in terms of field placements, courses, faculty, etc.? Thank you!!

A: Hi! My experience has been great since I love Detroit and I have enjoyed getting to know my CBI cohort. There is a list of field placements specific to CBI & they are all great options. If you want more specific information, you can e-mail me at: dhear@umich.edu.

Q: Question for Rachel: the course planning worksheet for the Detroit Community Scholars shows 18 credits for the first term. Is that true or did I do something wrong?

A: Personally, I took 15 credits the first semester. A lot of the other DCS students took 18 credits as the course planning sheet indicates. If you want to take 15 credits, that's fine-- you'll just have to add one of the courses later in your schedule. Feel free to email me for more details :)

Q: How unlikely is it to find a field placement with a stipend?

A: Hi! It is not common at all and we typically do not recommend students rely on this for funding. There are very very few paid internships.

Q: When do I put courses into My Backpack? Can I do that now?

A: Incoming MSW students can backpack at any time after matriculation. It is not dependent upon their registration appointment being in the system. It is probably best to wait until after the Course Planning Webinar June 28 or 29 though, as that will help you figure out what classes you need to take. Here is the link about that <http://ssw.umich.edu/programs/msw/admitted-students/course-planning>

Q: Is time management hard when you also work part time?

A: Time management is always wise in grad school, whether you are working a job or not. But when you have a job, just manage your time and you will be fine.

Q: LaMar. What kind of thing do you do in your field placement?

A: Hey, I am interning at Health Emergency Lifeline Programs, a non profit community based health clinic in Corktown, Detroit. We service people living with HIV/AIDS. We offer a multitude of programming for people in Southeast Michigan.

Q: What are the chances of a 20-month student receiving a hospital placement?

A: I would say the hospital is pretty competitive but it is definitely possible!

Q: I was under the impression that health insurance is covered in tuition. Is this true? Meaning that unless there's some intensive treatment needed, it's already covered.

A: Here's a great link for what's covered and what isn't <https://www.uhs.umich.edu/feestudents>

Q: Lenora, what types of things do you do in your field placement?

A: Hi. I work with students that are experiencing any type of crisis. Some examples would be roommate issues, financial concerns, and mental/physical health concerns. I listen to students, help them problem solve, and then provide them with resources. I also follow up with the students.

Q: Are any of you planning on getting your license in a state other than Michigan? If so, how much does that complicate things?

A: Hi, this is a great question. I'm from the west coast and I'm planning on returning so this definitely applies to me. Our Career Center within the SSW will work directly with you in getting licensing information for any & every state you're considering moving to. This applies to both micro and macro licenses as requirements differ among many states. Our Career Center will also support you through practice license exams so you'll be extra ready!

Q: Is the number of Policy/ Evaluation practice students small? I hope I'm not the only one :)
haha

A: Don't worry! You are not the only one :)

Q: Are any of you in field placements that don't exactly match what you'd like to be doing for a career? How do you manage that, or do you recommend holding out for a field placement that best matches our career goals?

A: Hi, I'm in a field placement that doesn't exactly match my career goals. I'm a juvenile probation intern and while I want to work with youth and am interested in the school to prison pipeline, my career goals align more with education. However, just having experience working with youth and in a capacity that I wouldn't have imagined working in, broadened my scope of thinking about my career goals and has allowed me to acquire new skills. I'd say keep an open mind, your field does not have to exactly match your career goals. :)

Q: What would you say is the biggest difference between undergrad and grad?

A: I would have to say the increase in the number of commitments that I was expected to attend! Sometimes we have to be in a lot of different places at once. Graduate school consists of a lot of different activities, so organization and preparation are important. Start by buying a planner!

Q: Hi Aisha! I have the same concentration/practice area as you do and the same program length. What sorts of things do you do in the OSS and how do they relate to your studies? Also you have any recommendations for field placements that I should especially keep an eye out for?

A: This is my second field placement. The first was as a school social worker intern at an elementary school assisting student who were "at risk". I completed enough hours (500) to obtain a certification in school social work. Now, to get some experience working with older students, the SSW opportunity presented itself, and here I am!

Q: Hi D'Arcy, I have same practice method and area with you. Which agency are you at and what do you do there? Thanks!

