



Dear MSW Students,

Last week, President Mark Schlissel announced a public health-informed, in-residence semester this fall. At the School of Social Work, as elsewhere on campus, this will consist of a mixture of in-person and remote classes structured to reflect our commitment to promoting public health while fulfilling our fundamental mission of transformative education.

**We know this message is long,
but believe the length is necessary for clarity.**

Due to the challenges of COVID-19, the fall semester will bring new protocols and strategies that are necessary to keep our social work community safe. We will ask each of you to adopt health and safety practices that will embody our commitment to caring for one another. There is currently a committee of SSW students, faculty and staff working on building reopening guidelines. We will be sharing these guidelines with you in the next few weeks.

The [University's Maize and Blueprint website](#) provides comprehensive information about the implementation plan, guiding principles and current status. All of this information will also be available on the School's fall 2020 website.

We have been anticipating the university's announcement and we are actively planning for the fall semester. Below we have provided some SSW-specific information.

FALL CLASSES

- SSW will begin the semester on August 31.
- We explored options for arranging in-person class offerings, while maintaining a one-third building capacity to allow social distancing. To accomplish this, in-person class sessions will be held roughly once every 3 weeks (schedule to be finalized soon), using only the large classrooms. Information on your in-person class sessions will be provided at the earliest date possible.
- We anticipate that there will be a percentage of our students who must be exclusively remote this fall due to factors like health status, caregiving responsibilities, housing or immigration/visa issues. For this reason, we will be offering a number of our classes and class sections fully online this fall. Determinations are being made now about which classes these will be. **If you will need to take all of your classes exclusively online, please [complete this form](#) by July 3, 2020.**
- There will be no fall break.
- The last day of in-person classes for the fall term will be November 20.
- Fall classes resume online only on November 30 and run to December 8, with exams and final projects also conducted online.

WINTER CLASSES

- Winter semester will begin on January 18 with a day celebrating the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Classes will begin on January 19 and meet continuously through April 20.
- There will be no spring break.
- Final exams will run April 22-29.

FIELD FALL TERM

- Field education officially begins the week of August 31.
- Field education officially ends December 17.
- Field agencies have begun to accept students back for in-person field activities this summer on a limited basis.
- We anticipate that field education in the fall will include both in-person and remote

learning activities, depending on the field site.

- In-person field education will include public health and safety measures specific to the field site.
- Entirely remote field education for fall term is a potential option. If you are interested in this, please contact your field faculty. **If you will need to complete field remotely, please [complete this form](#) by July 3, 2020. You may use the [Field Decision-Making Tool](#) to help guide you.**
- Out-of-sequence field options can also be considered and should be discussed with your field faculty and/or the field office.

FIELD WINTER TERM

- Field education officially begins the week of January 18.
- Field education officially ends April 24.
- We anticipate that field education in the winter may include both in-person and remote learning activities depending on the field site.
- In-person field education will include public health and safety measures specific to the field site.
- Entirely remote field education for winter term is a potential option and should be discussed with the field office this fall. **Use the [Field Decision-Making Tool](#) to help guide you.**

TUITION

Our tuition is set by the University Regents and not the School of Social Work. The level of instruction and course content will remain consistent across formats. Central Student Government at The University of Michigan has surveyed students to learn more about COVID-related tuition concerns. For more information, go to: <https://www.csg.umich.edu/>.

STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

The School of Social Work Student Emergency Fund helps students with food, transportation, housing and other needs. Additionally, The University of Michigan Office of Financial Aid may be able to assist you with certain COVID-related costs, including critical technology needs. To learn more about emergency funding assistance, please contact Cerise Carrington in our Office of Student Services at (cmcar@umich.edu).

PREVENTION & CARE

Our collective safety requires we all do our part by practicing robust personal hygiene habits, wearing a face covering when appropriate, maintaining a physical distance of 6 feet and staying home when sick.

- Per the State of Michigan Executive order, any individual able to medically tolerate a face covering must wear a covering over your nose and mouth — such as a mask, scarf or bandana in a building.
- U-M has developed a [health screening tool](#) to test for infection, support self-monitoring and comply with any statewide executive orders that may be in effect.
- U-M will provide a kit for each student including masks and hand sanitizer.
- U-M custodial teams will increase the cleaning frequency of high-touch surfaces in common spaces using disinfectants.
- Everyone is encouraged to clean and disinfect tables and chairs in classrooms and common areas after use.

@ SSW BUILDING

Remember, the School of Social Work Building is currently closed and only critical/essential workers may enter the building.

FALL PROTOCOLS

- Stay home if you are sick.
- You can only enter the building from the main entrance at the corner of South University and East University.
- Upon entry, you will be asked to participate in a brief screening process which includes 5 questions and a temperature check.
- Everyone entering the building must complete the [U-M Health Screen](#) app once a day.
- To avoid delays, please complete the [online health screening](#) in line and be ready to present the completed screen to the person monitoring the door.
- To reduce person-to-person contact, there will be new traffic patterns in the building and new signage.
- Restrooms and classrooms are being reconfigured to allow for social distancing.

- Kitchens and lounges will be closed for the fall semester.
- U-M is developing plans to protect vulnerable members of our community, and will work with individuals to every extent possible to address their concerns.
- Meetings and training sessions will be remote using phone or video conferencing.

“As students at the nation’s top public research university, we have the opportunity to show the world that this can be done. At the same time, our ‘public’ responsibility has never been more literal and important.”

—University of Michigan President Mark S. Schlissel

Additional information will be provided soon, including a school-wide fall website. Let [us know if you have any questions](#) at this time and thank you for your understanding.

Lynn Videka, Dean

Tim Colenback, Assistant Dean for Student Services

Willie Elliott, Director, Joint Doctoral Program in Social Work and Social Science

Dan Fischer, Assistant Dean of Field Education

Lorraine Gutiérrez, Associate Dean for Educational Programs

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