



UNIVERSITY OF
DENVER
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF SOCIAL WORK

STUDENT/FACULTY GUIDE

TO THE

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK DEGREE PROGRAM

2011-2012

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

INTRODUCTION

The *Student Faculty Guide to the MSW Degree Program* sets forth the educational policies and procedures, exclusive of policies and procedures specific to field instruction, that govern the MSW program and its students. The *Guide* should be used in conjunction with the GSSW *Bulletin* which is available at http://www.du.edu/socialwork/docs/Bulletin_2011.pdf.

The curriculum, policies, and procedures set forth in the *Guide* are in effect for the 2011-2012 academic year and will govern most, if not all, of the educational experiences of students beginning study in the 2011-2012 academic year.

Faculty of GSSW and of the University of Denver as a whole, however, reserves the right to make those changes in curriculum, policies, and procedures that will enhance the educational experience and outcomes of students.

OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

Our Vision

The Graduate School of Social Work aspires to be among the finest graduate schools of social work in the country, a vibrant center for intellectual development, a leader in promoting diverse communities, and an advocate for an integrated and inclusive model of social work, all within a facility that supports the best educational practices.

Our Mission

The Graduate School of Social Work is committed to excellence in teaching, scholarship, and community leadership and service. Our mission is to foster social responsibility regarding social and economic justice, quality of life and multicultural communities, based on equality for all people. As a center for the creation and dissemination of knowledge, the School provides graduate social work education in order to alleviate and prevent social problems of individuals, families and communities.

Our Values

The guiding philosophy of social work includes values that create a framework for social work education, research and service. These include:

- Progressive ideals of equality, social and economic justice, cultural diversity and freedom.
- Social work's unique focus on person-in-environment as the central concept which shapes our curriculum and practice.
- Excellence in the development of social work knowledge and its dissemination to students, communities and policy makers.
- Responsibility for promoting social change and multiculturalism in the community, and empowerment of the social work profession.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MSW PROGRAM

Based on the vision, values, and mission of the University and GSSW and the mission of the social work profession, the **goals of the MSW program** are to:

1. Prepare students for effective, culturally responsive, and ethical advanced clinical or community professional social work practice that enhances human interaction.
2. Involve students in critical scholarly inquiry, application and development of knowledge, and consideration of values and ethics.

3. Encourage students to assume leadership in promoting social and economic justice, advancing the public good, furthering multicultural understanding, and eliminating oppression.

Derived from the goals of the MSW program, the **objective of the MSW program** is to graduate students who are prepared to enter advanced, autonomous practice in an area of concentration. Specifically, our graduates will:

1. Engage in ethical, culturally responsive advanced clinical or community practice that emphasizes strengths of individuals and communities.
2. Critically evaluate and ethically apply the major theories related to human development and behavior that guide advanced clinical or community social work practice.
3. Identify, select, and ethically apply advanced skills in assessment, intervention, and client advocacy in clinical or community social work practice.
4. Base advanced clinical or community social work practice on empirical evidence and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions and programs with consideration of values and ethics.
5. Analyze policy and identify strategies for advocating for policy that promotes social and economic justice, eliminates oppression, fosters the public good, and enhances the welfare of clients.
6. Demonstrate commitment to lifelong learning, the development of knowledge, and the profession of social work.

Adopted Spring 2008

**UNIVERSITY OF DENVER
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
2011-2012 Academic Calendar ***

AUTUMN QUARTER 2011

Sept 5	Monday	University Closed—Labor Day
Sept 8	Thursday	New Student Orientation
Sept 12	Monday	Autumn Quarter begins Applications for graduation due for Winter Quarter 2012 candidates
Sept 14	Wednesday	Concentration year field begins
Sept 19	Monday	Foundation year field begins
Sept 21	Wednesday	New Student Field Orientation
Oct 5	Wednesday	Deadline for removal of “Incompletes” from Summer 2011
Oct 14	Friday	Syllabi for Winter 2012 courses due to faculty support from faculty
Oct 17	Monday	GSSW Advising for Winter Quarter Begins
Oct 21	Friday	Last day to change courses to no credit
Oct 24-28	Monday-Friday	DU Advising Week for Winter Quarter
Oct 31	Monday	Priority Registration for Winter Quarter—PhD students
Nov 2	Wednesday	Priority Registration for Winter Quarter—MSW students
Nov 3	Thursday	Last day to add or drop courses with approval (Fall Quarter)
Nov 18	Friday	Incomplete Grades received in Autumn Quarter 2010 <u>must</u> be removed
Nov 22	Tuesday	Last day of Autumn Quarter**
Nov 24-25	Thursday-Friday	University Closed—Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov 30	Wednesday	Fall Quarter grades due via web from faculty at 10:00 p.m.
Dec 7	Wednesday	Foundation year field ends
Dec 9	Friday	Concentration year field ends
Dec 26-Jan 2		University Closed—Winter Break

* This calendar is subject to change

** See course syllabi for beginning and ending sessions

WINTER QUARTER 2012

Jan 2	Monday	University Closed—New Year's Day (<i>observed</i>)
Jan 3	Tuesday	Winter Quarter begins Foundation year field begins Applications for graduation due for Spring Quarter 2012 candidates
Jan 4	Wednesday	Concentration year field begins
Jan 16	Monday	University Closed— <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>
Jan 25	Wednesday	Deadline for removal of “Incompletes” from Fall Quarter 2011
Jan 30	Monday	GSSW Advising for Spring Quarter begins
Feb 3	Friday	Syllabi for Spring Quarter 2012 due to faculty support from faculty
Feb 6-10	Monday-Friday	DU Advising Week for Spring Quarter
Feb 13	Monday	Last day to change courses to no credit Priority Registration for Spring Quarter—PhD students
Feb 15	Wednesday	Priority Registration for Spring Quarter—MSW students
Feb 27	Monday	Last day to add or drop courses (Winter Quarter) with approval
Mar 7	Wednesday	Foundation year field ends
Mar 9	Friday	Concentration year field ends
Mar 12	Monday	Incomplete Grades received in Winter Quarter 2011 <u>must</u> be removed
Mar 16	Saturday	Last day of Winter Quarter **
Mar 23	Friday	Grades due via web from faculty at 10:00 p.m.

* This calendar is subject to change

** See course syllabi for beginning and ending sessions

SPRING QUARTER 2012

<i>Mar 17-25</i>	<i>Saturday-Sunday</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>
Mar 26	Monday	Spring Quarter begins Applications for graduation due for Summer Quarter 2012 candidates Foundation year field begins
Mar 28	Wednesday	Concentration year field begins
Apr 16	Monday	Registration for Summer Session begins
Apr 18	Wednesday	Deadline for removal of “Incompletes” from Winter Quarter 2012
Apr 27	Friday	Syllabi for Summer Quarter 2012 due to faculty support from faculty
Apr 30	Monday	GSSW Advising for Fall Quarter begins
May 4	Friday	Last day to change courses to no credit
May 7-12	Monday-Saturday	DU Advising Week for Fall Quarter 2012
May 14	Monday	Priority Registration for Fall Quarter 2012—PhD students
May 16	Wednesday	Priority Registration for Fall Quarter 2012—MSW students
May 21	Monday	Last day to add or drop courses (Spring Quarter) with approval
June 1	Friday	Incomplete Grades received in Spring Quarter 2011 <u>must</u> be removed Foundation & concentration year field ends
May 28	Monday	<i>University Closed—Memorial Day</i>
June 7	Thursday	Last day of Spring Quarter**
<i>June 7</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>GSSW Graduation Celebration & Reception</i>
<i>June 8</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>University Commencement for Graduate Students</i>
June 14	Thursday	Grades due via web from faculty at 10:00 p.m.

* This calendar is subject to change

** See course syllabi for beginning and ending sessions

SUMMER SESSION 2012

June 18	Monday	DU Summer Session begins Applications for graduation due for Fall Quarter 2012 candidates
July 4	Wednesday	<i>University Closed—Independence Day</i>
July 10	Tuesday	Advanced Standing New Student Orientation
July 11	Wednesday	First day of classes for new Advanced Standing students
July 20	Friday	Syllabi for Fall 2012 due to faculty support from faculty
Aug 16	Thursday	Last day of Summer Session ** Incomplete Grades received in Summer Session 2011 <u>must</u> be removed
<i>Aug 17</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>University Commencement</i>
Aug 23	Thursday	Grades due via web from faculty at 10:00 p.m.

* This calendar is subject to change

** See course syllabi for beginning and ending sessions

GENERAL INFORMATION

FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION

The faculty of the Graduate School of Social Work (GSSW) has diverse skills, talents, and interests. This diversity adds to the educational process. In addition to teaching, members of the faculty serve as consultants, trainers, and participants in a variety of community agencies and projects. They also participate in University projects with faculty from other departments. Most faculty members serve students as advisers and members of educational committees.

Students in each course taught at GSSW complete anonymous evaluations of the course and the instructor each quarter. The results of the evaluations are provided to the instructor and to program administration in an effort to enhance the quality of teaching.

Students are encouraged to meet with faculty members. Faculty post regular office hours. Materials and messages may be left for faculty in the faculty/staff mailboxes in the lobby of Craig Hall and through e-mail.

Professional positions and roles at GSSW of particular importance to the MSW program and students are named. The names of individuals holding specific positions are noted.

Office of the Dean:

Dean Dr. James Herbert Williams, Professor

Executive Assistant to the Dean Anne Enderby

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Dr. Jean East, Associate Professor

Assistant Dean of Operations/Financial and Facilities Manager Linda Clark

Office of the Registrar:

Registrar Sarah Sweetman

Registrar Assistant Anna LeCuyer

Office of Admission:

Director Colin Schneider

Assistant to the Director of Admission/ Financial Aid Coordinator Linda Daubers

Admission Assistant Nick Ota-Wang

Field Education:

Director Ann Petrla

Associate Director Michele Sienkiewicz

Field Coordinators Kate Ross and Julianne Mitchell

Field Program Administrator Andy Downing

Field Program Assistant Anna LeCuyer

Technology:

Operations Manager Ryan Garrett

Audio Visual Specialist Ethan Crawford

Other Administrative Support:

MSW & PhD Program Support Mandy Jameson

Faculty Support Michelle Martinez

Receptionist Richard Bishop

Office Manager: Jennie Ratico

Director of Communications and Marketing: Debbie Jones

Development/Alumni:

Director of Development and Alumni Giving Lynda Ricketson

Development and Outreach Coordinator David Rossi

For more information, please see the GSSW Staff Directory at <http://www.du.edu/socialwork/about/contact/dept.html>.

Faculty:

Appointed faculty hold continuing appointments and are expected to engage in research or other scholarly endeavors, University service, and community service in addition to teaching and serving as advisers.

Adjunct faculty are instructors who are actively engaged in practice in addition to their teaching and are engaged by GSSW to teach specific courses based on their education, experience, and expertise.