A: I'm at American Indian Health & Family Services in Detroit & I love it! I do a variety of things, including organizing and implementing staff programs, developing evaluation tools for programs, working directly with youth, facilitating community workshops, and helping plan events.

Q: Are any of you guys transfer students?

A: Yes. I transferred from Eastern Michigan University. I have a BSW from there.

Q: Camille, could you please talk a bit about your placement?

A: At field, I am managing the volunteers across the organization, applying for grants to fund programs and designing programs for implementation with the community and the kids at Wolverine Human Services. Some of the things we are working on building a community farm and farm stand. I help run the soup kitchen and I am designing a therapy garden at one of the residential facilities. There are a lot of great opportunities for Management students in field!

Q: I accidentally did not apply to field placement, just completely missed the date. I am working on it now, but I am really really concerned that I will not find an adequate placement. Is it ridiculous to consider deferring my admission to next year just because of the field placement application?

A: Hi Natalie, there a few different options that you can pursue. I recommend contacting the Associate Director of Student Services, Erin Zimmer, directly! She can connect with you about your options and see what would work best for you! Her email is elpena@umich.edu

Q: For anyone...What's something you wish you knew or wished you were told before starting your first semester?

A: Not to buy my books until I at least went the first class. Sometimes the professor will upload the chapters you need digitally or tell you that you can get a digital copy from the library.

Q: When is the deadline to defer admission a year?

A: We don't have a specific date for deferment. We ask that you let us know as soon as possible because we have a waiting list and could potentially give another student the chance to begin the program this fall.

Q: Leonora, what does your field work entail? Is it on campus? Also, how many hours a week are you on campus your first year?

A: I work with students when they are in crisis. This can be anything that affects their life at Michigan. It is on campus, just a couple minutes away from the SSW. I was on campus at my field placement for 16 hours a week each semester.

Q: How is the meal plan? Worth it?

A: I would say most graduate students don't have meal plans.

Q: Where can I find a list of professors and what courses they teach?

A: Go to the ssw web site, ssw.umich.edu. There is a page for the [faculty](#) and a page for the [Course Catalog](#).

Q: Is it easy to register for classes that you have already saved in "My backpack"? Or call you explain how My Backpack works?

A: You can use the "My Backpack" feature to note courses that you hope to register for. It's kind of like an online shopping cart. You will be assigned a registration date and time. At that time, you can take the classes from your backpack and register for them. It is important to remember that placing a course in your backpack does not guarantee that you will be able to register for that course. You can begin creating your backpack of course any time after you have matriculated as a UM student. Here is a link with some more information on the backpacking system: https://csprod.dsc.umich.edu/html/doc/eng/dftie/lsaa/htm/sr_ss_bpreg_faq.html
Backpacking prior to registration is highly recommended because you will be able to just select all and hit the enroll button to enroll.

Q: Question from a 16-month program commuter student: is it possible to have field placements off campus, like in another metro Detroit city?

A: Yes! The majority of students are placed in the metro Detroit region for field; we have field placements within a 45 mile radius of Ann Arbor. The field office will work with you to find a field placement in a location that works well for your needs :)

Q: Are any of you planning to apply for post-MSW fellowships?

A: Yes!

Q: This is for Rachel. I plan to study interpersonal practice and mental health. Were you surprised while doing your field application to read what field placements were considered to be under mental health? I was shocked to see the diversity of field placements that were considered to be both IP and MH.

A: The Detroit Clinical Scholars have their own field placement process, so my field placement experience was a bit different than other Interpersonal Practice/Mental Health students. Your field Liaison will read over your goal statement and work with you to find a field placement that will be a good fit for you and your educational and professional goals :)

Q: Is anyone planning on getting licensed in a state other than Michigan, and does that complicate things?

A: It is a good idea to be mindful of the licensure requirements of the state in which you wish to practice. Some UM-SSW students receive their license in states other than Michigan. Each state follows their own procedure for licensure. I am planning on receiving licensure in another state and it has not made my curriculum too complicated :) You can talk to Michelle Woods in our Career Services office if you have questions about getting licensed.

Q: I am definitely planning on pursuing a school social work certificate and I would like to add a minor in community and social systems. Do you think would be possible to do that if I'm on the 16-month track?

