



Ask a Current Student Webinar Chat Log

June 12, 2017

Q: Are there any non-traditional (e.g., older, with kids, etc.) MSW students there to answer questions?

A: Yes, I am! I did a career change after years in the work force. I'm also a commuter student.

Q: About how many MSW students go to the football games together/sign up under the SOC code?

A: There is a MSW section at football games which all information can be found here: <https://ssw.umich.edu/student-life/football-tickets>. Students will either join that section or join another group of friends.

Q: Hi! What days of the week are classes for first year students offered? Are there weekend classes or night classes?

A: For advanced standing, classes are typically at the end of the week. For 16- and 20-month students, classes are typically in the beginning of the week. There are a few night classes and we have some mini-courses that are held on the weekends.

Q: What is your general impression of the quality of supervision that MSW students receive in field? Do you know of cases where a student wasn't receiving adequate supervision, and if so, what is typically done to remedy that situation?

A: The level of supervision at field varies per field site. If you know the type of supervision you prefer I highly encourage you to ask those types of questions during your field interview. This is something that is very important to student's experiences at field so making sure both student and field supervisor is on board with the type of supervision provided is key. Typically, if you realize you aren't getting the supervision you want/need it only takes a conversation with your field supervisor in which your field liaison can assist if needed.

Q: If I originally enrolled in the 20-month program as I was applying to one of the special programs but wasn't accepted, is it possible to change to the 16-month? What are the advantages of 16-month vs. 20-month?

A: Yes, it is an option. You will need to speak with the Office of Student Services at 734-936-0961 or ssw.msw.info@umich.edu. Additionally, since you have probably started setting up your

field placement, you should also contact the Office of Field Instruction at [\(734\) 764-5331](tel:734-764-5331) or ssw.ofi@umich.edu.

Q: For us who have denounce our advance standing due to our special program requirement. Since we have the foundation classes exempt, what classes do we take in the fall and winter? do we move up some courses and electives?

A: Hello, in the fall you are free to take electives or other classes of interest. There will be many classes offered in the fall for those who do not need the foundation classes. If you look at the course planning webpage, found here: <http://ssw.umich.edu/assets/course-planning-worksheets/>. You can see what classes will be necessary for your specific track and plan to take them as you wish.

Q: What do you wish you would have known before starting your first term?

A: I wish I would have been more aware of the mini-courses offered. If you are not able to take a class you want in the fall, maybe consider the mini-courses offered as something to supplement your learning. It's important to remember that you are in control of your learning so set up your education in the way you want it to be. Look early into where you would want to practice to know the licensure process if you want to go that direction. Take advantage of all the programs and events offered.

Q: I just want to clarify about orientation. Am I required to be at the university Tues, Wed, Thurs, and Friday or just one of those days?

A: You are required to be there Tue-Thurs and there may be activities/social events you'd want to attend on Friday.

Q: How does the SEED course factor into fall credits? Does it push students to 17 credits, and does this cost extra for the extra credit?

A: The SEED course is 1 credit that counts for the Fall semester. You will not be charged additional tuition after you are a full-time student. You will need to complete a request for additional credits with the Registrar Office if you want more than 18 credits.

Q: For students who need additional loans through U of M when is this available to apply for?

A: Students can apply for a Grad Plus Loan now and the Office of Financial Aid will create a Financial Aid package for incoming students in July.

Q: Non-traditional students: How much study time did you need to devote your first term; and how did you lay out your day/week?

A: I devoted quite a bit of time to studying first term. I switched careers, so I had a lot of catching up to do. I worked part time first semester, had classes 3 days a week, and devoted the other 2 days fully to homework and studying. Sometimes 3 days, depending on homework load.

Q: What is the class size like? What is the course load (# of readings and amount, papers, projects) like? If we are completing a certificate program, does that lengthen the program time?