For more information, please see the GSSW Faculty Directory at <http://www.du.edu/socialwork/faculty/directory/index.html>.

STUDENT GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

GSSW student groups and organizations are listed below. For more information, please visit <http://www.du.edu/socialwork/about/aboutgssw/studentOrganizations.html>.

Graduate Student Association Council (GSAC)—University-wide: gsac@du.edu

- **Graduate School of Social Work Student Association (GSA)**
gsswgsa@du.edu
- **Multicultural Social Justice Student Organization (MSJ)**
- **Queer Equality Alliance (QEA)**
- **Phi Alpha Honor Society**
- **Shades of Brown Alliance (SOBA)**
- **ECO Conscious**

In addition, the **Colorado Chapter** of the **National Association of Social Workers (NASW)** provides for student representation on its board of directors and encourages participation of student members in its committees.

GOVERNANCE AND STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE

Educational policy for the MSW Program is determined by the faculty of the whole and by standing committees comprised of faculty, students, administration, and community representatives. The committees listed below have student members who are selected each year by the GSSW Graduate Student Association. Students may attend, but not vote, at business meetings of the faculty of the whole. They have equal voting rights in all other committees. Faculty reserves the right to move meetings into executive session that excludes students when deemed appropriate.

Students who are interested in serving on a committee or want more information about a committee and its responsibilities should contact a GSA Representative.

- **Faculty/Community of the Whole** Marian Bussey, Chair
- **Field Advisory Board** Ann Petrila, Chair
- **MSW Curriculum Committee** Jean East, Chair
- **Multicultural and Diversity Council** William Cloud, GSSW Representative

FACILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

Room Reservations

The various conference rooms in Craig Hall may be reserved for special purposes, meetings, and/or

studying. Please contact Anne Enderby, Executive Assistant to the Dean, to reserve conference rooms. All academic rooms are scheduled by the Office of the Registrar. To request a classroom, please e-mail gsswregistrar@du.edu.

Student Lounge

The student lounges are located on the main floor to the left of the main entrance and on the second floor (above the reception area). They are available to students for social activities and other uses. A refrigerator and microwave are located in the kitchen behind the student lockers and are available for student use. Please clean up after yourself and do not leave food in the refrigerator beyond one week. The refrigerator will be cleaned out on a regular basis.

Student Information Area (including student mailboxes)

Important information is posted on the bulletin boards in the student lounge on the main floor. Students will each have a green hanging file folder in which mail will be placed. Students should check the information area **daily** when they are on campus for important messages from faculty and administration.

Faculty/Staff Mailboxes

In an effort to provide security for our mail we have recently had security doors installed on our mail distribution area in Craig Hall.

Students and others without keys can give their deliveries to the front desk attendant when the desk is staffed. When the desk is not staffed, you can deliver to the mail drop box (located at the end of the reception counter). Our receptionist will be distributing faculty/staff mail each morning. Faculty and staff also have keys to the drop box and can retrieve items at any time if they know they are expecting something from you.

Posting of Information

Postings are restricted to designated bulletin boards. Notices may not be posted on doors, windows or walls.

Guidelines for the Presence of Animals in Craig Hall

The Graduate School of Social Work acknowledges and respects the various roles animals play in the life of our school. They may be educators in classrooms, friends in offices or hard-working companions assisting others. However, like any other aspects of our school we must ensure safety standards. While bringing animals and pets to the building is a valuable opportunity to support the human- animal bond, the following policy is to ensure safety.

Students' personal pets are not allowed in Craig Hall. Exceptions may include assistance animals for persons with disabilities, animals as part of special educational events, and animals as part of the Animal-Assisted Social Work courses.

We thank pet owners/guardians for being considerate of the health, safety and comfort of the entire Graduate School of Social Work community.

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

Policies and Procedures

University Technology Services policies are available online at <http://www.du.edu/uts/policies>. Please read carefully the "Acceptable Use Policy for Computers and Network Systems." GSSW's Manager of

Technology Operations is authorized to take reasonable actions to implement and enforce usage and service policies and provide for security. Violations may result in disciplinary action from the University as outlined in the Acceptable Use Policy. If you have questions regarding technology policies, please contact Ryan Garrett, Manager of Technology Operations.

Computer Access

Penrose Library houses the University Technology Services lab where computers are available on a first come, first served basis. The computer lab is available for late-night use and offers access to SPSS, Microsoft Office, laser printing (color and monochrome), and other specialty software. The UTS computer lab also houses the UTS Helpdesk. Students may drop in for support regarding email, University accounts, and laptop services. GSSW highly recommends that students register their laptops with the UTS Helpdesk. This service is free and can aid in proper setup for use of network resources such as printing, anti-virus, and wireless access.

Craig Hall's Margaret Page Library has a small number of desktop computers available for student use. These machines have SPSS, Atlas TI, and Microsoft Office. The Margaret Page Library also houses a UTS laser printer that is connected to the Pioneer Card account. Students are given a nominal number of prints on their account each quarter.

Network connections for student laptop use are available throughout Craig Hall. Wired network connections require an Ethernet cable, which can be purchased in the University Bookstore. Wireless network connection support is provided by UTS Helpdesk.

Copiers/Fax Machines

Penrose@Driscoll has one self-service copier located near the Ballroom entrance for your convenience. The copier accepts cash, including coins and one and five dollar bills. Cost of a cash copy is 15 cents per page.

Copy cards can be purchased at the Value Transfer Station (VTS), located on the lower floor of Driscoll by the Information Desk, for 50 cents which is deducted from the initial deposit. Value Transfer Station accepts bills only; not coins nor credit cards. Photocopies made with the copy card are 10 cents per page. These cards are reusable and additional deposits can be made.

Fax machines are available for student use at the DU Quick Copy Center (located in the DU Bookstore). *Students may not use copiers or fax machines at GSSW.*

Videotaping

Videotape equipment is available for student use within the building only. Make arrangements for equipment with Ethan Crawford at Ethan.Crawford@du.edu.

DU E-Mail Accounts

According to University Policy:

*The University assigned email account shall be an official means of communication with all students, faculty, and staff. **Students are responsible for all information sent to them via their University assigned email account** (firstname.lastname@du.edu)*

It is important that students maintain their "preferred" off-campus address and email account to insure that important information from University offices, faculty and colleagues is received.

Faculty, staff and students are expected to check their email on a frequent and consistent basis in order to stay current with University-related communications. Faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility to recognize that certain communications may be time-critical.

For information about your DU login or password, please contact the University Technology Services (UTS) Help Desk at 303.871.4700.

Student Listserves

All students are subscribed to the gssw-student listserve with their DU e-mail address prior to the beginning of the term. Important information including announcements, GSSW events, registration information, field information, class cancellations, etc. will be distributed to students via this listserve. Additionally, students have the option of subscribing to two additional listserves: gssw-jobs and gssw-events. All job postings that are received by the school will be forwarded to the gssw-jobs listserve and the DU Career Center. The gssw-events listserve will include all events that are not directly related to or endorsed by the Graduate School of Social Work (including events in other departments on campus as well as other community events). *Please note that GSSW has no affiliation with events posted on this listserve; it is merely a means of providing you with information.*

Some important things to know about the gssw-jobs and gssw-events listserves:

1. You can subscribe or unsubscribe at any time.
2. You can subscribe and choose to have all postings sent to you in a single email once a week (digest mode):
 - You can enable digest mode when you subscribe.
 - Or, go to <https://listserve.du.edu/mailman/options/gssw-jobs> for the Jobs listserve and <https://listserve.du.edu/mailman/options/gssw-events> for the Events listserve. Login to your account, scroll down about halfway down to where it says “Set Digest Mode,” and click “On.” Then scroll all the way to the bottom and click on “submit my changes.”
 - *Caution: Students have had difficulty opening some attachments when using digest mode. If you are actively job-searching, we do not recommend the digest mode for gssw-jobs.*

To subscribe to the listserves:

1. Go to: <https://listserve.du.edu/mailman/listinfo>
2. Click on either *Gssw-events* and/or *Gssw-jobs* and provide the requested information.
3. You will receive an email asking you to confirm your subscription (make sure you confirm it or you will not be subscribed).
4. Then you will receive a confirmation email. Save it because it contains a link to where you can edit your options and unsubscribe.

WebCentral

Important information including the academic calendar and other deadlines will be posted weekly on the GSSW tab in WebCentral. Frequently used forms are also available to students by clicking on this tab. Students are responsible for the information made available via WebCentral, and should check for updates on a weekly basis. WebCentral also contains electronic Message Boards, Chat Rooms, and other resources for students to post information informally. You can access the WebCentral login page at <http://webcentral.du.edu>. If you are having difficulty accessing your WebCentral homepage, please contact the UTS Help Desk (303.871.4700) for assistance.

EDUCATIONAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Registration

Beginning with the second quarter of enrollment, priority registration for subsequent quarters occurs on Wednesday of the eighth week of the current quarter. For example, students will priority register for Winter Quarter on Wednesday of week eight in Fall Quarter. Registration times are assigned by credit hours, so students who are closest to completing degree requirements are allowed to register first. Registration times take into account credit hours earned (courses that are completed and for which the student has received a passing grade), credit hours in progress (courses for which students are currently registered), and credit received as transfer credit from other institutions. However, due to the format of our curriculum, many students have the same number of hours earned and hours registered in any given quarter. As a result, once times are assigned by credit hours, registration groups will further be divided alphabetically according to the first letter of the student's last name. The letter that receives the earliest time will be randomly assigned by the DU Registrar's Office and will change each quarter to ensure that the registration process is fair. Students who have a documented disability may be assigned an early registration time. Please contact Sarah Sweetman for more information. For the best course selection, it is recommended that students register at their assigned time whenever possible. If you have an unavoidable conflict at your assigned registration time, please notify the GSSW Registrar's Office (gsswregistrar@du.edu).

Considerations Regarding Class Scheduling and Field Instruction

One of the unique benefits of a social work education is the opportunity to combine classroom instruction with applied field instruction. It is important to remember our agency partners may have schedules that do not always correspond with our class schedule.

GSSW makes every effort to schedule classes in a way that affords our students as much flexibility as possible, but given the complexity of our curriculum and the varied schedules of our agencies, some time conflicts between classroom and field instruction are inevitable.

It is imperative that students be mindful of the needs of their field agencies when planning their class schedules. If you are having difficulty planning your course schedule given the requirements of your internship, please contact your academic adviser for guidance.

Add/Drop

Beginning at their priority registration time, students can drop 10-week courses via MyWeb through the first five business days of the first week of the quarter. Courses dropped through the first five business days of a quarter (Monday-Friday, summer session excluded) are deleted from the student's record. Tuition will be reversed through this time period (first 10% of the term), if applicable. GSSW follows University policies and deadlines related to add/drop and tuition refunds. Students are responsible for knowing this information prior to dropping courses. Add/drop deadlines and tuition refund information is available online at www.du.edu/registrar.