A: Anything is possible! Speak to your advisor. He/She should help you coordinate your schedule, but it is possible.

Q: Are there still a number of scholarships available/are some of the deadlines still open?

A: Keep your eyes on your email. In the middle of August, you will get an email from the Office of Student Services with about 10 scholarships that everyone can apply to.

Q: How soon should you buy your textbooks?

A: Some students buy them before classes begin. I always wait until the first day of class to assure the books are mandatory. If you are worried about it, you can email the professor, but most of them will email you if you need the book for the first day of class.

Q: Leonora- Have you met many friends in the program and do you guys ever have study groups? Are there a lot of group projects in these classes?

A: Definitely! I have made a lot of friends and often study or do work together. I had four group projects my first year. Other concentrations may be different though.

Q: Shelby, I too am a Child Welfare Scholar. Can you tell me more about the scholarship program? And what your experience has been like?

A: Welcome to the Child Welfare Scholars Program! We work closely with the Child Welfare Learning Community Faculty and focus a lot on the assessment and treatment for child maltreatment. We get to work really closely together and learn about treatment plans, therapy

models, and supporting children & their families. Professors Robert Ortega, Mary Ortega and Joseph Ryan are some of our child welfare faculty and advisers, and they're so great. Child Welfare Scholars are also eligible for the Child Welfare Certificate, so that's a definite plus! Connect with me this Fall; I would love to meet you :)

Q: Did any of you work for a few years after undergrad in a completely unrelated field, and then pursue the MSW after? What was the transition back to full time school like?

A: I worked for two years and then came back to school. It was hard at first just getting into the routine but I really enjoyed my classes, faculty, and schoolwork. Then, it became just normal again!

Q: Is there anyone that is a commuter? I will be commuting from Detroit.

A: None of us are commuters. I was a commuter as an undergrad to UM for 2 years. I parked at the South State Commuter Lot and took the AATA bus in.

Q: Do many placements hire their interns after graduation?

A: We certainly have students who have been hired to work for the agencies at which they interned. This can of course vary depending on the size of the placement and funding for positions. I personally know many students who were hired by agencies that did very similar work as their Field Placement (both in Michigan & other states) or whom they connected with while an Intern. :)

Q: How are interns treated at the field placements?

A: It depends on the placement. Some placements are more open to tailoring the experience to your wants/goals and others are more strict on the work that you will be completing.

Q: Is clinical mental health different than my practice area in mental health?

A: If you are studying Interpersonal Practice and Mental Health, that is clinical mental health. That is what I am studying :) Some people study Mental Health and Management or Policy, meaning that they do not have a clinical focus.

Q: Is there a lot of driving involved in this program?

A: If you have to commute to your field placement, there could be some driving. You will be able to see the locations for field placements when you apply.

Q: Has anyone had Professor Momper? I was told by a few people that I am to connect with her. Can someone tell me what she is like?

A: I just had Professor Momper for a mini course. She is such an experienced social worker and a great teacher. It would definitely be okay to send her an email to connect with her :) You can look her up on our website at ssw.umich.edu

Q: If you're in IP and Mental Health, but you don't get a hospital field placement while at U of M, does that make it extremely difficult/will you still be competitive to get a hospital job after graduation?

A: There are a variety of ways to make sure that you gain the knowledge, skills, and abilities for post-graduation employment at a hospital. Field Placements may be available at other hospital systems besides the U of M hospital. If you are not able to obtain a hospital field placement, you may be able to obtain a part-time job or a volunteer position at a hospital while you complete your MSW. It is important to let your Field Liaison know of your career goals.

Q: When you are in between classes and live off campus or in another city where do you go? What do you do?

A: There is a great space in the basement of the SSW where you can study. Also, there are some coffee shops nearby. The U of M Counseling and Psychological Services Office also has massage chairs! =)

Q: Rachel, as part of the DCS program, do you have to stay in Detroit after graduation? Is it too late for applying for that?

A: I would suggest calling OSS at 734-936-0961 to see if the Detroit Clinical Scholars cohort is filled. You are required to work with racial and ethnic minority children and youth in an underserved setting post-graduation, and the program is designed to prepare you for a job within the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority system of care. It is not a requirement that you stay in Detroit after graduation, but it is highly encouraged.

