

Question	Answer
How close are the commuter lots to the school of social work? If not, is there a shuttle/bus nearby that can drop us off close to the building? Is there a fee?	<p>There are a ton of parking garages near campus that usually cost about \$1.20 an hour. There are also lots that require an Orange pass, the After-hour pass, and the Yellow/after-hours pass. If you take evening classes, then there is an After-Hours pass that is reasonably priced and is close to the school of social work. You can use the After-Hours pass after 3:00pm and all day Saturdays and Sundays. This is the link directly to the commuter lot parking pass but you can also explore the other options: https://tp.umich.edu/parking/st-orange.php</p> <p>There are also commuter lots are off of main highways known as park and ride lots. This allows you to park your car for free and take a bus to campus. The buses run about every ten minutes from the lots to campus and vice versa. Buses are free with your Umich ID Card.</p>
Do advanced standing students have only one field placement?	Yes, advanced standing and 16 month students only have one field placement.
Is it normal if we haven't heard anything about our field placement?	Yes, it is normal. You should be hearing back before you start classes.
How many hours per week will a 20 month student be in field?	16 hours per week
How many days a week do students typically attend classes? Is it realistic to do two days of classes and two days of field work with a 3 day break?	Students typically attend classes two to three days a week. It is possible to stack classes so that you can squeeze them into two days, it depends on how you feel that will work for you long-term. I have done classes on two days and field on two days. I am a 16 month student, so my first semester in field I only had to be at my placement 2 days a week, but now that I am in my third semester I am at field 3 days a week, and 2 days in classes.
What were some of your biggest stressors as a 16 month student in your first term?	Some of the biggest stressors for me were adjusting to the University and Ann Arbor (I moved from California), building a community/support system, finding an organization and time-management flow that worked for me as I learned to balance classes, readings, and assignments, and adjusting to the weather!!
How much reading should I expect to be doing each week with 19 credit hours in my first term with no field placement? (I will be in the HRSA Special Program)	Professors do assign a lot of reading. Initially I felt that it was expected of me to read absolutely everything, however, I quickly learned that this is not possible given the demands of the program and the importance of balancing taking care of my overall wellbeing. Learning to skim effectively is so helpful as well as prioritizing what readings are most important.

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Have you heard of work study employers doing online or phone interviews? (I'll be out of the country until Aug 19th)	I believe that they can do interviews via online video chat. If not, some employers will wait until you are in Ann Arbor to do a face interview.
I am already in Ann Arbor and on-campus, so I'm wondering how I might connect with the SSW community, socially, before orientation begins. Is there a Facebook group?	You should definitely reach out to some of the students featured in this presentation via email! I know any of us would be happy to meet you in person and connect you to other SSW students! We do have a Facebook page if you are interested called Advocates for Change!
I will need to buy a new laptop before the semester begins, and I want to make sure I choose one that is equipped to handle the program. Do you know of anything I should keep in mind, as far as technological requirements go?	Folx have all kinds of laptops. I am partial to MacBook's, but if you are a Social policy person maybe an HP would be good so you can use software for data visualization and SPSS. Here is a link with more info: https://ssw.umich.edu/msw-student-guide/section/1.21.00/359/laptop-requirement-policy
Do you have any advice on registering for classes or choosing professors?	Something that has worked for me well is doing research on professors and seeing whose work and interests align with mine as well as connecting with other students and asking what their experiences with certain professors have been like. Definitely check in with students who have had professors previously, so helpful.
How difficult is it to get a work study job? I've applied to one and not yet heard, should I be applying to multiple?	I would say that it varies depending on who the employer is. Personally, I applied to three or four work study positions before I was finally hired. I can say that there are a lot of opportunities for student employment on campus so applying to a few jobs isn't out of the norm.
How many incoming MSW students are there for the fall of 2019?	There are 430 incoming students.
For advanced standing students can you schedule your classes for any day of the week? Can your field placement be on any day of the week?	Usually advanced standing classes happen toward the end of the week so field days are scheduled in the beginning of the week. This is often how it works, but of course there may be exceptions on an individual basis.
Do we select the two days we are at field placement during our class registration time? Or do we communicate with field placement supervisor about the schedule? How does that process work?	You will need to communicate with your field supervisor about your class schedule and they will work around it!
When registering for classes, which classes are considered graduate level?	It is starting in the 500s for the MSW. It is always encouraged that you have a course planning session with the Office of Student Services. You can schedule an appointment by calling 734-936-0961.
Can you do a course planning session with the OSS after registering for classes?	Yes, but we would highly encourage that you do it sooner rather than later because the courses close up.
When is the International Student orientation?	International student orientation is August 26 th .