Following the first week of the quarter, students may drop 10-week courses via MyWeb through week six of the quarter. A grade of "W" will be recorded for courses officially dropped during the second through the sixth week of the quarter. A grade of "W" is not calculated in the student's GPA and is not punitive in any way. Students dropping courses after the first week of the quarter should check for refund information prior to dropping at www.du.edu/registrar or by contacting GSSW Registrar's Office.

A grade of “W” can be assigned after the sixth week of the quarter only when the student’s withdrawal was caused by reasons beyond his or her control and when the student’s work at the time of withdrawal was passing. The instructor and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs must approve any course dropped after the sixth week of the quarter. Students are not permitted to withdraw from courses after the eighth week of the quarter.

Students should review specific add/drop policies for summer courses at www.du.edu/registrar. **Summer intensive courses may not be dropped once the course has begun.**

As a professional courtesy, students are required to notify instructors of their intention to drop. When dropping a required course, students are also encouraged to review published class schedules and/or consult with an adviser prior to dropping the course to ensure that they are able to meet all requirements for graduation.

No Credit (NC)

To register and take a course for no credit, the student must obtain the written permission of the instructor and forward this approval to the GSSW Registrar. Permission can only be granted if there is space available in the course and no students on a waitlist at the time of the request. Tuition is charged and the course appears on the student’s transcript with “NC” being recorded instead of a grade. In addition, the student and instructor must design a learning contract setting forth course expectations, including attendance, actual participation, and completion of assigned readings. An instructor may require a student who does not adhere to the learning contract to withdraw from the course. No credit approval will not be granted by the DU Registrar until after the first class session for that quarter. A “NC” cannot be changed back to credit once registered. The “NC” approval must be granted before the end of the sixth week of the quarter.

Auditing

DU students who are registered for eight credit hours in a quarter may, with the approval of the instructor, audit a course. No tuition is charged and no record of the course is made. Approval for auditing privileges is granted only after the formal registration period, only where space is available, and at the discretion of the instructor.

Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend *all meetings of a class*, including the scheduled hours for field instruction, for which they are registered. Instructors are expected to establish attendance requirements for their classes and may, at their discretion, use class attendance as one factor in assigning a grade for a class. Participation in official University activities, personal emergencies, and major religious observances (see below) are all considered valid reasons for absence.

Please visit http://www.du.edu/studentlife/religiouslife/DU_religious_accommodations_policy.html for more information about excused absences for religious observance. Students who miss more than two class sessions may not be allowed to pass that course. *It is the responsibility of the student to check with the instructor regarding any absence from class and to make arrangements regarding the work missed.* The responsibility for completing all work in the course rests with the student.

GRADES AND GRADING

Grading Policy

Grades are based on competence. **Letter grades** are used as follows for all instruction other than field instruction:

91-100	A	94-100 A (4.0) (An A+ cannot be given.) 91-93 A- (3.7)
81-90	B	88-90 B+ (3.3) 84-87 B (3.0) 81-83 B- (2.7)
71-80	C	78-80 C+ (2.3) 74-77 C (2.0) 71-73 C- (1.7)
70 and below	F	

Criteria are as follows:

- A - Excellent work (91-100)
- B - Good work - meets course expectations (81-90)
- C - Poor work - minimally meets course expectations (71-80)
- F - Failing work (70 and below)

Expectations concerning objectives, attendance, examinations, and evaluation of student performance will be stated in each course syllabus and discussed during the first class session of each course. Grades of “Pass” or “No Pass” are not given, except in field internship. No “D” grades are given as final grades.

Grades of “**Pass**” or “**No Pass**” are assigned for field internship (SOWK 4960, SOWK 4961, and SOWK 4950). These grades are not included in computing the student’s GPA. Grading criteria for field internships are set forth in the *GSSW Field Manual*. A grade of “No Pass” will automatically result in a formal student conduct review or termination hearing.

Grade Reports

Students may view their grades online via MyWeb. Grades are available via MyWeb approximately 10 days after the close of the quarter. If a hardcopy report is needed, students must submit a request in the Fall Quarter at <http://www.du.edu/registrar>.

Repetition of Courses

A student receiving a grade of “F” in a required course is required to repeat that course. A course in which a student has a passing grade, that is “C-” or better, cannot be repeated. When a course is repeated in which a grade of “F” was received, the student pays the current tuition rate and the course will be counted as part of the total quarterly course load. The “F” grade, and the new grade for the repetition of the course, will both be counted in the total grade point average. A student may only repeat a required course once, and a student who fails a required course twice will be terminated from the program. A student receiving a grade of “F” in a non-required course may earn the credit hours lost by enrolling in other elective courses.

Incomplete (I)

A grade of Incomplete may, at the discretion of the instructor, be assigned for a quantitative deficiency in the completion of requirements for a course if the deficiency is due to illness or other excusable conditions beyond the control of the student. It may not be used to allow a student with poor performance to retake an examination or complete additional work to enhance the quality of the student's performance.

According to University policy:

*A grade of incomplete "I" is a temporary grade which may be given at the instructor's discretion to a student only when illness, necessary absence, or other **reasons beyond the control of the student** prevent completion of course requirements by the end of the academic term.*

Incomplete grades may only be given in the following circumstances:

- The student's work to date is passing;
- Attendance has been satisfactory through at least 60% of the term;
- An illness or other extenuating circumstance legitimately prevents completion of the required work by the due date;
- The required work may reasonably be completed in an agreed-upon time frame;
- The incomplete is not given as a substitute for a failing grade;
- The incomplete is not based solely on a student's failure to complete work or as a means of raising his or her grade by doing additional work after the grade report time;
- The student initiates the request for an incomplete before the end of the academic term;
- The instructor and student complete the "Application for Incomplete Grade" form (available from GSSW Registrar) before the end of the academic term.

Appropriate grades must be assigned in other circumstances. A failing grade and last date of attendance should be recorded for students who cease attending class without authorization from the instructor and the GSSW Registrar. Students who are unable to complete a course and who do not meet these circumstances should consider dropping the course.

The following provisions for Incomplete grades apply:

- The "Application for Incomplete Grade" form may be obtained on the web at www.du.edu/registrar or from the GSSW Registrar.
- Instructors must submit a copy of this form to the GSSW Registrar when the incomplete grade is assigned.
- The instructor will also enter the deadline date for the completion of work in the grading system, as well as a default grade.
- The default grade is the grade that the student will earn if the deadline determined by the instructor passes and no additional work is submitted by the student.
- **GSSW policy requires that the papers or projects necessary to make up an incomplete be submitted to the instructor by the fourth Wednesday of the next quarter unless the instructor has stipulated a different date for completion of work. Per University policy, incompletes cannot extend beyond one academic year.**
- If the outstanding assignments are submitted by the deadline, the instructor will submit the grade change via MyWeb.
- The student will be notified that the final grade has been posted via WebCentral.
- An incomplete grade may not be considered passing for purposes of determining academic standing, financial aid eligibility, or other purposes.
- Notation of the original incomplete status of the grade remains on the student's transcript along with the final grade.

- An incomplete should not be assigned when it is necessary for the student to attend additional class meetings in order to complete the course assignments. Students who receive an incomplete grade in a course must not reregister for the course in order to remove the incomplete.
- Incompletes are not assigned for field practicum.

A student with outstanding incomplete(s) must consult with his or her adviser. Students having more than one incomplete may not, at the discretion of the adviser, be allowed to register for a full academic course load. The number of hours for which such a student may enroll will depend on the number of incomplete grades, the length of the incompletes, the balance of the student's academic record, and other pertinent factors.

In Progress (IP)

Only SOWK 4960, SOWK 4961, and SOWK 4950 may remain in progress (IP) beyond the final day of the academic term. Typically, the field internship remains in progress when a student has not completed the required number of clock hours in a given quarter, but may also occur for other reasons as set forth in the *GSSW Field Manual*. When a course remains in progress, it will be changed to either a "Pass" or a "No Pass" when the circumstances resulting in the "IP" are resolved. Unlike the case when a grade of "I" is assigned, the "IP" does not remain on the student's record, and the student does not need to submit a form to change the grade. At the discretion of the Director of Field Education, students may not be registered for subsequent terms of field until IP is resolved. *An IP in field may affect the student's tuition refund and/or eligibility for financial aid in subsequent quarters.*

Change of Grade

Grades turned in by instructors at the end of the quarter are final and are not subject to change by reason of revision of judgment on the part of the instructor. The instructor of a course is the only one who can change a grade for a student in that course and only if such change is warranted due to errors in computation. Grades cannot be changed on the basis of a second trial, such as a new examination or additional work undertaken or completed after the grade report has been turned in. In the event of grade error, the faculty member must initiate a Correction of Error in Grading through the Faculty tab in WebCentral. The request requires the electronic approval of the Dean and will be copied to the GSSW Registrar for informational purposes. Any correction of the grade must take place no later than the quarter following the one in which the grade was given.

Grade Appeals

Informal communication between faculty and students will usually lead to mutually satisfactory resolution of disputes about grades. According to University Policy:

Grades submitted by instructors at the end of the quarter are final and are not subject to change by reason of revision of judgment on the part of the instructor. An instructor of a course is the only individual who can change a grade. Grades cannot be changed on the basis of second trial, such as a new examination or additional work undertaken or completed after the grade report has been turned in to the Office of the Registrar.

Grade appeals will be accepted by the GSSW Dean only when based on problems of process. Students must be able to demonstrate instructor bias and/or arbitrary grading methods. Grade appeals based on differences in judgment or opinion concerning academic performance will not be considered.

Leave of Absence/Withdrawing From the Program

A student who decides to take a leave of absence or withdraw from the program should discuss the decision with his or her adviser. If the student does decide to take a leave or withdraw, the student must notify the GSSW Registrar and complete the required paperwork immediately, as there may be consequences regarding transfer of credit and/or financial implications. In addition, the student must officially drop all

courses currently enrolled. **An instructor *may not* give approval to drop if the student is failing the course.** A leave of absence cannot exceed three consecutive quarters or the student will be formally withdrawn and required to submit an application for readmission (see below).

If the leave of absence is for medical reasons, please see GSSW Registrar for University policies and procedures regarding Medical Stop Out.

Readmission to the Program

Students returning from a leave of absence need to notify the GSSW Registrar of their intended return as early as possible. All degree requirements, including completion of the degree within four years of first admission, must still be met. Students not enrolled in the program for four consecutive quarters, including summer, must submit a readmission application to the GSSW Registrar.

If the student is readmitted, the following steps must be taken as soon as possible:

1. Meet with the Director of Field Education and the academic adviser.
2. Submit the online course planning worksheet indicating the student's choice of concentration (if entering the concentration year) and the student's intended course plan.
3. Provide a written plan to both the academic adviser and the field team that includes:
 - a. What has the student learned from the time they left GSSW to the time that they are returning?
 - b. What does the student need for a successful internship search?
 - c. What is the time-line for obtaining an internship?