A: Hello, most classes are between 20 to 25 students. The course load will vary by professor, but there are usually about 3 to 5 readings a week assigned. There are usually a mix of group projects and papers in each class. Again, most assignments vary by professor. If you are completing a certificate program, it should not extend the length of the program, you will have time to take the classes for the certificate, but you may need to take less electives.

Q: Does anyone here take classes in other departments i.e. in the school of law or in nursing? If so what have those experiences been like?

A: Hi Sarah! Yes! We encourage students to take courses in other departments. Some courses require permission of the instructor or a pre-requisite but most of them will allow you to directly register.

Q: Can classes from other departments still count to our required electives?

A: Students can take classes in other departments and they can count towards electives if they are graduate classes and you get them verified or used as a course substitution through the Registrar Office which is located at the School of Social Work building.

Q: How far from the school are typical field placement areas?

A: The field sites vary in distance. There are some in the School of Social Work, some in Ann Arbor, some in the nearby city of Ypsilanti, others in Detroit and other neighboring cities. Time wise it varies from five minutes to about an hour approximately.

Q: Are any of you all doing a minor? For example, due to the fact I am 16 month but my foundation classes are exempt. I am thinking about doing a minor. How does that work?

A: Yes, I am doing a minor. Doing a minor means that you must take some credits toward your minor as well as spend some of your field hours towards that minor. Here is a link with more information: <https://ssw.umich.edu/faq/question/7348-can-i-have-a-minor>.

Q: Those who had done a BSW, are the classes significantly more difficult or time consuming than your typical BSW class?

A: I personally did not have a BSW, but speaking with other students who have earned their BSW they appreciate the number of elective classes that they can have. They are probably a little bit more challenging, which may mean you may spend more time on your courses. Overall, classes may be more challenging but more engaging and informative than in BSW courses.

Q: Hi Bonnie! What was it that drew you to the social policy and evaluation concentration, and has it ended up being like you expected it to be?

A: Hi! I have an interest in social policy and wanted a more quantitative-based focus (that's the evaluation part) and decided to pursue that concentration.

Q: Paola and LaKeidra, what do you find most interesting about being a DCS? Most challenging?

A: I love that we all have a passion to work in an "urban" area with underserved populations. I also love the variety of backgrounds that we come from. Most challenging: Splitting time between Detroit and Ann Arbor and the structured curriculum of courses.

Q: Do any DCS students carpool? If so, how close in Detroit are the different placements? Or are they all over?

A: Yes, there are a few students who carpool. The placements are all over the city though, so typically, people who are placed at the same agency ride together. You all will have time to figure it out before next January!

Q: For DCS, is it possible to have a concentration/practice area in interpersonal practice and mental health instead on interpersonal practice and children and youth? I wasn't sure how that worked!

A: Absolutely! I was Children and Youth and switched to mental health. No issues at all.

Q: Thank you so much for such an informative presentation. I am an incoming geriatric scholar and had a question regarding field placement. I know it was mentioned that it is 2 days a week, however, is it two full days or how does the schedule typically look like?

A: Hello, as a 16-month student your Winter term field placement will be 2 days a week meaning it is 16 hours a week. You can also work with your field supervisor if you need any flexibility with your field placement schedule.

Q: Is it possible to get Darin's information for questions on the aging and geriatric scholarship since that is my path?

A: Yes, please feel free to reach Darin at: darint@umich.edu.

Q: Do you have any recommendations for housing options?

A: Hi! The two on campus housing options are nice, but I have enjoyed living off campus. I live in the Kerrytown neighborhood which is on the north side of campus. That area is more graduate students. I used the Michigan roommate matcher website to find roommates.
<https://offcampushousing.umich.edu/>.

Q: Would you estimate that there are still MSW students looking for other MSW students to live off-campus with this late in the game?

A: Yes! People are always looking for housing!

Q: Have any of you lived in the co-ops? What is it like living in them?

A: My friend lived in a co-op and she liked it! The rent was very cheap and she got to meet people from different disciplines.