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Is there anything that you wish you had done the summer before you started school to feel more prepared?	It's rough for most of us to transition into grad student life so I would recommend taking time to engage in self-care as well as spend time with your social supports - they will be important in getting you through this program!, A self-care plan is always a plus. I would enjoy the summer because then the program can be a bit overwhelming because of the amount of courses that we have to take. If you are someone that might have some financial concern, then I would work on saving money in order to alleviate some of the stress.
Any tips you wish you knew when you started at u of m you would like to share?	There are so many great opportunities available to students at UM and it can seem daunting at first, especially considering just how huge this school is! The only tip that I have is to not be afraid to try everything! You'll find that most folx in the SSW are so supportive and caring!
I have the option to have 4/5 of my classes in one day and the other 1 another day. What are your opinions on 4 classes back to back in one day? I'm torn because it would be nice to condense my schedule more but am curious what you think.	Classes are 3 hours long, so it can take a toll on you to take so many courses. I have done 3 courses back to back, but I was really tired after that. I would say that the fast-pace of this program might be a lot and you might want to take less than 4 courses. We also have to remember that we know ourselves and what we can handle mentally, physically, and emotionally.
How do you seek opportunities for research positions with faculty?	The best way to find research positions is to directly ask faculty members here in the SSW. You can begin by emailing first and introducing yourself and your interest. They are likely doing research or could recommend another faculty member that is doing research in an area that you are interested in. You can find a list of all of our faculty members online on the SSW website to get a better idea of their research interests!
If you want to do research with faculty, is it always paid positions you apply for?	Research done with faculty can be through work-study, could be paid through by temporary employment, could be for academic credit (for example, if you are completing an independent study), or could be on a volunteer basis. You could email the professor directly and they can let you know if they are looking to hire students through a work-study.
Were your field interviews really intense and structured like regular interviews or were they more laid back considering we are students and are going to be like interns?	I think that this will vary from student to student. For me personally, my interview was online (as I was out of state) and was very casual! I would prepare as if it were a serious interview just in case though!

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<p>Is there a link to the Fall 2019 elective courses for advanced standing? Also, are the elective courses for advanced standing different from the ones for undergraduate students? Do you have any tips on what electives to choose?</p>	<p>There aren't classes that are labeled electives, it's more about if the class is outside of your required classes based on your track, and then it is considered an elective. All the possible classes you can take in the SSW will be in the course catalogue.</p> <p>If you have a minor, it is always good to start working on the coursework. If there are any particular interests you have and there are courses available, then I would sign up. The Motivational Interviewing mini course is pretty helpful when thinking about working with folks that might be ambivalent to change. You can even take graduate level classes outside of the SSW and those can provide unique learning experiences. From personal experience I have enjoyed all of my elective classes that I have taken so I know that you will be able to find something unique that interests you!</p>
<p>How the advanced standing field class ran?</p>	<p>You are not taking an actual class for field SW. 691 is actually your field placement. When you are registering for field you are selecting your assigned field instructor. For example mine says CHASS which is the agency I intern at.</p>
<p>I interviewed at one agency and it seemed like a great opportunity, but I wanted something more fitted to me and my interests. Is it getting late to being placed?</p>	<p>It is not late to be placed. However I will make sure to keep in contact with your assigned field instructor. You will also find that placements may shift a lot at any time of the year.</p>
<p>Are there any school of social work clubs?</p>	<p>Oh yeah, there are definitely many student organizations in the school of social work. For example, I'm involved in the First Generation Subcommittee, Latinx Social Work Coalition, and Queer Advocacy Coalition. There are many more orgs which you will have the chance to connect with at the org fair during SEED week.</p>
<p>I was granted work-study. Would you recommend trying to find a work-study job within the School of Social work, (if they exist)? Or do a lot of SSW work study students work elsewhere at the university?</p>	<p>The SSW does offer a few work study positions. These can include working at our IT desk to working at our Program Evaluation Group. I know a lot of SSW students seek employment through the Trotter Multicultural Center as well as the Ginsberg Center which creates volunteer opportunities for UM students. Whether you chose a job in the SSW or outside I would say that you really can't go wrong! It all depends on what works best for you!</p>
<p>Do you ever get snow days?</p>	<p>It is not common. We did get some days off due to freezing temperatures.</p>
<p>What is the typical size of a class?</p>	<p>25-30</p>

