



The Graduation Committee and SSW Administrative Team has reviewed all of the feedback we have received from recent graduates, current students, faculty, and staff. Thank you for taking the time to share your ideas with us. This information was reviewed in conjunction with critical public health recommendations. We are writing to provide you with detailed information about the December Commencement. We are excited to be able to implement many new ideas and innovations.

### **Ceremony**

The ceremony will be held on **Saturday, December 19, 2020 at 11am (EST)**. It will be a live ceremony which students join through Zoom. Staff, faculty, students' families, etc. will be able to view the ceremony via live streaming on the School of Social Work site. It will also be recorded and posted on the SSW site for those who need to watch at another time.

### **Attire**

The SSW will purchase a graduation cap, tassel, and master's hood to utilize during the ceremony for each graduating student who chooses this. Instructions will be provided for students so they can reach out to Ulrich's Bookstore to place their individual order and provide a shipping address.

### **Name Reading**

We understand the importance of students having their name read as part of the ceremony. Each student will have a slide with their name, practice method/area, and a photograph to be shown when their name is read. We will email instructions to graduates so they can provide their preferred name, proper pronunciation, and photograph they wish to be included.

### **Special Video**

The Graduation Committee and SSW Communications Team will be working on a special video that captures the unique experiences of this graduating class. Graduating students will be instructed on how to provide content to be included in this video.

### **Keynote & Student Speakers**

Faculty, staff, and students were invited to submit keynote and student speaker nominations earlier this semester. An announcement will be made when a keynote and student speaker(s) have been selected.

### **Special Faculty Roles**

Graduating students will be encouraged to vote for faculty members who will serve in special roles for the virtual commencement. Voting information will be sent early next week to students who have applied for graduation.

### **Applying for Graduation**

If you expect to graduate by the end of the Fall 2020 term, you must apply for graduation via Wolverine Access by **November 5, 2020**. If you are uncertain if you already applied for graduation, email [ssw.msw.info@umich.edu](mailto:ssw.msw.info@umich.edu) to inquire.

We hope these innovations will offer students the most memorable and special ending to the MSW program possible. We ask that graduates watch their email for important instructions and deadlines that will be shared soon.

Questions regarding commencement can be sent to [ssw.graduation@umich.edu](mailto:ssw.graduation@umich.edu).

Sincerely,

SSW Graduation Committee

Lorraine Gutiérrez, Associate Dean for Educational Programs

Barbara Hiltz, MSW Program Director

Lynn Videka, Dean and Carol T. Mowbray Collegiate Professor of Social Work