Q: Someone mentioned co-ops for housing earlier, could you clarify what that is?

A: Co-op is housing provided by the university and is open to undergrad and graduate students. You typically live with 8-12 people in a house. You can find more info here:
<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/students/campus-guide/housing>.

Q: Anyone here a NLACSW scholar?

A: Hello, unfortunately of those of us here today, there are none of us who are a NLACSW scholar. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Nyshourn Price or Michelle Woods at ssw.newleaders@umich.edu. If you are a part of the Team 97 Facebook page, you could try to connect with those involved! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Team97UMSSW/>.

Q: Rosalee, I believe you worked at the Washtenaw county juvenile court correct? I applied for that field placement, however the description of tasks was rather vague. Can you tell me a little about what you did there?

A: There are a few internships at the juvenile court. Do you know which one you specifically applied for? I was essentially a probation officer working with youth who have committed sex offenses and had a diversion caseload which were youth who had a theft charge, curfew violation etc. (minor charges) I'd do home and school visits and meet with them twice a week or monthly. Let me know if you have any other questions!

Q: Has anyone in the interpersonal practice field with a minor in human services management worked at a placement that didn't offer the minor hours?

A: No one here has an IP field with a human services management. But if you want to find a field that meets those requirements, I would recommend that you speak with your field liaison

and be specific about what you want from your field. They will try to find a field placement that will be what you want.

Q: Has anyone here earned a human services degree? How does an MSW compare?

A: Hi, unfortunately none of us have a human services degree so can't speak to the difference. If you have any specific questions, feel free to contact the Office of Student Services at 734-936-0961 or ssw.msw.info@umich.edu.

Q: Is getting a minor the same as getting a certificate? or you can do both? for ex. I am interpersonal communication with a practice area in mental health. I want a minor in community organizing and a final social work certificate. is that a lot of work? lol

A: There are some differences between the field requirements. Certificates usually require more classes than the minors (minors require 2 classes). This website might help with more information: <https://ssw.umich.edu/programs/msw/specialization-and-certification-programs>. You can also contact the Office of Student Services for more information at 734-936-0961 or ssw.msw.info@umich.edu

Q: What does a typical week look like for you? Do any of you have time for a part time job?

A: Hi! I'm a 16-month student and in the fall, I worked a few jobs (2-3). In the Winter and Spring/Summer, I had difficulty balancing my schedule as I had to complete 2-4 days of field and had to drop 1 job. I would suggest you do what works best for you in regards to balancing classes, work, field, and self-care. Time management was very important to me when all my responsibilities and being realistic with my work schedule.

Q: Does anyone have any general tips for managing stress/handling the workload?

A: The SSW emphasizes self-care. Because of the workload and content learned in the school, make sure to take time to reset through either taking a day-off, or using time during the week to do stress free events (i.e. exercise, yoga, going to the Arb, hanging out with friends, listening to music, etc.) I would recommend maybe taking time on the weekend to relax and spending the week focusing on school and work.

Q: If we are eligible for work study, when should we begin applying for work study opportunities?

A: Hi! I had difficulty applying to work study opportunities during the summer because not many jobs were offered and started applying to work study positions when I was enrolled in the school year. I didn't officially accept a position until October. Please see https://studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_ChooseFundingSources.aspx for more information

Q: Do people ever get GSSA positions outside of the school of social work? Not many GSSA positions are listed on the website in general. Does that change over the summer?

A: Hello, yes many students get GSSA positions outside of the SSW. Many get them within the Psychology Department, but there are many other department positions available. Over the summer, more will be posted on the student employment website.

Q: Are GSI/GSSA positions competitive to get for MSW students (even if they're in other departments)?

A: I would say that they are competitive. Preference for GSI position are typically given to doctorate students, returning GSIs, and then those who know the professor. I would say apply for them but do not limit yourself. Apply for additional employment opportunities.