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What do SW students for fun around campus?	During the summer and early fall the Arboretum is a beautiful place to walk around (the river runs through it!). There are also a lot of restaurants, coffee shops, bars, movie theatres, dance studios in the downtown area which is at walking distance from the SSW. There are also opportunities to go tubing down the river right now!
Are there ever any online courses offered?	No online courses are not offered. Some classes are offered as a hybrid model where there you meet in person only a few times over the semester and the rest of the work is completed through online modules.
Are any of you non-traditional students, meaning you're not coming directly from an undergraduate program, and if so, do you have any advice?	I had previously completed another Master somewhere else and worked for two years afterward, so it had been sometime since I had been in academia. I would say that you utilize the resources available at the school, communicate with your professors, and ask questions.
Do you/folks you know work at the SSW office? I saw job opportunities there and wondered if it keeps you really busy or if there is ever time to do your own work? Also, does it give you a little more access to some of the staff maybe as mentors or advisors?	OSS is great to work in if you have an interest in Higher Education. The staff are open in supporting students and serving as unofficial mentors.
Is the field placement you have related to the work you want to do after graduation, or did you pick something different? I've been advised to do something different but I'm unsure. Any other advice you have about how to prioritize which field placement is welcome...	As a HRSA SUD scholar, we were only given three options because it was a new grant last year. I would weigh the pros and cons. Will you gain the skills you need in a different field placement that is not exactly what you wish to be in upon graduation? If you can gain those skills elsewhere then it might not be a bad idea to try a new environment. Sometimes your field placements can work with you to create the experiences that you wish to have. You would just have to ensure that this is communicated with them. If there is a specific place that you really want to be in, then maybe interviewing with them as well to get perspective.
Is it possible for advanced standing students to schedule all of their classes 1-2 days a week? As a HRSA-SUD scholar I can't take any classes on Thursday's so I'm wondering if this is possible.	It can be difficult to do so because of the amount of courses taken. If Advanced Standing students need an additional term to complete their courses, they can talk to the Office of Student Services.
Is it feasible to plan out of town weekend trips ahead of time? I mean, would we know ahead of time our school work/load? Did you do that or was it hard to manage travelling on weekends instead of doing schoolwork?	You get your syllabus on the first day of class at the latest, so you should be able to see your course work load and such. We do have a fall break, so that would be an ideal time to plan a trip. If you are a 16 month student, most of your work load is at the beginning of the week, so there might be more flexibility.

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When do you recommend looking for a work-study job?	<p>It is recommended to look for a work study as soon as possible. You can look for a work-study position using this link: https://ssw.umich.edu/hr/temp-employment-application</p> <p>As someone who has worked off-campus as well as work study I would say that I recommend work study! These jobs tend to be a bit more flexible since they come with the understanding that we are students and sometimes stuff just comes up. There are a lot of opportunities for part time employment on campus that you can find online!</p>
Can you elaborate about SEED week? For non-international students, it begins Aug. 27? What do the days "look like"? Do we only take one mini course?	<p>For non-international students, SEED week begins on August 27th and ends on the 30th. You will have an introductory day with professional development, field training for folks starting field, and a mini course. We will be sending out a SEED schedule in the next couple of weeks. There are portions of SEED week that are mandatory, however if you are unable to attend all of the activities please reach out to the Office of Student Services by calling 734-936-0961. There will be optional social events in the available to students, as well.</p>
Hi! Is there a list of field placement choices and where they are located? I live in Detroit and am just wondering if there are placements closer to home	<p>There are definitely a lot of field placements in Detroit! You can access a list through the field application. The list of field placements is updated every term.</p>
Would you suggest waiting a semester before starting any type of work or work study?	<p>I would say that varies from student to student. Work study positions can be flexible for students so they can work around our busy school schedules! Because this is a large college town, outside employers also tend to be pretty flexible, but again it widely depends on the job and your employer.</p>
Is it hard to find field placement or is there a disadvantage to 16-month students because field is later? And should we be looking at it now?	<p>16 month students are not at a disadvantage in terms of obtaining a field placement. You are so welcome to start exploring which agencies you might be interested so when the time comes to apply you have a better idea of what is out there, however, don't stress about it right now. I did not start thinking about my field placement application until a month into the Fall semester. You usually will apply for field in October as a 16 month student.</p>

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<p>How difficult is it enrolling in the days/times for classes you need to take? With an exception to advanced standing are we all enrolling at the same time?</p>	<p>There is a prioritization for those who need advanced classes and overall number of classes (for example 16 month students need more access to classes than 20 month students). If a course you want to enroll in becomes closed before you are able to register, you can submit a petition to enroll in a closed course.,https://ssw.umich.edu/msw-student-guide/section/1.02.00/3/entry-to-closed-school-of-social-work-courses</p>
<p>Did you meet a lot of your friends/support people/ people similar to you in your classes or through other opportunities?</p>	<p>Yes! During SEED week you will meet a ton of students through your mini course and social events. Of course you'll also make friends through classes and student organizations! I met my support folx through my scholarship program because we had most of our classes together so it felt like I was going through the program with the same cohort of students. I also met people at events held in the SSW, through mini-courses, and in school of social work student organizations.</p>
<p>How did you guys take care of yourselves in a field where the stress and emotional toll can be high? What do you guys do self-care?</p>	<p>I found friends that shared some of my values, beliefs, and social identities so that I had a support system. I also started therapy because I wanted to ensure that I am also doing the work that I ask my clients to do. There will be an embedded CAPS person at the SSW and they are here specifically for SW students when they need additional mental health support. Our student fees cover the gym fees, so I also go to the gym which can help with stress. Setting time aside when not doing work and can take time to myself (boundary setting). Also communicating with faculty my needs. I am intentional about setting time aside to completely disengage from assignments, readings, and thinking about field and do something that feels fun and replenishing/restorative for me. I make sure to spend time with friends. I also make space for things that are important to me (reading things outside of what's assigned in class, salsa dancing, yoga, and more). Really trying to focus on each part of myself and balance the time and energy I dedicate to each.</p>