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Student Concerns Regarding Courses and/or Instructors

If a student has a concern regarding a course or an instructor, it is the student's responsibility to follow this specific process that demonstrates professionalism in voicing that concern:

1. The student should speak directly with the instructor.
2. If the concern is not alleviated by this discussion, the student should meet with his/her adviser who can act as a mediator.
3. If the problem persists, the student should immediately contact the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Student Papers and Projects

Instructors may require students to submit assignments electronically. It is the student's responsibility to maintain a record of electronic assignments and to ensure that papers submitted electronically are received by the instructor.

Papers will be returned to students in one of the ways listed below unless the student specifically requests an alternative option (e.g., specifically requests that an instructor give a classmate a paper to give to the student):

- Handed directly to the student in class
- Handed directly to the student in the instructor's office
- Placed in the student mail folder in an envelope with the student's name on the envelope
- Placed in the student mail folder, folded over, and stapled or taped on three sides, with the student's name on the outside
- Mailed to the student in a stamped, self-addressed envelope

Projects and papers in student mail folders will be discarded approximately 30 days following students' graduation.

Scholarly Language and Writing

The GSSW faculty acknowledges the importance of non-exclusionary language in recognition of gender equity. The faculty therefore is committed to the use of non-exclusionary language in written documents and in the classroom. Students are urged to commit themselves to the use of non-exclusionary language in the classroom and written assignments.

Formal papers must be prepared in accordance with the American Psychological Association (APA) style of reference and citation. Students should refer to either the *Publication Manual of American Psychological Association* (6th edition) or *The Concise Rules of APA Style* (also published by the APA). Students who have questions or concerns about using APA are encouraged to contact the University Writing Center at 303.871.7456.

Students with Disabilities

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a person with a disability has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Short-term, non-chronic conditions are not included under this Act. Any student having a documented disability as defined by ADA guidelines has the right to reasonable accommodations, unless those accommodations impose an undue hardship on the University, alter programs, or compromise the integrity of the pursued degree. Essential components of academic course objectives or essential functions of the GSSW internship experience cannot be altered.

It is the responsibility of the student to initiate the request for accommodations, make his/her needs known, and provide appropriate expert documentation regarding the disability **before accommodations can be granted.**

Students who have a disability protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who want to request accommodations must make an appointment with the Disability Services Program (DSP) 303.871.2372, located in Driscoll South, Suite 30. The *Handbook for Students with Disabilities* is available online at www.du.edu/studentlife/disability/dsp. The Handbook provides guidance on DU policy and procedures concerning students with disabilities.

After DSP has determined and notified a student of the accommodation(s) to be afforded, the student must contact his or her instructors concerning how the accommodation(s) will be implemented. **Please note that accommodations cannot be granted retroactively.** Undiagnosed or undocumented disabilities cannot be the basis for grade appeals. Students cannot petition grades received as a result of not using accommodations or following appropriate procedures to request accommodations. Documentation must be current and also meet current University guidelines, which can be obtained from University Disability Services.

Disclosure of Student Information

The University of Denver complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), also known as the “Buckley Amendment.” Students have a right to inspect their educational records at the University and to request amendment to those records if they believe them to be inaccurate. The FERPA law and its implementing regulations may be reviewed in the Office of the Registrar, University Hall, Garden Level. Additional information is also available at www.du.edu/privacy.

Directory Information

The law provides that “Directory Information” may be released without the consent of the student unless she/he has specifically asked that prior consent be obtained. The University of Denver designates the following student information as “Directory Information:”

The student’s full name, address (local and home/permanent), telephone number, campus electronic mail address, digitalized I.D. photograph, date and place of birth, major field of study, full-time or part-time status, class, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, anticipated date of graduation, degrees and awards received, and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student.

Students who want their directory information withheld from public disclosure must annually submit to the Office of the Registrar a ***Request to Withhold Information*** form, available from the [Office of the Registrar](#). This form must be completed each year by October 1.

University of Denver Disclosure Policies

Academic and administrative offices at the University with a “legitimate educational interest,” as defined by FERPA, may receive all student data, including mailing labels, regardless of any restrictions. In addition, a student’s record may be released in compliance with a court order or subpoena, and student information may be released for health or emergency reasons.

University selection committees, which sometimes include students as committee members, will select students for membership in honor societies or for other awards or recognition. Students may request that students on selection committees not view academic record information.

Graduate School of Social Work Disclosure Policy

GSSW will not provide third parties with home addresses or telephone numbers of social work students. Response to requests, either by telephone or in person, will be, "I can take your name and number and ask the student to call you." The same policy holds true for faculty and staff, unless they have authorized disclosure of this information. Students should be aware, however, that while GSSW will not disclose home addresses or telephone numbers of students, the University may do so. Students who do not want this information disclosed must submit the *Request to Withhold Information* form referenced above.

Student Role in Program Assessment

In order to ensure that the MSW program continues to meet the highest standards of excellence while meeting the needs of our students, as well as the community we serve, GSSW takes the student role in program assessment very seriously. Students will be required to participate in program assessment throughout their degree program by completing surveys and submitting papers for review by faculty and staff who are not assigning course grades. No identifying information is considered or retained.

Student Responsibilities Regarding Communication with Graduate School of Social Work

Using E-mail as Official University Communication (Per University Policy)

The University assigned email account shall be an official means of communication with all students, faculty, and staff. Students are responsible for all information sent to them via their University assigned email address. Students are responsible for ensuring that all information, including attachments, is transmitted in its entirety to the preferred account.

All faculty, staff, and students are required to maintain an @du.edu e-mail address. The University sends much of its correspondence solely through email. This includes policy announcements, emergency notices, meeting and event notifications, course syllabi and requirements, and correspondence between faculty, staff, and students. Such correspondence is mailed only to the @du.edu address.

Faculty, staff, and students are expected to check their email on a frequent and consistent basis in order to stay current with University-related communications. Faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility to recognize that certain communications may be time-critical.

WebCentral

Important information including deadlines, event announcements, and frequently used forms will be posted weekly on the GSSW Student Group in WebCentral. Students are responsible for the information made available in WebCentral, and should check for updates on a weekly basis. You can access the WebCentral login page at <http://webcentral.du.edu>. WebCentral is also a useful tool for students to communicate with each other and with the GSSW community.

Student Information Center/Student Mail Folders

Important information and forms are also posted on the bulletin board and wall racks next to the student mail folders in the student lounge. Students should check their mailbox daily when they are on campus for important messages and/or returned papers from the faculty and administration.

Contact Information

It is very important that students maintain their mailing address and phone number on MyWeb. Please also be sure to provide emergency contact information on MyWeb in the event that an emergency occurs while you are on campus.

CURRICULUM

The Master of Social Work curriculum at the University of Denver is organized into a foundation curriculum and a concentration curriculum in clinical and community practice. The foundation curriculum, premised on a liberal arts undergraduate education, provides the generalist base of social work practice. The concentration curriculum prepares students for entry into advanced, autonomous practice with individuals, couples, and families (clinical practice) or administration, community practice, policy analysis, and policy development (community practice). The defining themes in both the foundation curriculum and concentration curriculum are progressive ideals of equality, social and economic justice, and multiculturalism. Consistent with our mission, content concerning social work values and ethics, diversity, and promotion of social and economic justice is infused throughout the curriculum.

Ninety credit hours are required for the MSW degree. For students admitted with advanced standing, 60 credit hours are required (the remaining 30 credit hours are applied to the student's transcript as a block transfer).

Foundation Curriculum

The foundation curriculum is premised on the belief that there is a body of knowledge and skills essential to effective practice by all social workers. The foundation courses and field internship are designed to instill the generalist base of professional social work practice. All courses in the foundation are required. The Field Education Team, based on information provided by students concerning their experience and interests, assists students in finding appropriate field placements.

Concentration Curriculum

At the end of the foundation year (or at the beginning of the advanced standing program), students must select a concentration. Students must meet the following requirements for admission to the concentration curriculum: (1) satisfactory performance in foundation courses; (2) satisfactory performance in the foundation field practicum; and (3) professional and ethical behavior in the field practicum and in the classroom. Once these requirements are met, students will be formally advanced to candidacy.

Concentration Year

The concentration year prepares students for advanced clinical practice with individuals, couples, families, and small groups, or for advanced community practice in administration, community development and organizing, and policy analysis and advocacy. Thus, during this second year, students choose a concentration in either *Clinical Practice* or *Community Practice*. Then, within the Clinical Practice Concentration, students choose one of four tracks, or areas of specialization: (1) the *Child Welfare* track, (2) the *Families* track, (3) the *High-Risk Youth* track, or (4) the *Adulthood and Late Life Challenges* track. Within the Community Practice Concentration, students will follow the *Leadership for Community and Organizational Practice* track.

Seven required courses make up each of these concentration year tracks: an overview course, two advanced skills courses, a policy course, two research courses, one track elective, and field internship. Additionally, two-year students must take three elective courses from any of the other tracks, from any of the certificate programs, or from general elective course offerings. Advanced standing students may be required to take up to eight elective courses to fulfill the 60 credit hour requirement for the degree.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND COURSE SCHEDULING OPTIONS

Two-Year Program

The requirements that two-year students must meet are presented below. Ninety credit hours are required for graduation.

Foundation Year (45 credit hours)

All courses in the foundation year are required. The requirements are therefore presented in the form of a sample course schedule for the year for a full-time student. Part-time study is an option.

Fall Quarter (16 credit hours)

- SOWK 4001: Social Work Skills Across Client Systems: Lab (3 credit hours)
- SOWK 4020: Social Work Practice (3 credit hours)
- SOWK 4118: History of Social Welfare and Social Work (3 credit hours)
- SOWK 4132: Multicultural Social Work Practice (3 credit hours)
- SOWK 4950: Foundation Field Practicum (4 credit hours)

Winter Quarter (13 or 16* credit hours)

- SOWK 4002: Clinical Theories and Practice I (3 credit hours)
- SOWK 4007: Community Theories and Practice I (3 credit hours)
- SOWK 4120: Social Welfare Policy (3 credit hours)
- SOWK 4XXX*: Elective (see page 27 for approved electives)
- SOWK 4950: Foundation Field Practicum (4 credit hours)

Spring Quarter (13 or 16* credit hours)

- SOWK 4003: Clinical Theories and Practice II (3 credit hours)
- SOWK 4008: Community Theories and Practice II (3 credit hours)
- SOWK 4201: Research Methods and Design (3 credit hours)
- SOWK 4XXX*: Elective (see page 27 for approved electives)
- SOWK 4950: Foundation Field Practicum (4 credit hours)

*Students are required to take one elective course in their foundation Year. This elective must come from the following list of approved foundation Year electives (all offered in the Winter and/or Spring Quarters). Most courses on this list are offered on Thursdays or Fridays. Please check schedules carefully as some offerings may conflict with other required courses and/or the schedule of your field agency.