Q: In your experience, do professors in the school of social work make an effort to be intersectional in speaking on issues of poverty, mental health, marginalization, etc.? Are efforts made to specifically discuss issues pertaining to the LGBTQ population, minorities, women of color, and people with disabilities?

A: Yes, professors do make an effort to be intersectional and tie all of these populations and issues into lectures about social work practice. It has been an overall good experience, and the few times it has felt lacking in classes, students were able to speak up and address it. The course curriculum emphasizes Privilege, Oppression, Diversity, and Social Justice (PODS) and work on addressing these issues.

Q: Are their appropriate resources for LGBTQ students?

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: What is the ratio/percentage of men to women in a typical class?

A: Hello, the 2016 incoming class had a ratio of 345 women to 52 men. You can view the past class demographics here: <https://ssw.umich.edu/programs/msw/class-profile>.

Q: Are students able to indicate number of miles they're willing to travel to field locations?

A: You can search field placements based on county so you can limit the distance.

Q: Paola, I presently volunteer with students at a High School in SW Detroit. Does SW Solutions offer any job/college readiness or high school student mental health services?

A: Southwest Solutions offer services to transitional age youth through the Cornerstone program. Email me if you would like additional information parroyo@umich.edu.

Q: Are any of you in the organizations that the SSW provide or involved with other organizations on campus?

A: Hello, yes I am involved in many SSW organizations. There are also many on campus that students are involved in as well. It can be busy, but there are many great organizations to be involved in! Here is additional information: <https://campusinvolvement.umich.edu/>.

Q: Is it easy to get involved (or even initiate) social justice events on and off campus as MSW students in the greater Ann arbor area

A: There's a student group on campus called Students 4 Justice that have been organizing social justice events. There are a few events every other week that are social justice related on campus. In addition, many community organizations in Detroit (Ann Arbor is part of the greater Metro Detroit area) that you can connect with.

Q: Is a class offered that covers the DSMV. I am trying to get my LCSW in a state that requires a course that covers that.

A: If your practice area is mental health then you will have some classes on the DSM.

Q: Hi Bonnie! Where was your field placement at and how did you like it? For social policy and evaluation?

A: I'm at the Homeless Action Network of Detroit (HAND) and it is for Social Policy & Evaluation. I enjoy it and must be proactive and speak to my supervisor about assignments I want to complete and skills I want to gain. I've been more involved in community-based activities because that's my interest so I've been attending meetings with case workers to learn more about the on-the-ground work. Please feel free to email me at hbonnie@umich.edu for more info.

Q: How many hours is realistic to work with a dual degree? I am wary of overworking but also need to work to pay for three years of graduate school.

A: I would say between 10-15 hours. I worked 15 and was tired but it is doable especially when you have bills to pay. I wouldn't recommend over 15/week though.

Q: Do you find that going to Michigan helps you with job opportunities?

A: The UM School of Social Work has a lot of great networking opportunities and resources that will allow you to find employment opportunity.

Q: Are we able to schedule our own classes? Or is the class schedule more rigid?

A: Yes, students can schedule their own classes. It is not very rigid and there is a lot of flexibility for students! You can utilize this link to help you with your course planning:
<http://ssw.umich.edu/assets/course-planning-worksheets/>.

Q: What are your recommendations for making friends?

A: Do you have a Facebook account? I would start communicating in the Team 97 group. There are also a lot of events that happen between classes throughout the week. You'll also meet people in your classes and when you take breaks in the commons. During orientation/SEED week will be a great time to meet friends who will be in the same boat as you are.

Q: For those doing clinical work at a mental health care facility (and are either 20-month or working at a special placement that requires 4 terms), what did your first term of field work look like?

A: Field work for 20-month students are 2 days/week.

Q: I am a 20-month student and was wondering how much flexibility is in our schedule. Are we told, once course planning comes up, which classes we are meant to take each semester, or do we have wiggle room?

