

Virtual Town Hall Q&A - 3/30/2020

Question Asked	Answer Given
Besides the yearly tuition increase by the regents, is there a difference in tuition between the 16 month and 20 month degree programs?	No, there are no differences in tuition other than the fact that 20 month students will be charged 2 semesters (Fall 2020 and Winter 2021) of the increased rate versus 16 month students only being charged 1 semester (Fall 2020) of the increased tuition
My field person told me that I need to register for 1 credit of field if I only need 57 hours of field for spring/summer due to me being advanced standing and that if I register for 4 credits of field then I need to do the 228 hours of field. So do I register for 4 credits of field even if I'm only doing 57 hours?	No, you need to register for the same number of credits, but you only need to complete enough hours to make the 513. Please feel free to reach out to the Office of Field Education if you would like to discuss further. We deeply apologize for the confusion and frustration as we work through solutions and strategies.
Will it be at all possible that maybe we reconvene in person at some point during the spring summer semester if things get better?	Yes, that is our understanding. When the Shelter in Place is lifted, students can make a decision to return to field. If we are allowed to hold in-person classes during the spring-Summer term, students will be the first to know! It is not likely that we can meet in person during Winter term due to President Schissel's decision to cancel all large attendance events and activities through graduation.
How should we know if we are in need of 3 credit hours or 6 credit hours for field?	Please feel free to contact the Office of Field Education to speak with your Field Faculty as they know your situation best
If our fin aid has already been approved, do we need to fill out those forms Cerise just mentioned?	You need to make sure to submit the Request for Funds form to the Office of Financial Aid if you have not already done so and a FAFSA for Fall 2020 and Winter 2021. If you have already done this you are fine regarding SSW funding.
What is the name of the fin aid forms we need to fill out for Spring/Summer?	If you will be enrolled for Spring/Summer 2020, you should complete the Request for Funds and the Social Work Addendum (if you will be in field). Please feel free to email me (mcar@umich.edu) if you are unable to locate these forms.
Can someone tell me the sender of the email that outlined assignments that we can utilize to complete our remote field work?	Here is a helpful link to an email that The Office of Field Education sent out on March 11th regarding assignments: https://ssw.umich.edu/sites/default/files/documents/um-ssw/covid-19/covid-field-education-disruption-students.pdf
I was planning to continue working with my field placement remotely into the spring/summer semester. However when I went to put classes into my "backpack" for registration, there wasn't an option to enroll in field at all. Is doing field remotely not an option at all either?	You will find field under "independent" study. SW 691 should be there.
Where is the best place to find information about the cost of individual credits?	You are welcome to visit the University Registrars website at ro.umich.edu . However, please make sure to reach out to OSS to discuss your costs as most students are not charged per credit hour
If we have struggles in regards to completing coursework virtually during this time due to current conditions, mental health, family matters, stressors from the program, etc., who in the school do we go to?	There are many avenues that you can take, you can speak to your instructors individually to develop a plan, you can speak with your faculty advisor, you can also reach out to our SSW CAPS office (Alejandro Rojas). If you need actual ADA accommodations, then you will want to contact UM's Services for Students with Disabilities and OSS. For a complete list of resources, please see the SSW COVID-19 Information webpage, click the banner at the top of the SSW home page to get there. We want to help you!
Are the letter grades (CR) on a class by class basis?	If a class (like a mini-course) was completed before March 10, then there will be a letter grade. Classes that end after that date will have a S/NRC grade. This is for all classes.
Can I choose which classes I want my grade to show for? Or is it an all or nothing approach?	Yes, you can choose which classes that you want to have a letter grade for.
Will there be a removal of fees at the least? Such as using facilities such as the CCRB or buses and what not?	At this point there has not been details as to rebates/refund for these types of fees. Once we hear details we will share with the SSW community.
Will student union receive the support of faculty in their advocacy efforts?	Yes. It may be helpful to also reach out to faculty members on an individual basis.
A hybrid in-person online class will further disadvantage out of state students, are you all saying we might have people meet in person?	There are no plans to resume in person classes during Spring/Summer term.
Who might we contact regarding tuition reduction/reimbursement as a result of transition to online education/decreased quality of education for Winter semester/online classes moving forward?	Tuition is set at the University level. As I understand it, there are efforts being made by students across campus (and at our school) to organize around this. I recommend connecting with the Student Union to find out more.
It is absolutely absurd that we are expected to pay for a full, in person education (that we signed up for) when we are getting an online education. I understand online is necessary for the safety of everyone, but the University needs to adapt accordingly to meet the student's needs. Since President Schissel is not responding to student's concerns on this matter, do you have insight as to another point of contact?	I understand that this can be frustrating to have the experience you signed up for change mid-stream. I'll note that online programs at Universities are usually not less expensive. In fact, in some cases, tuition costs are higher. Please do contact the Student Union to see how to get involved with student advocacy efforts.
Does the SSW recognize that it is neither fair nor just to expect students (particularly out of state students) to pay full price for an online education?	Nationally, online programs are generally not lower in tuition cost than residential programs. In fact, that will also be true of our online program we are building to start next year. I think the question of whether this is fair or just is worthy of conversation. Please feel free to email Barb Hiltz at Bshiltz@umich.edu to discuss further.
Will the building and the library remain closed throughout the spring/summer semester?	The building and library will open when the Executive Order of Shelter in Place is lifted.
If our field placement has no real opportunities for professional advancement and learning opportunities due to going online, can we look for other options and placements?	Please feel free to contact your Field Faculty in the Office of Field Education to discuss this on an individual basis.
So out of state individuals will be responsible for paying out of state tuition of an online program?	Yes. This is true of most programs that have online programs - there is still a cost differential for in-state and out-of-state tuition.