The following courses are approved to meet the elective requirement for foundation year students:

- SOWK 4315: Building Resilience: Healthy Development in Children & Adolescents
- SOWK 4330: Assessment of Mental Health & Drug Use in Adults
- SOWK 4430: Drug Dependency Interventions
- SOWK 4670: Policy Analysis and Development
- SOWK 4712: Law of Family & Child
- SOWK 4721: Existential Social Work Practice
- SOWK 4725: Mind-Body Connections in Social Work Practice
- SOWK 4730: Cognitive Approaches to Social Work Practice
- SOWK 4741: Social Work with the Chronically/Terminally Ill
- SOWK 4765: International Social Development
- SOWK 4971: Social Work Response to Postwar Bosnia
- SOWK 4971: Disrupting Privilege Through Anti-Oppressive Practice

Concentration Year (45 credit hours)

During the concentration year, students must complete the requirements presented below. Students work carefully with their academic adviser and the field team in selecting a concentration year field internship and concentration track to assure an experience that meets students' professional goals and educational needs, as well as graduation requirements. Planning begins in the late winter or early spring quarter of the foundation year.

In the event that a student wants to change concentration after s/he has begun concentration course work or field internship, additional courses and hours of field internship will be required. A change in concentration must be discussed with and approved by the student's adviser and the Director of Field Education. The student must notify the GSSW Registrar of a change in concentration.

Track Format

Concentration year students must take a total of 36 credit hours from required classes and field internship. The student has 9 credits which are fulfilled with elective courses. These electives can be chosen from (1) their selected track, (2) a different track, (3) a list of electives, or (4) extra field hours (with the approval of the Director of Field). Students need to be aware that if they change tracks, all requirements in the new track must be met.

Concentration Year	Number of Classes	Total Credit Hours
➤ Required Courses in Selected Track*	7	21
➤ 3 Electives (may choose from track, other track, electives)*	3	9
➤ Field Internship*	--	15
Number of Classes Total *= Number of Credits Total *= Number of Hours Total *	10	45

*Please see additional course requirements for advanced standing students on page 33.

International Off-Campus Courses

GSSW believes in the importance of global education and has developed several experiential courses which allow students to experience the role of social work in different cultures. Space in these courses is limited. If student interest in a particular course exceeds maximum enrollment, a lottery will be conducted by the GSSW Registrar to determine registration priority. Additionally, the instructor of the course may require an application and/or interview prior to permitting students to register. International off-campus courses are part of the student's Fall or Spring Quarter course load and tuition is billed accordingly. Courses meet on campus during the Fall or Spring Quarter for at least 3 mandatory on-campus sessions before departing for travel during the Winter or Summer Interterm. Students must be in good standing to participate.

Please also remember that all international off-campus courses are contingent upon University approval. The University determines the safety of international destinations based on worldwide risk factors. These courses may be canceled at any time if the University deems the intended destination to be unsafe for students and faculty.

Families Track

The Families Track provides students with knowledge and skills to work from a family systems perspective with a wide variety of clients. “Families” are defined broadly to include biological lineages, affiliational families, and communities. Social workers using this perspective may intervene with individuals, couples, several members of a family, peer groups, work associates, school classrooms, and organizations. Clients are viewed as being part of a larger context, situated in multiple social locations (e.g., race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ability, and citizenship status). This context is where assessment and intervention is directed. The track prepares students interested in a broad based academic experience to work in a variety of settings with adults, adolescents, and children (e.g., mental health and family services agencies, schools, treatments centers, and community agencies). Social workers using this perspective focus on strengthening and empowering families and other systems.

The Families Track includes an overview course, a minimum of two skills courses designed to provide assessment, intervention and clinical skills to students working with families, a policy course, one track elective, and three open elective courses. Two practice evaluation courses also are required. The Track has field placements with agencies or programs offering a broad array of services to families.

Overview Course (required)

SOWK 4320 - Theories and Practice of Family Systems Therapy

Skills Courses (required)

SOWK 4420 - Strategies & Techniques of Family Therapy (pre-req SOWK 4320)

&

SOWK 4505 – Social Work Practice with Couples

Policy Course

SOWK 4630 - Family Policies & Services

Track Electives

(at least one elective from this list is required)

SOWK 4330 – Assessment of Mental Health & Drug Use in Adults

SOWK 4410 – Prevention & Treatment of Adolescent Substance Abuse

SOWK 4700 - Brief Practice Modalities

SOWK 4710 – Domestic Violence Interventions

SOWK 4721 - Existential Social Work

SOWK 4790 – Human Sexuality

Open Electives

Three courses selected in consultation with faculty advisers (additional electives required for students with advanced standing).

Research Courses

Two research courses will be taken in sequence during the student’s Winter and Spring Quarters. The research will be conducted in the student’s field placement.

Child Welfare Track

The Child Welfare Track prepares professional social workers for work with children and families served in public and private child welfare agencies. Most of these children and families have experienced child maltreatment. Many of these families are also experiencing poverty, domestic violence, mental illness, and substance abuse. Intervention is focused on promoting the safety, permanence, and well-being of children who have suffered, or are at risk of, maltreatment; building individual and family strengths; and preventing and alleviating the consequences of child maltreatment. Several theoretical orientations support child welfare interventions, including crisis and attachment theory, family systems theory, cognitive/social learning theory and safety-focused containment theory.

The Child Welfare Track includes an overview course focused on the causes and developmental consequences of child maltreatment and two required courses designed to help students develop the knowledge and skills needed to provide services to children and families at intake, in their own homes, and when children are in foster care, adoption and guardianship. Additionally, all students will take a policy course, one track elective, at least three additional electives, and two practice evaluation research courses. Most field placements take place in a county department of human services or in a private agency working in partnership with county departments.

Overview Course (required)

SOWK 4305: Child Maltreatment: Causes & Developmental Consequences

Skills Courses (required)

*SOWK 4415: Intake & Family Based Services: Assessment & Intervention
&
SOWK 4416: Foster Care & Adoption: Assessment & Intervention*

Policy Course

SOWK 4600: Child Welfare Policies & Services

Track Electives

(at least one elective from this list is required)

SOWK 4320: Theories and Practice of Families Systems Therapy

SOWK 4700: Brief Practice Modalities

*SOWK 4705: Forensic Orientation in Social Work Practice:
Assessment and Interventions with High-Risk Offenders*

SOWK 4710: Domestic Violence Interventions

SOWK 4712: Law of Family and Child

SOWK 4730: Cognitive Approaches to Social Work Practice

SOWK 4430: Drug Dependency Interventions

SOWK 4315: Building Resilience: Healthy Development in Childhood & Adolescence

Open Electives

Three courses selected in consultation with faculty advisers (additional electives required for students with advanced standing).

Research Courses

Two research courses will be taken in sequence during the student's Winter and Spring Quarters. The research will be conducted in the student's field placement.

High-Risk Youth Track

Adolescence is a time of significant emotional, social, physical, and psychological change. Most adolescents move successfully through their teenage years and go on to be well-adjusted adults. However, for some young people, adolescence is a period of life characterized by high-risk and antisocial behaviors such as drug abuse, school failure, delinquency, and violence. Courses and field placements in the High-Risk Youth Track seek to convey knowledge about the causes of adolescent problem behaviors and to teach intervention skills and strategies necessary to prevent and treat such problems. Policies aimed at preventing or controlling problems during adolescence are also examined. The Track utilizes a risk and protective factor framework to provide an overall framework for understanding, preventing, and treating problem behaviors. Special attention is given to racial, ethnic, and gender differences in the initiation and persistence of adolescent problems. Content in the High-Risk Youth Track addresses the needs and concerns of youth between 11 and 20 years of age.

The High-Risk Youth Track includes one overview course, a minimum of two skills courses designed to provide intervention and clinical skills to students, one policy course, one “track elective,” and three open elective courses. Two practice evaluation courses also are required.

Overview Course (required)

SOWK 4315: Building Resilience: Healthy Development in Childhood & Adolescence

Skills Courses (required)

*SOWK 4410: Prevention & Treatment of Adolescent Substance Abuse
&*

SOWK 4720: Prevention & Treatment of Juvenile Delinquency & Youth Violence

Policy Course (required)

SOWK 4610: Policies & Programs for High-Risk Youth

Track Electives

(at least one elective from this list is required)

SOWK 4715: School Based Prevention & Early Intervention Strategies for High-Risk Youth

SOWK 4712: Law of Family & Child

SOWK 4730: Cognitive Approaches to Social Work Practice

SOWK 4700: Brief Practice Modalities

SOWK 4320: Theories & Practice of Families Systems Therapy

SOWK 4500: Mental Health Interventions with Children

SOWK 4971: Empirically-Supported Interventions in Child & Adolescent Mental Health

Open Electives

Three courses selected in consultation with faculty advisers (additional electives required for students with advanced standing).

Research Courses

Two research courses will be taken in sequence during the student's Winter and Spring Quarters. The research will be conducted in the student's field placement.

Adulthood and Late Life Challenges Track

The Adult/Late Life Challenges Track focuses on normative developmental processes and challenging problems that are encountered frequently during the adult years, such as problems with mental health, drug dependence, health, and aging. The Track provides advanced theory and research on adult development, a choice of policy courses, and two required skills courses. Elective track courses include mental health interventions from several theoretical perspectives--brief modalities, cognitive, existential, interpersonal/psychodynamic, and strengths/empowerment approaches in community mental health; and intervention courses in drug dependency, health care settings, aging, and chronic and terminal illness. Two practice evaluation courses also are required. Field education placements are offered in adult mental health settings, drug prevention and intervention programs; health and medical settings, and programs and services for seniors.

Overview Course (required)

SOWK 4345: *Perspectives on Adulthood & Late Life*

Skills Course # 1 (required):

SOWK 4330 - *Assessment of Mental Health & Drug Use in Adults*

Skills Course # 2 (required, pick one)

SOWK 4775 - Social Work with Groups or

SOWK 4730: Cognitive Approaches to Social Work Practice or

SOWK 4735: Psychotherapeutic Interventions with Adults or

SOWK 4445 - Assessment & Interventions in Aging

Policy Course (Required, choose one from the following two options):

SOWK 4640 - Mental Health & Drug Dependency Policies & System

or

SOWK 4650 – Social Policies & Social Services in Health and Aging

Track Electives (at least one elective from this list is required)

SOWK 4430: Drug Dependency Interventions

SOWK 4445 - Assessment & Interventions in Aging

SOWK 4700: Brief Practice Modalities

SOWK 4723: Interventions Strategies in Health Care

SOWK 4735: Psychotherapeutic Interventions with Adults

SOWK 4741: Social Work with the Chronically/Terminally Ill

SOWK 4721: Existential Social Work

SOWK 4730: Cognitive Approaches to Social Work Practice

Open Electives

Three courses selected in consultation with faculty advisers (additional electives required for students with advanced standing).

Research Courses

Two research courses will be taken in sequence during the student's Winter and Spring Quarters. The research will be conducted in the student's field placement.