A: There is flexibility in any course schedule. The key is touching base with your faculty advisor and ensuring the classes you are moving are available in other terms. Check out the course planning worksheet too. <https://ssw.umich.edu/assets/course-planning-worksheets/>.

Q: Even though there could be a huge amount of student debt, what made you still decide to attend U of M?

A: As an out-of-state student, I had difficulty making this exact decision and I think the opportunities at U-M (research, employment, networking, well-known professors) incentivized me to come here. In addition, my current network of friends and colleagues has made the experience very worthwhile and exceeded my expectations. I also work and am in a special program which supplements some of the tuition. There is a payment plan I signed up for that reduces the amount of loans I have to take.

Q: Are there any child welfare scholars here today?

A: Yes! I am a child welfare scholar. If you have any specific questions about the program you can email me personally at pastewa@umich.edu.

Q: How long does the dual MSW/MPH take?

A: It varies however, two and a half years is typical.

Q: Are most MSW courses located in the SSW? Any recommendations for navigating and getting familiar with campus?

A: Yes, most MSW courses are located in the SSW. Sometimes there are classes offered in the School of Education, but that building is connected to the SSW. I would suggest taking a campus tour to get familiar as it is a big campus!

Q: How significant it is to have a car at Ann Arbor?

A: I know people who don't have a car here and they are able to use the busses to get around Ann Arbor. However, that does limit you in field placements as many field placements are in Detroit. There is still available public transportation that will allow you to travel within Ann Arbor and Detroit (on certain days). Check out the Detroit Connector at <http://detroitconnector.umich.edu/>. I have a car and I use it for internship and maybe once or twice a week additionally.

Q: I think that I eventually want to get my PhD. Are any of you considering continuing schooling? Any tips to make the most of the MSW program if you plan on continuing school?

A: Hi! Let your professors know that you are thinking Ph. D and get to know that professor you think you might want to work with whether that is in the social work program or another program.

Q: Is it common to earn a PhD in Social Work?

A: PhDs in social work differ for micro vs. macro practice but there is a small number of students who do pursue a PhD in social work. There is a PhD dual degree social sciences program where about 3-5 students are enrolled each year <https://ssw.umich.edu/offices/phd>. There are more students who complete dual degree programs in general (with Masters).

Q: Hi Alison, can you speak a bit more about what exactly you do at the State Appellate Defenders Defender's Office?

A: Hello! At the State Appellate Defender Office, I work as a part of their Project Reentry Team. I work with people who are currently incarcerated and partner with them to create a plan for their release back into society. I also work on establishing connections with other community organizations working on reentry services.

Q: Are a lot of oral presentations expected as class assignments/projects?

A: Depending on your concentration and practice method you may have more oral presentations or less. IP students will have less oral presentations compared to the macro concentrations.

Q: In regards to the group work, can a lot of it be done over google docs? I'm sure I'm not the only one commuting/working part time/etc. and schedules can be so hard to coordinate.

A: Many students complete group projects over google docs due to busy schedules, however it all depends on the project, and the other members.

Q: On average, how many hours do you spend studying, reading, writing, working in groups?

A: It depends on the student as well as the course load and professors. I don't necessarily study as many of classes do not have tests. Regarding studying, reading, writing, group work it depends on the professor and course as well as when deadlines are. It can vary but I would say around 10 hours a week if I had to say a number.

Q: How do you feel the program has equipped you for life after graduation? Are you linked with many resources or job opportunities?

A: Based on the courses I chose to take while at the SSW, I believe I have been adequately equipped for life after graduation. The Career Services center at the SSW has many great resources for connecting students to job opportunities.

Q: are any classes offered online? Is it possible to take classes once a week?

A: Unfortunately, no classes are offered online. It may be possible to take classes once a week, but the schedule would probably be 9 am to 9 pm.

Q: What do you recommend for parking? What are there different options and how expensive is a parking pass?

A: It depends on if you're living on or off campus. I am personally a big fan of Commuter lots because they are free but you can find out more information about the paid lots here: <http://pts.umich.edu/>.