Will the school be offering more scholarships for the students?	If you have concerns regarding funding please feel free to contact Cerise Carrington at cmcar@umich.edu. Faculty and alumni of the School have been very generous in donating to the Emergency Fund. Unfortunately we do not have sufficient resources to award additional financial aid except for emergencies.
What resources are available for international students whose time zones do not align well with their American field site?	Please contact your Field Faculty in the Office of Field Education to discuss this further.
The price of the online program that is starting next year will have the exact same tuition rates as in person program?	Correct, tuition for the online program will be the same as the residential program.
Will the school of social work be advocating for its students, in regards to freezing tuition rates for the fall?	Yes. We suggest you work with the Student Union to begin to organize around this.
So the SSW administration will not be advocating for its students, in regards to freezing tuition rates for currently enrolled students?	This is not the case. We work with the Student Union regularly so this is the best avenue for the administrative team to discuss steps to support this issue.
Was the student union involved in the development of this town hall and will they be featured today?	Yes they were involved. They are here and available to answer questions.
Is the SSW planning on organizing support efforts in Detroit, since it is the hub for a lot of our field placements and faculty research?	Yes, we are exploring multiple ways to provide community support to Detroit and our other local areas such as Ypsilanti. If you are interested in supporting this please contact The Office of Field Education or Professor Trina Shanks at twilli@umich.edu
If we apply for less credit hours in the spring/summer due to the reduction in field education hours, and fall below the 9 hour minimum to be considered full-time, is there still a waiver to be considered full-time?	You should not register for less Field Credits. Indeed, that is one of the reasons why we switched to main that you register for the same credits and why we separated hours from credits. We want to preserve your full time status and all that is attached to it.
I'm wondering if there is any way for students to contact the Board of Trustees directly regarding tuition?	Absolutely, you may want to contact the Student Union to help organize this. You can also find information regarding the Board of Trustees on Regents.umich.edu
As an Advance Standing student, do we need to have a total of 12 credits of field or 9 credits?	You need 12 credits of field to graduate.
If we do 15% less hours at field, does this mean that we will be registering for less field credits? Or do we maintain the same number of credits we would have normally registered for?	You need to register for the same amount of credits. You need those credits for graduation. Only the hours have changed.
What are the minicourses going to look like for Spring/Summer?	This is a great question. This will vary by the course. Right now, we are asking mini course instructors to be sure that any synchronous (meet together, online) time happens during the dates/time set for the course. It is possible that the course will not meet together for the whole time - but rather that some of that takes place in other ways.
To clarify, 16 month students need to decide by April 6 if they are switching to 20 month. But if that is a problem, just reach out to OSS for an extension??	Yes, that is the process.
There are a lot of numbers and dates, is it possible to send out notes or put up some of this info during this session?	The webinar is being recorded and will be posted. Make sure to keep checking in on the COVID page as that info will be there as well. In addition, I encourage you to check in with your Field Faculty in the Office of Field Education.
Is it possible for SSW admin and students to create some alternative field experiences based on COVID 19 needs for field students this fall?	What kind of things are you thinking about? Anyone in OFE would be happy to explore this further. Some students are doing very real responses to the situation in the field and counting those hours. Our goal is to get you all meaningful experiences!