Leadership for Community and Organizational Practice Track

Community social work practice seeks to meet people's needs through social change at the community, organizational, societal, and global levels. Macro practitioners work with people adversely affected by social and economic systems with the aim of solving community problems and creating community well-being. The principal skill of macro practice is leadership; each practitioner must find his/her own most effective leadership style and be able to apply it with multiple constituencies. Community practice includes community social work (planning, community development, community organizing), organizational social work (administration, program development, organizational development), societal social work (social policy development and advocacy), and international social development (policy and practice research in an international setting).

The Leadership for Community and Organizational Practice Track includes an overview course and a minimum of two required skills courses designed to provide students with state-of-the-art knowledge about leadership for advanced practice in communities and organizations with a theoretical orientation on transformational leadership theory and skills. Additionally, all students will take a policy course, one track elective, and three open elective courses. Two evaluation courses are also required. Most field placements take place in non-profit and public organizations where students are encouraged to take leadership roles.

Overview Course (required)

SOWK 4340 - Theories of Leadership for Social Work Practice

Skills Courses (required)

*SOWK 4435 - Empowerment Practice with Diverse Communities
&
SOWK 4525 - Human Service Program Development & Administrative Practice*

Policy Course

SOWK 4670: Policy Analysis & Development

Or

Any of the clinical field of practice policy courses (SOWK 4600, 4610, 4630, 4640, or 4650)

Track Electives (one elective is required)

SOWK 4760: Financial Management & Fundraising

SOWK 4765: International Social Development

SOWK 4761: Strategic Planning for Human Services

SOWK 4660: Social Policy Advocacy

SOWK 4770: Social Work Supervision

SOWK 4971: Community Economic Development

Open Electives

Three courses selected in consultation with faculty advisers (additional electives required for students with advanced standing).

Research Courses

Two research courses will be taken in sequence during the student's Winter and Spring Quarters. The research will be conducted in the student's field placement.

Admission with Advanced Standing

60 GSSW credit hours are required for advanced standing students for graduation. Advanced standing students must begin study in the summer.

Advanced standing students must complete all requirements for the concentration year outlined above. In addition, they must complete the following two courses and three additional electives of their choosing:

- SOWK 4299: Advanced Standing Seminar (3 credit hours)
- SOWK 4132: Multicultural Social Work Practice (3 credit hours)

Part-Time Study

A part-time student is any student who takes longer, by design, than two years (6 quarters) to complete the two-year program or one year (4 quarters) to complete the advanced standing program. All students, both two-year and advanced standing, have the option of part-time study. *Students, however, must complete all degree requirements within four years of the time that they first enroll.* In order that part-time students take all courses in sequence, they must meet with their adviser at the time of registration and during each following quarter, to develop and review their educational plan. Arrangements for foundation and concentration field placements are made in consultation with the field team.

Students may change from full-time to part-time study. Students may also change from part-time to full-time study. Such students must inform their current adviser, the GSSW Registrar, the Financial Aid Coordinator, and the Field Office.

The following requirements apply to part-time study:

- All requirements must be completed within four years of beginning study.
- Part-time students must register for a minimum of two courses in any given quarter in which they are enrolled, excluding summer sessions, observing all pre-requisites and co-requisites.
- The courses, Social Work Skills Across Client Systems: Lab (SOWK 4001) and Social Work Practice (SOWK 4020), must be taken concurrent with or prior to the foundation field internship.
- History of Social Welfare and Social Work (SOWK 4118) is a prerequisite for Social Welfare Policy (SOWK 4120).
- The prerequisite for SOWK 4960 (Concentration Field Practicum: Clinical Practice) and SOWK 4961 (Concentration Field Practicum: Community Practice) is completion of foundation year course work and field internship.

Many educationally sound part-time scheduling plans are possible. Specific plans are worked out with the student's academic adviser. Presented below is one part-time course plan that meets all requirements for graduation with 90 credit hours in four years and observes all pre-requisites and co-requisites. Please refer to the two-year plan for course titles.

Year 1	Fall SOWK 4001 (3) SOWK 4020 (3) SOWK 4118 (3)	Winter SOWK 4002 (3) SOWK 4007 (3) SOWK 4120 (3)	Spring SOWK 4003 (3) SOWK 4008 (3) possible elective (3)
Year 2	SOWK 4950 (4) SOWK 4150 (1) SOWK 4132 (3)	SOWK 4950 (4) SOWK 4150 (1) possible elective (3)	SOWK 4950 (4) SOWK 4150 (1) SOWK 4201 (3)
Year 3*	advanced policy (3) elective (3) elective (3)	elective (3) elective (3) elective (3)	elective (3) elective (3)
Year 4*	concentration field (5)	concentration field (5) SOWK 4900 (3)	concentration field (5) SOWK 4901 (3)

**Students will work closely with their assigned adviser to ensure that track requirements are fulfilled when courses are offered.*

Part-time study may be the best option for a student in light of current employment and personal obligations. It is a way to balance work, family and friends, and education. *Students should remember, however, that part-time study is, in the end, more expensive than full-time study since credits are earned in full or in part at the hourly tuition rate.* In addition, part-time study affects eligibility for certain forms of financial aid and the total amount of financial aid awarded. Students who are considering part-time study should consult not only with their adviser concerning academic planning, but also with the Office of Admission concerning financial aid.

Weekend Scheduling

The weekend scheduling option allows **foundation** year students to take course work at GSSW on Thursday evenings, Friday afternoons and evenings, and all day Saturday. A limited number of class sections may also be offered online. All students are eligible to take weekend classes when available.

Students may complete all of their foundation year courses using this scheduling option. **However, due to the complexity of the concentration year curriculum, the weekend option is only available in the foundation year.** Most concentration year classes are offered only on Mondays and Tuesdays in order to accommodate the requirements of the various concentrations. Students who take foundation courses using the weekend scheduling option must be prepared to complete their concentration course requirements on Mondays and Tuesdays; however, a limited number of concentration electives may be offered on the weekends and/or in the evenings.

Like other students in the MSW program, foundation year students attending weekend classes must complete at least one day of their required field internship during weekday hours. Any student who is primarily a weekend student may take a weekday course at any time. All students are eligible to take weekend courses whenever they choose and may be required to do so depending on availability and enrollment of offered courses. Students are encouraged to register on time for the best course selection.

Course Planning Requirements and Procedures

Students plan their course schedules in close consultation with a faculty adviser. The first quarter of study is planned prior to new student orientation, held in September for two-year students and in July for advanced standing students. Later in the first term, and in each following term in which the student is enrolled, the student will meet with an adviser to review the student's educational plan and confirm course selection for the next quarter.

To enhance planning, the student must complete an online Course Planning Worksheet in preparation for beginning their concentration curriculum. This worksheet serves as the formal declaration of track, as well as an enrollment management and advising tool. Students are encouraged to review and update their Course Planning Worksheet on a quarterly basis. The forms are used by students, advisers, and the administration for planning course offerings and as records of intended study. By completing and carefully reviewing the worksheet, it is possible for students and advisers to assure that graduation requirements are met.

The Course Planning Worksheet is located on the registration menu of MyWeb. Advisers have access to the course planning worksheets of their advisees under the "Advising Toolkit" in MyWeb. Students who do not submit their Course Planning Worksheet by the given deadline will not be permitted to register for classes.

Students admitted to the two-year program must complete the Course Planning Worksheet during the quarter before they begin their concentration study, normally during the Spring Quarter of the foundation year.

Students admitted with advanced standing must complete the Course Planning Worksheet before they register for their second quarter of classes.

When students modify their plan in any way, they are responsible for conferring with their adviser and updating the online plan accordingly.

Any changes to the proposed plan should be discussed with and approved by the adviser.

Dual and Cooperative Degrees

The University of Denver offers dual degree programs that allow students in social work to earn a degree in another field at the same time they earn the MSW degree. Formal dual degree programs exist with Law, International Studies, and Human Communication. In addition, the University offers a flexible dual degree program that allows students to propose any dual graduate degree program they choose. Students pursuing the dual degree with Law earn the MSW and JD degrees; students in the other dual degree programs earn the MSW and the MA degrees.

The University also offers a cooperative degree program with the Iliff School of Theology. Students earn the MSW concurrently with the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Specialized Ministry, or Master of Theological Studies degrees.

The dual and cooperative degree programs allow students to combine fields of study and, in most cases, to graduate with fewer overall credit hours than would have been required if they pursued the degrees separately. Applicants to the dual and cooperative degree programs must apply separately to the respective schools and meet the admission requirements of both schools. Applications can be submitted prior to beginning either program, or after work in one program has begun but not after degree requirements in one program have been completed. **All students accepted into a dual degree program**

must complete and submit a Graduate Dual Degree Admission Verification form, available from the GSSW Registrar or online at www.du.edu/grad.

Dual and cooperative degrees must be pursued, for the most part, simultaneously. Both degrees are to be granted at the same time, with the exception of the JD/MSW and degrees with the Iliff School of Theology; however, the separation of graduation dates can be no longer than one year.

Students are required to maintain an up-to-date educational plan, approved by their adviser, on file with the GSSW Registrar. With each dual or cooperative degree, GSSW credits fifteen quarter hours or their equivalent from the other program to meeting its requirements, and the other program credits fifteen quarter hours from GSSW to meeting its requirements. In most cases, the fifteen quarter hours accepted by GSSW substitute for elective hours but the specific requirements differ by the dual or cooperative degree being sought. For further information about dual and cooperative degrees, inquiries should be directed to Dr. Jean East, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

JD/MSW Minimum Course Requirements:

Students must complete a minimum of 75 credit hours at GSSW. In addition, the equivalent of fifteen quarter credit hours (10 semester hours) taken in the JD program will apply towards the MSW to complete the minimum 90 credit hour MSW requirement.

For JD course requirements, please contact the Sturm College of Law at <http://www.law.du.edu> or 303.871.6135.

MA International Studies/MSW Minimum Course Requirements:

The overall minimum credit requirement is 135 credit hours. Of these 135 hours, students must complete a minimum of 75 quarter hours at GSSW. Both degrees must be awarded at the same time.

For more specific GSIS course requirements, please contact GSIS directly at <http://www.du.edu/korbel> or 303.871.2534.

Cooperative Degree Programs with Iliff School of Theology:

MSW/MTS

The overall minimum degree requirement for the cooperative degree is 143 credit hours. Of these hours, students must take a minimum of 75 credit hours at GSSW. Fifteen credit hours of courses taken at Iliff will apply towards the MSW degree to complete the minimum 90 credit hour requirement for the MSW program.

Cooperative degrees need not be granted simultaneously. Students are expected to work closely with advisers at both schools to ensure completion of all degree requirements. *Students must provide an official transcript of courses completed at Iliff School of Theology with their application for graduation from the MSW program.*

MA/MASM

The overall minimum requirement for the cooperative degree is 143 credit hours. Of those hours, students must take a minimum of 75 credit hours at GSSW. Fifteen credit hours of courses

taken at Iliff will apply towards the MSW degree to complete the minimum 90 credit hour requirement for the MSW program.