Q: Is there a bus that stops regularly at the commuter parking lots? How reliable is it? How much time do you recommend allowing in order to get to the SSW in a timely manner?

A: Hello, yes there is a bus that stops regularly at the commuter lots. It is very reliable. I would recommend at least 20 minutes as the buses can get busy during the week. You can view the bus schedules here: <http://www.theride.org/>.

Q: Is it possible to take courses Monday through Thursday or are most classes also held Fridays?

A: It depends by term. During the fall term and winter term class schedules are more flexible and offer classes Monday through Friday. During the Spring/Summer term classes are only offered Mondays and Tuesdays apart from some mini courses which are one credit courses specialized in one topic.

Q: Did everyone get their top pick for placement?

A: I don't believe that everyone can always get their top pick for placement, but the Office of Field Instruction works to make sure that students can get a placement in their top 6.

Q: In your experience, what do you feel differentiates U of M's MSW program from other MSW programs, as the #1 ranked program in the country? What do you feel makes it #1?

A: UM has extensive research and more flexible curriculum schedule compared to other MSW programs. More specialization and wide range of curriculum options are available at UM. UM is also a national school, and attracts students from all over the world while other MSW programs are more regional. Also, UM has a career center within the SSW, which is not offered everywhere and is unique to the school.

Q: Do a lot of graduating students get hired by their field placement?

A: It depends on the capacity of the field placement but people are offered positions after graduation. Please see <https://ssw.umich.edu/offices/career-services/employment-data> for more information!

Q: The 500+ hours you need of supervised clinical work after you graduate, does the career office help you locate mhcp willing to supervise? How is that process going for you?

A: Yes, career services is a great resource and has done a great job linking graduates with those opportunities.

Q: Do you recommend accepting 100% of all offered loans

A: I'd say it depends on your need. I personally, accept the loans and then give back what I do not need.

Q: Hi Alison! I am a CBI scholar with the same method/practice area. Can you send me your email address? I would love to ask you program specific questions!

A: Hello! My email address is alisonmb@umich.edu.

Q: Will these questions and answers be available to read through again later?

A: Yes! The chat log will be shared along with the video in an email. As you registered for this webinar, it will be sent to you!

Q: Who do we talk to about payment plans and how does that work if you have accepted loans?

A: Here's some information on payment plans: <http://www.finance.umich.edu/node/11775>.

Q: Hello, if you are granted \$3000 in work study, does that money get applied towards your tuition? and can you only work enough hours to get that \$3000 per two semesters?

A: Work study is not applied towards your tuition as you need to pay your tuition earlier than when you would start working. As work study \$1,500 is per semester, it's like an actual job where the money is shared through a direct deposit or check bi-weekly. You can only work enough hours to cover the \$1,500 but you can discuss with your supervisor if they have additional funds to pay you after you complete your work study award.

Q: I have an IP concentration in Mental Health, with a minor method in Community Organization. Given Community Organization is more macro, whereas IP is micro, what might a course schedule look like for me? Approximately how many of my classes will be more macro-focused and how do they incorporate macro within a micro program?

A: You can select your specifics of your planned program here and it'll show you a course plan. <https://ssw.umich.edu/assets/course-planning-worksheets/>.

Q: Are any of you from NY? I'm so curious to hear about your experiences with moving from NY to MI!

A: Yes, Bonnie and I are! I'm from Harlem and I'm very much a city girl so it was definitely an adjustment. I would consider Ann Arbor a small town but it makes it better that it's a college town so there are bars, restaurants, etc.

Q: I'm coming from NYU and have lived in various boroughs over the years, and in Westchester just outside of the city. Do you find Ann Arbor to have a comparable level of diversity, such as one might find in NY? And have you found Ann Arbor to be more affordable than living in NY?

A: Ann Arbor is not as diverse as NY but it is more affordable than certain parts near NYU, rent can go anywhere from \$500 to \$850 depending on how close you live to campus.