For students considering changing from 16 to 20 month, some are concerned about not having access to loans to live in the summer. Is it possible to get funding support for that?	If you have concerns regarding funding please feel free to contact Cerise Carrington at cmcar@umich.edu
I remember learning awhile ago about adding a semester without having to pay tuition, can you link that information and talk about if/how that would work for 16 month students to potentially take summer off and then add a semester after the fall?	What you are referring to is the additional term option. For 16 month students that are requesting to switch to the 20 month schedule, that is not an additional term, rather just a switch from 16 to 20 month. If a student wishes to explore options for an additional term, we will handle those on a case by case basis. Please feel free to reach out to OSS
Since classes are all online for the spring/summer semester, does that mean that all field will be done remote for the semester as well?	No, when the shelter in place is lifted, students will have an option to return to field.
We should be registering for fall classes this week as well as spring/summer, correct?	Yes. You will register for both Spring/Summer & Fall
In one of the MSW official updates regarding field it said: "Students graduating before December 31, 2020 will also have the option to add one 3 credit elective course". Is this implying that a course would be counted as field hours, or is it intended to mean something else? Thank you!	This has to do with students who were taking additional electives for field. Depending on your track, you need to fulfill your field credits. If you were using electives in addition, you need to take a class to replace those credits. I would also encourage you to speak directly to your Field Faculty to make sure you are doing what you need to do.
It is challenging that there is no acknowledgement that these classes weren't intended to be online. We know that you will all do your best in the time allotted, but to charge full tuition as if this is a true online program is challenging. Especially as students are struggling financially, to see the school ignoring this is disappointing. How does this align with our values? Again, we know this is an imperfect situation, but are we really doing all that we can to mitigate harm?	I heard everyone acknowledge that classes were not intended to be online. I'm happy to talk to you more about efforts to align our response with our SW values. Please feel free to contact me at Bshiltz@umich.edu
Will there be an option to defer the semester if we believe the online format will not work for us? And if not, will they be discounting tuition since we do not have access too the full resources that the SSW and UMICH provide?	Yes, if you are currently a 16 month student, you should have received an email about switching to the 20 month curriculum schedule. As of right now there is no mention by the University (as they set tuition rates) about adjusting tuition. We will continue to update students should we hear anything

How Many Field hours for Advanced Standing Students?
You say there are students around the university and within the school of social work that are working towards getting us a tuition reduction. Are there any faculty backing this issue as well?
If spring/summer is my final term, do I still need to file a new FAFSA?
What about school of social work faculty working towards tuition freezes? or reductions? Students keep asking if faculty plan to do anything, and you keep reflecting to us that WE should organize something. Why not US?
Will students be able to see final grades before they decide if they want it to be pass/fail or a letter grade? How will this process work?
Do you have any sense of when the university will make a decision about fall classes being remote or in person?
What is the average amount that the tuition is raised each year?

Advanced Standing students need to complete 513 hours.
We are not aware of what individual faculty are doing in this regard. Some of us have been working with the student union to advise on strategy.
No, you do not need a new FAFSA for Spring/Summer.
I suspect that faculty would not all agree with your position on this. That said, many would. I like the idea of inviting faculty who want to engage to connect with student efforts. I'll make sure this happens.
Yes, you will have until July 1st to decide
We do not have a specific date as of today.
Tuition can be increased usually up to 5%. In most recent years tuition has not increased by more than 2-3%