MSW/MDIV

The overall minimum requirement for the cooperative degree is 175 credit hours. Of those hours, students must take a minimum of 75 credit hours at GSSW. Fifteen credit hours of courses taken at Iliff will apply towards the MSW degree to complete the minimum 90 credit hour requirement for the MSW program.

Students usually opt for having their field experiences from GSSW transferred into the Iliff degree in lieu of the MDiv Advanced Field Education requirement.

Cooperative degrees need not to be granted simultaneously. Students are expected to work closely with advisers at both schools to ensure completion of all degree requirements. *Students must provide an official transcript of courses completed at Iliff School of Theology with their application for graduation from the MSW program.* For specific Iliff School of Theology requirements, please contact Iliff directly at <http://www.iliff.edu> or 303.744.1287.

For information about the dual degree program with Human Communications or flexible dual degrees, please contact Dr. Jean East, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at 303.871.2870 or Jean.East@du.edu.

ACADEMIC CERTIFICATES

Four academic certificate programs are offered to MSW students in the concentration year at GSSW. These certificates allow students to pursue in-depth knowledge in a particular social work specialty. *Students may pursue no more than one academic certificate granted by DU as part of their MSW program. However, students may combine the Certificate in Couples and Family Therapy (granted by the Denver Family Institute) with a DU academic certificate.*

- **The Social Work with Latinos/as Certificate***
- **The Interpersonal Trauma Studies Certificate**
- **The Animal-Assisted Social Work Certificate**
- **The Certificate in Couples and Family Therapy** (offered through a cooperative program with the Denver Family Institute)*

Overall Requirements for Admission to Certificate Programs

Students who wish to be considered for admission to any one of the four academic certificate programs must:

- Successfully complete the foundation year at GSSW or be admitted to the MSW program as an advanced standing student.
- Be in good standing in both academics and field.
- Declare intention to complete certificate on Course Planning Worksheet according to established deadlines *
- Be willing and able to attend all classes required for the certificate at the time these classes are offered.
- Be willing and able to meet all academic requirements for their concentration and practice track, as well as for the certificate program.
- Pay any additional tuition or fees as required.
- Meet any additional eligibility requirements listed within the individual certificate descriptions on the following pages.

**Both the Social Work with Latinos/as Certificate and the Certificate in Couples and Family Therapy require an online application process and interview.*

Procedure for dropping a certificate program once admitted

Students admitted to a certificate program who decide, for any reason, not to complete the requirements of a certificate program must notify the GSSW Registrar in writing.

The Social Work with Latinos/as Certificate

The Social Work with Latinos/as Certificate program has been designed to address the critical need for bilingual and culturally responsive social workers who can effectively serve individuals and families of Mexican and Latin American origin. The program includes an intensive Spanish language summer immersion course (taught collaboratively with the Department of Languages and Literatures) and a field placement offering the opportunity to work with Latino/a clients and use Spanish at least 30% of the time.

Students who complete the Social Work with Latinos/as Certificate program will have an understanding of Latino/a difference from a cognitive perspective (through course work) and practical experience (through field work), and they will be linguistically equipped to intervene in the Spanish language.

Admission Requirements

Students who wish to be considered for admission to the Social Work with Latinos/as Certificate program must meet all of the general requirements for admission to certificate programs listed in the

introductory section. In addition, the Social Work with Latinos/as Certificate program requires:

- The ability and willingness to complete the intensive Spanish language immersion course (SOWK 4750 – Critical Perspectives on the Latino Context) *during the summer preceding the concentration year. Advanced standing students must complete this course during their first summer of enrollment.*
- The ability and willingness to complete SOWK 4751-Global Relations and Poverty in Mexico*. This is a travel course to Mexico. Two year students will register for this course with their Spring course load in the foundation year, with travel occurring in the summer. Advanced standing students will register for this course as part of their Summer course load.
- A minimum score of “Intermediate” on the nationally standardized Spanish language placement test, given by a university Spanish department. This test is also offered at GSSW for applicants to the certificate.

**Please note: Due to the nature of international travel, circumstances may arise that inhibit our best travel intentions. In the event that travel to Mexico is not possible, the faculty will develop an alternative experiential course that may include other relevant domestic or international travel.*

Field Internship Requirements

Students enrolled in this certificate program are required to complete fifteen hours of concentration year field internship (five in each of three quarters) in a program or agency offering the opportunity to work with Latino/a clients and use Spanish at least 30% of the time. Students must include a plan for integrating the specific requirements of the certificate into those of the internship on the Individualized Field Education Plan (IFEP). The internship must fulfill the requirements of the concentration practice track, as well as those of the certificate.

Course Requirements

Within their course of study, Social Work with Latinos/as Certificate program students must include the following courses:

	<u>Credit Hours</u>
SOWK 4750 – Critical Perspectives on the Latino/a Context	4
SOWK 4132 – Multicultural Social Work Practice	3
SOWK 4751 – Global Relations & Poverty in Mexico	3
SOWK 4753 – Social Development in Latin America	3
SOWK 4749 – Social Work Interventions with Latinos/as	3
SOWK 4960 or SOWK 4961 – Concentration Field Practicum	<u>15</u>
Total	31

For more information about the Social Work with Latinos/as Certificate program, contact Clinical Assistant Professor Stephen von Merz at Stephen.vonMerz@du.edu or 303.871.4605.

The Interpersonal Trauma Studies Certificate

The Interpersonal Trauma Studies Certificate program introduces students to trauma practice through an increased understanding of the dynamics and needs of individuals, families, groups, and communities impacted by multiple levels of trauma. Participants will integrate knowledge and practice relevant to response and recovery from trauma, including physical, psychological, social, historical, and vicarious or secondary trauma, with an emphasis on interpersonal trauma.

In keeping with GSSW’s commitment to the overlapping nature of the strengths perspective, multicultural frameworks for understanding and practice, empowerment models, and awareness of

multilevel systems, the certificate addresses trauma at personal, interpersonal, and social-political-community levels, as well as the interactions among them.

The program adds two specialized courses to the regular MSW curriculum, along with a field internship in a trauma-related setting.

Admission Requirements

Students who wish to be considered for admission to the Interpersonal Trauma Studies Certificate program must meet all of the general requirements for admission to certificate programs listed in the introductory section. Students must all choose one of the four clinical tracks. Students in the Leadership for Organizational and Community Practice track may take the required classes for the Interpersonal Trauma Studies Certificate as electives (on a space-available basis) but are not eligible for the certificate. *Occasionally, community practice students are in internships that can meet the requirements of the certificate. All exceptions must be approved by the certificate coordinator, the Director of Field, and the Associate Dean.*

Field Internship Requirements

Students enrolled in this certificate program are required to complete fifteen (15) hours of concentration-year field internship (five in each of three quarters) in a program or agency where 50% of their time (e.g., 10 hours per week in a 20-hour-per-week placement) is devoted to trauma-related practice and content. Students must indicate on the Individualized Field Education Plan (IFEP) a plan for integrating the specific requirements of the certificate into those of the internship. The internship must fulfill the requirements of the concentration practice track as well as those of the certificate.

Course Requirements

Within their course of study, Trauma Certificate program students must include the following courses:

	<u>Credit Hours</u>
SOWK 4754 – Trauma and Recovery in Social Work Practice	3
SOWK 4755 – Social Work Interventions for Responses to Trauma	3
SOWK 4960 – Concentration Field Practicum: Clinical	<u>15</u>
Total	21

For more information about the Trauma Response and Recovery Certificate program, contact Associate Professor Marian Bussey (303.871.3042 or mbussey@du.edu), program coordinator.

Animal-Assisted Social Work Certificate

The **Animal-Assisted Social Work (AASW) Certificate** program allows GSSW students to experience a new and exciting aspect of social work practice. Participants explore the therapeutic use of animals in multiple social work settings and a variety of practice applications. Students will learn to develop, implement and evaluate AASW programs, to select animals appropriate for particular therapies and to properly care for the animals in accordance with nationally recognized standards. The program offers students theoretical and application competencies in animal-assisted social work practice, utilizing nationally endorsed, empirically supported and best practice standards.

The AASW Certificate adds two specialized courses to the MSW curriculum. It also includes a field internship offering opportunities for AASW practice.

Admission Requirements

Students who wish to be considered for admission to the Animal-Assisted Social Work Certificate program must meet all of the general requirements for admission to certificate programs listed in the introductory section. In addition, they must complete the introductory course (SOWK 4795) *prior to* taking the SOWK 4796, and they must attend a series of scheduled experiential AASW activities.

Field Internship Requirements

Students enrolled in this certificate program are required to complete fifteen hours of concentration year field internship (five in each of three quarters) in a program or agency that either offers animal-assisted social work or is interested in developing it. Students must include a plan for integrating the specific requirements of the certificate into those of the internship on the Individualized Field Education Plan (IFEP). The internship must fulfill the requirements of the concentration practice track, as well as those of the certificate.

Course Requirements

Within their course of study, AASW Certificate program students must include the following courses:

	<u>Credit Hours</u>
SOWK 4795 – Integration of Animals into Therapeutic Settings	3
SOWK 4796 – Animal-Assisted Social Work Practice	3
SOWK 4960 <i>or</i> SOWK 4961 – Concentration Field Practicum	<u>15</u>
Total	21

For more information about the Animal-Assisted Social Work Certificate program, contact program coordinator Clinical Associate Professor Philip Tedeschi, LCSW (303.871.3833 or ptedesch@du.edu).

Certificate in Couples and Family Therapy

Concentration year students may begin work toward a Certificate in Couples and Family Therapy through a cooperative program with the Denver Family Institute (DFI). Students take 10 quarter hours of course work at DFI, completing their first year of work toward the certificate while still at GSSW. After obtaining their MSW, they complete an additional year of course work, and one to two years of post master’s degree supervision and clinical contact hours requirements. The program offers students:

- advanced learning and direct clinical training and practice with families, couples and individuals in a strong, supportive, systemic, strengths-based clinical community;
- state-of-the-art, intensive, often experiential training with experienced clinicians, enabling students to become skilled practitioners;
- the opportunity to develop a clinical specialty that adds to clinical confidence, professional identity, and enhances future job searches;
- clinical supervision (live and video) for licensure and the opportunity for dual licensure in both social work and marriage and family therapy (clinical supervision and clinical hours count towards both the LCSW and LMFT licenses).

Accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Marriage and Family Therapy (COAMFTE), a division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), the Denver Family Institute offers the Rocky Mountain region’s most extensive training in marriage and family therapy. Many of the supervisors are both LCSW and AAMFT approved.

Classes are held on Wednesday evenings (first year) and Monday evenings (second year), and every effort is made to accommodate students’ class and employment schedules. Supervision is arranged between students and faculty at mutually convenient times. Additional trainings and an annual relational conference are also offered at an additional cost, but at a reduced rate for

students in the program.