Q: Will MSW students be assigned to a faculty advisor in mutual fields?

A: Students are assigned faculty advisors based on their concentrations and practice areas within the School of Social Work as best as possible.

Q: I believe you can get licensed for macro social work in Michigan? Are any of you planning to do this/do you see a benefit?

A: Hi, I have been weighing the cost and benefits of Macro licensing for a long time. I am planning on going for it. I think that it will help ground me as a generalist Social Worker. There are a lot of resources here (like our career center) who can help you think through licensing.

Q: I am interested in earning post-graduate certification in Art Therapy after earning my MSW. Do you know if U-M offers this? Additionally, do you know if there are any art therapy classes one can take within the MSW program or courses that might cover expressive arts as healing mechanisms for clients?

A: UM doesn't have an art therapy certification. There are a few IP courses that discuss art therapy, but not a class that exclusively handles art therapy. I would be on the lookout for any mini-courses that may offer art therapy.

Q: How long does it take to hear back from a potential field placement for an interview?

A: It can vary depending on the schedules of the field placement, but usually it may take 2 to 4 weeks after indicating your top agencies.

Q: Any advice for the interviews? regrets?

A: Be yourself and be honest about the work you would like to do at field and your supervision/learning style. This will help you to know if the field placement is a good fit for you. I did have one regret. I needed to calm down! I was overthinking and it didn't go so well. I would also touch base with someone currently at the placement to see what kind of questions they were asked and learn about their responsibilities.

Q: Non-traditional/commuter students: How often during your first term were you able to either pick up your kids from school or eat dinner with them?

A: Most students who I have spoken with who have children say that it does get challenging to balance family life with school and additional responsibilities. Many students try to find the balance between both and at times prioritize. There is a group of students at the School of Social Work who have children and get together to discuss their experiences at the SSW and share ideas on how they balance responsibilities.

Q: Are there any field placements that will employ you simultaneously as an intern? If students know and are interested in an organization, can they request this or are all placements random based off the questionnaire we fill out?

A: It's possible but it's rare and you will need to negotiate that with the field office.

Q: Where and when do I get a student ID?

A: The Student ID is at the Student Activities Building on campus. You can get your ID anytime starting now

Q: When do we register for classes?

A: Late June for Advanced Standing and July for 16 and 20 month students.

Q: Have any of the IP/MH students minored in community organization? If yes, has that been difficult to manage?

A: There is no one in our group that is IP/MH with a minor in community organization. Managing courses will be based on how you balance the course work. There will be more course work since you have minor, unless you have exemptions with a BSW which may lighten the load. But many students in the SSW have minors and are able to handle the course load.

Q: Rosalee, since you are involved with the interpersonal practice and children/youth, what are the most difficult parts to the program, specifically while doing your field placement and the requirements they ask for.

A: Not at all. Definitely manageable, I also worked while doing field and classes. It was a lot but you learn to make it happen!

Q: Do you consider U of M an "urban campus" and if so, what advice do you have for someone planning to rely on public transit with no prior experience?

A: U of M is more of a college town, not necessarily an urban campus. U of M makes the public transit experience very easy for those with no prior experience. The campus buses or "blue buses" are free for U of M students to take. Additionally, the city buses called "the Ride" is free for students using their student IDs. More information can be found here: <http://www.theride.org/>. Google Maps can be used to track bus arrival and departure times.

Q: Do you know of any students that are working at the Counseling & Psychological Services at the Rackham Institute or at the Women's Center in Greater Lansing?

A: Unfortunately, no we don't know anyone there. Feel free to contact the Career at: (734) 763-6259 or ssw-cso@umich.edu.

Q: Is the 16-month program considered "accelerated?" How intense do you consider the workload?

A: It is not considered accelerated but it's pretty jam packed, considering you are going through summer as well. It might be considered a faster track in length compared to other Social Work programs who are 2 years.

Q: How common is it for IP students to be placed in settings offering therapy/counseling services to clients?