Q: Leonora, what is your field placement called?

A: Dean of Students Office Critical Incidents

Q: For the question regarding exams for IP students, what do you mean by video assignments? How long are the exam papers?

A: Some may ask you to video-record a role play of a therapeutic modality such as CBT with another student/or client and complete a write-up on it. Your professor may watch the video and give you feedback. The papers all vary in size depending on the professor who is teaching the course. I have had 7 page final exam papers and 15 page final exam papers.

Q: How fast should you purchase your textbooks?

A: Some people buy them before class starts but I waited until at least after the first class to assure that they were needed for the course. I've had an experience where a textbook was listed but was told on the first day it was not mandatory or are available digitally from the library.

Q: As interns, how much contact are we allowed to have with clients within the placements?

A: It depends on the policies at your field placement. Many interpersonal practice students have their own caseload of patients/clients.

Q: Leonora and Rachel, what are some classes/professors that I should not miss?!

A: SW 605 with Julie Ribaudo and SW 612 with Dan Fischer! My favorite course so far was SW 605 (Infant Mental Health). I learned so much, even though I want to work with college students.

Q: What type of deals/benefits do students get for attending UM? Such as, gym membership discounts, free bus rides, etc.?

A: You will be able to ride the buses for free and also use the gym for free with your M-card!

Q: I was told that examinations are limited and that grades come mostly from papers and participation. Is that correct?

A: I would say most grades are from papers, but some classes do include exams. You can see the syllabi online at the SSW website, ssw.umich.edu, and take a look how the course has been taught in the past.

Q: For IP, which professors/classes were the most challenging?

A: Beth Sherman and Colleen Crane were some of my best professors. Lectures were always good and they challenged you to learn as much as possible.

Q: D'Arcy, I am hoping to have my field placement with American Indian Health & Family Services in Detroit. I was told by Tim Colenback to connect with Prof. Momper. Can you tell me about the urban Native community there?

A: Professor Momper does a lot of work with AIHFS and is very connected to the Native community here. My limited experience with the urban Native community here so far has been eye-opening and wonderful. I believe it is a small community but a very welcoming one. The programming at AIHFS is very culturally based (culture as prevention) and most of the staff are American Indian.

Q: Has anyone begun studying for their licensure to be an LCSW?

A: I've started a little bit but will study more intensely in the fall.

Q: Shelby, what is a child welfare scholar? What does the program involve?

A: Child Welfare scholars are part of the Child Welfare Scholarship Program which are students who are being trained to go into the field of child welfare and juvenile justice. We focus on assessment and treatment models for child maltreatment cases. The scholarship applications were due in February but you can most definitely pursue the Child Welfare Certificate!

Q: I am concerned about the mass amount of reading for most graduate students, especially because I am a slow reader. Any suggestions?

A: I'm a slow reader as well and talking to my professors and getting tips from them has helped!

Q: What are some names of social work clubs or organizations that I can get involved in?

A: I would suggest checking out the NASW. You can also join student organizations or associations at the SSW when you arrive on campus! Check them out at the following website: <http://sww.umich.edu/studentorgs>

Q: Does anyone have any advice/suggestions for studying to become a LCSW?

A: There will be workshops on studying for licensure hosted by the Career Services Office. I will probably start studying in the fall. Ms. Michelle Woods, Director of Career Services, is a great person to talk to about resources for studying.

Q: Is tuition paid on a semester basis, or does it have to be paid all at once?

A: Tuition is paid on a semester basis. You will be billed at the beginning of each semester.

Q: So, are there no commuters?

A: There are commuters at UM-SSW, but none of us who are present for the webinar currently commute. Currently, I take the bus from North Campus. I did commute to UM as an undergrad for 2 years and parked at the lot on South State and took the AATA bus to campus.

Q: I will be commuting to campus, how much is a parking pass for a semester?

A: Here's a link for parking info: <http://pts.umich.edu/parking/>

Q: What are some good websites to search for jobs for IP/MH students?

A: The SSW sends out an email with job listings that is very helpful. I would also suggest indeed.com.

Q: How long do you have to wait after graduation before you can get your licensing in MI?

A: It takes a while, so you should get started with the process well before your graduation date. Michelle Woods in Career Services is a great resource for questions about licensure.