A: It's pretty common. Discuss the type of clinical therapy you want to learn and the population in which you want to work with your field faculty advisor. They will try to find the field placement with the skills you want. But be sure to advocate for the therapy you want to learn.

Q: What is a mini-course?

A: A mini course is a one credit course which is usually offered for 2 days for 8 hours a day. However, the schedules can vary based on the professor. It is a quick course usually based on a specific topic.

Q: What advice to you have for students who are scared of things they may not want to admit (making friends, course workload, learning bus system, navigating campus)

A: That was something I was concerned about moving here, too. I found that Social Work students are really kind, open to making friends and really great at supporting their classmates. I suggest going to some of the social events organized at the beginning of the semester/during orientation. You can also always come to the Office of Student Services for some support and the school is in the process of hiring a full time CAPS counselor that will be just in the school of social work. They will also be around for students.

Q: Do any of you have any advice on pacing oneself through the program? I'm assuming it can get pretty intense pretty quickly

A: I would say time management is key! Giving yourself enough time to do assignments and also asking for help when you need it is key. Professors want students to attend their office hours so take advantage of it.

Q: More general U-M questions: Are counseling services and the rec/fitness center offered free to students? Also, is student health insurance good?

A: Yes!! Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and the Rec Centers are free. The student health insurance is an added cost on top of tuition but there are some free services available at UHS. See this link: <https://www.uhs.umich.edu/feestudents>. I personally did not get the student health insurance and I applied for state Medicaid.

Q: How do you guys handle health insurance?

A: There is an option to buy the student health insurance or students can apply for Medicaid. UHS also offers some free services <https://www.uhs.umich.edu/feestudents>.

Q: Would any of you happen to be out of state students who applied for Medicaid once moving there?

A: Yes, I did and it was pretty smooth.

Q: Are there any resources you can direct us to apply for state Medicaid?

A: Here's the MI site: http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71547_4860---,00.html.

Q: That's great to know. How long did it take for you to be covered after being approved for the Medicaid?

A: It was immediately! This link can help you with that: <https://www.uhs.umich.edu/mgdcare>

Q: Are we supposed to meet with our advisors in person for recommendations on choosing classes individualized to our academic/educational goals?

A: Hello, it is not necessary to meet with your faculty advisor in person. However, if you are interested in an independent study or not following the course planning sheets, it may be helpful to communicate with your advisor either in person or over email. Before your advisors are assigned you can talk with the Office of Student Services will any questions.

Q: Who should I contact if can't join the Facebook group?

A: If you cannot join the group, please contact lakeidra@umich.edu.

Q: How late into the summer can we go until needing to accept financial aid? I am still working to figure out what percentage to accept

A: Are you asking about social work aid? If so, you should accept the grants and scholarships as soon as possible. But if you are taking about loans things should start moving mid-late August.

Q: Do many students work part-time while interning and attending the MSW program?

A: Hi! Yes, many students work while interning. It's difficult but most field supervisors are very understanding.

Q: Are on-campus jobs only available to students who received work-study as part of their financial aid package?

A: There are some on-campus jobs that accept students without work study. The student employment website has a search option to search for non-work study positions.

Q: I am a student that was granted a work study, but I feel as if I will need to get a separate job as well to afford the program and other living expenses. How feasible is this?

A: Hi! I currently work a few work study positions and a few non-work study positions and it is feasible but challenging. I was a 16-month student and our first semester, we did not need to go to field so I was able to work 20-30 hours each week. In the winter and spring/summer semesters, I worked from home for my field hours and work on weekends so I would be able to work about 10-20 hours each week. It's exhausting and I do not recommend it but the Center for Education for Women (CEW) is a good resource.

Q: Is it possible to work full time and do the advance standing program? I would like to talk to a student who has experienced this if possible.

A: It's not recommended to do full-time work with any program. The advance standing program is not more intensive than the other program it only varies in the time length.