Admission Requirements

Students who wish to be considered for admission to the Certificate in Couples and Family Therapy must meet all of the general requirements for admission to the certificate programs listed in the introductory section. In addition, they must apply directly to the Denver Family Institute. DFI reserves space for GSSW students each year, but openings are limited. The program only accepts applications from students who will complete the entire certificate program including the post-graduate coursework, supervision and clinic hours. A strong sense of self and social work values, interest in couples and family therapy work, and the desire to be part of a clinical community are also a plus. Applications are accepted in the Spring for admission in Fall Quarter. Limited additional spaces in the program are reserved for advanced standing students.

Field Internship Requirements

A limited number of internship placements for concentration year and advanced standing students are made available each year at DFI for GSSW students. All DFI field internship students must also enroll in, and complete, the Couples and Family Therapy Certificate Program. However, students in this certificate may also complete their field internships elsewhere.

Course Requirements

Couples and Family Therapy Certificate students in the Families Track will take an overview course and two skills courses at DFI. These courses are taken in place of the overview and skills courses that GSSW requires within the Families Track (SOWK 4320, SOWK 4420 and SOWK 4505). However, in order to receive credit for these courses at GSSW, students must register at GSSW for the equivalent DFI courses, in addition to registering for these courses at the Denver Family Institute. Students will earn ten hours of GSSW credit for courses taken at DFI. As a result, most students participating in this program graduate with a minimum of 91 credit hours.

At GSSW, students will take a required policy course (SOWK 4630), two research courses in sequence during Winter and Spring quarters (SOWK 4900 and SOWK 4901), with research conducted in the student's field placement), three open electives selected in consultation with faculty advisers and at least one track elective (see list on page 27).

Concentration year students in other tracks also may participate in the certificate program, completing all required courses for their track and taking DFI courses as 10 hours of their electives.

Fees

The Denver Family Institute charges tuition, payable at the beginning of each quarter. This fee is in addition to GSSW tuition, but it is less than half of what non-GSSW students are charged.

The reduction in fees is given to GSSW students attending DFI as a scholarship contingent upon graduation from the Couples and Family Therapy Certificate program. For current fee information, please contact the [Denver Family Institute](#).

Post-Graduate Course Work and Tuition

After MSW graduation, certificate students are required to complete additional supervision and course work at DFI, for which DFI charges additional tuition. Each quarter, full-time students receive 10 hours of group supervision with an emphasis on live case presentations, and six hours (seven in the fall) of individual supervision emphasizing taped session reviews. There is one evening of course work per week for one year.

Following MSW graduation, certificate students are required to have 500 clinical client contact hours. Of the 500 required hours, 125 hours may include observation of colleagues' sessions at the DFI Clinic. The observation culture is strongly encouraged in the program. The remaining 375 of the 500 hours must be direct client contact hours, half of which must be relational hours working with couples and/or families. Some students complete the program within one year after MSW graduation. Others need additional time to meet the supervision, clinic, and client contact requirements.

For more information, please contact Associate Professor Lynn Parker, program coordinator (303.871.3676 or lparker@du.edu) or Clinical Assistant Professor Dave Blair (303.871.3499 or David.Blair@du.edu). Applications are available from the GSSW Registrar.

ACADEMIC CREDITS

Credits Required for Graduation

The MSW program is a two-year course of study requiring a minimum of 90 credit hours for graduation. A student with a baccalaureate degree in social work from an undergraduate school accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) may be admitted for entry with advanced standing. Thirty of the 90 credit hours for graduation are accepted as a block transfer for such students. Degree requirements must be completed within four years from the time of enrollment. Students must register for a minimum of two courses in any quarter, excluding summer session, in which they are enrolled. *It is the student's responsibility to ensure that degree requirements are met prior to applying for graduation.*

Academic Progress Report (APR)

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all degree requirements are met. Students are encouraged to track their progress on a regular basis using the Academic Progress Report (APR). For detailed instructions on using the APR, please see:

http://www.du.edu/registrar/records/APRGuide_student.pdf. Questions regarding the APR should be directed to the GSSW Registrar.

Student Class Load

Full-time graduate students usually take from 12 to 18 credit hours each quarter, which corresponds with the University's flat-rate tuition. A student load in excess of 18 credit hours will incur additional tuition, is subject to the student's satisfactory work during the previous quarters, and requires the approval of the student's adviser and the Associate Dean. Students may not enroll for more than 20 hours per quarter. Students taking fewer than 12 hours per quarter will be charged at the current hourly tuition rate. Each credit hour taken in excess of 18 hours will also be charged at the current hourly tuition rate.

Transfer of Credit for Courses Taken Prior to Enrollment in GSSW

A student may transfer graduate credit earned from another accredited institution of higher education prior to enrollment in GSSW to meet MSW degree requirements at DU.

A student should request transfer of credit at the time of admission, since decisions concerning transfer of credit will affect academic planning from the time of enrollment. The following policies and procedures apply to transfer of credit earned prior to enrollment in GSSW.

1. Transfer of credit toward the MSW degree at the University of Denver is limited to:
 - A maximum of 45-quarter credit hours or their equivalent for courses, including field instruction, taken at another graduate school of social work accredited by CSWE, or
 - A maximum of 10-quarter credit hours or their equivalent for graduate credits earned in another field that may be applicable toward either required or elective courses in GSSW's program
2. Any credit to be transferred must meet the following requirements:
 - It must have been earned as graduate credit at a regionally accredited college or university and be accepted as having direct relevance to the social work degree
 - It must have been earned within a 5-year period preceding enrollment at GSSW

- It must carry a minimum grade of “B-” (2.7) *providing the average of all graduate transfer credit from the college or university at which the B- was received is “B” (3.0) or better*. The University of Denver will not accept for transfer credit any class with a grade of “Pass” or any grade that only signifies completion of a course. The only exception is for field internship that was awarded a grade of “Pass” at an accredited school of social work
- It must not have been applied toward a degree earned at either another university or the University of Denver

3. The request for transfer of credit must be made in writing to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, either as part of the application for admission or, if after enrollment, using a form obtained from the GSSW Registrar. Requests for transfer must be made no later than the student’s first quarter. In either case, the request must be accompanied by the following documentation:

- An official transcript showing that the requirements set forth in point #2 have been met, and
- A copy of the course syllabus

No request will be approved without the required documentation.

4. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will review all requests, including the required documentation, and determine whether to accept transfer of credit and whether such credit is to be applied toward the satisfaction of a required course or courses or is to be considered as elective credit. In doing so, the Associate Dean may consult with faculty, admission staff, and/or the GSSW Registrar. Two decisions will be made. The first is the number of hours to be accepted for transfer; the second is which courses offered by GSSW will be waived, if any, based on courses already completed.

5. Upon approval by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, a *Transfer of Credit Form* will be submitted to the University Registrar along with the official transcript to be included in the student’s record. The GSSW Registrar will provide a copy of the transfer to the student and the student’s adviser. A separate form will be prepared to document courses to be waived based on the credit transferred and, again, a copy will be provided to the student and the student’s adviser.

6. Grades accepted for transfer of credit for courses taken other than at the University of Denver are not included in the computation of the grade point average (GPA) at the University of Denver.

7. Any student who transfers credit must earn a minimum of 45 credit hours at GSSW in order to earn the MSW degree from the University of Denver.

8. Students who request transfer of credit will be required to adhere to the degree requirements in effect at the time of their first enrollment. Due to differences in the way schools of social work organize and sequence required courses, transfer students may be required to take courses in the foundation curriculum and/or may be given credit for courses in the concentration curriculum. In addition, the number of transferred credit hours, when combined with the credit hours earned for required courses within the School, may result in a total exceeding the minimum required for the master’s degree at the University of Denver.

Credit for Courses Taken Outside GSSW After Enrollment

With the exception of dual and cooperative degree students, students may earn a maximum of 10-quarter credit hours or their equivalent in courses taken outside GSSW. The 10 quarter hours include (a) any graduate courses taken at another school of social work, (b) graduate courses taken in other departments at the University of Denver, and (c) graduate courses taken at another regionally accredited university.

In order to receive credit for courses taken outside the School of Social Work after enrollment other than as part of a dual or cooperative degree:

1. A student must initiate in writing, using a form obtained from the GSSW Registrar, a request for approval of outside courses, **prior to actually enrolling in the course**. The request must be approved first by the student's adviser and then by Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Once approved, the GSSW Registrar will place documentation of the request and its approval in the student's file with copies to the student and the student's adviser.
2. The credits earned through outside courses (a) must be from a regionally accredited graduate level program; (b) not be "Pass" or any other grade simply signifying completion of course requirements; (c) carry a minimum grade of "B" (3.0); (d) not have been applied toward a degree earned at another university or the University of Denver; and (e) at the graduate level. If a course is taken at an institution other than the University of Denver, the student must provide the GSSW Registrar with an official transcript showing completion of the course and the grade earned.

Waiver/Substitution of Courses

Request must be made in writing (forms available from the GSSW Registrar) and approved by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the adviser prior to the quarter in question.

Independent Study

Independent study is offered by GSSW as a means of individualizing the learning interests or needs of the student. The following policies and procedures govern independent study:

1. The student must initiate a request for independent study by completing a form that is obtained from the GSSW Registrar. The request must be submitted to and approved by the sponsoring faculty member, the student's adviser, and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs **prior to the first day of the quarter in which it is to be undertaken**. *Independent studies may not be taken to replace a regularly offered university course.*
2. The guidelines for determining the amount of credit to be earned are roughly equivalent to the guidelines for determining amount of credit to be earned for regular classes, that is, approximately 10 hours of work for each credit hour divided between faculty and student contact time, reading, and learning activities.
3. **No more than six independent study credit hours may be applied toward the degree.**
4. Unless special circumstances exist, no outside learning experience or work done under the direction of anyone other than an appointed faculty member at GSSW will be approved as independent study.
5. Under special circumstances only, a student may be allowed to register for a GSSW course as a **directed study**, in the event that the course is not offered during the quarter in which it must be taken. Students pursuing a course as directed study must follow the syllabus for the catalog course to the extent that the individualized study format permits. For more information about directed studies, please contact the GSSW Registrar. Directed studies require the same approvals as independent study, and may be denied at the discretion of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Academic Advising

Soon after the student enters the program, a faculty member will be assigned by the GSSW Registrar as academic adviser. Changes in concentration track or student/faculty status may necessitate a change of adviser. Students who are part-time or dual degree are assigned to advisers who have specific expertise in these areas. Students who wish, for any reason, to have a change in adviser should contact the GSSW Registrar.

The adviser is responsible for helping the student plan her/his course schedule in concert with program requirements, field internships, and the student's professional experience and interests. In addition, the adviser may be formally or informally involved in resolving any serious concerns that may arise concerning the student's performance in the classroom or the field.

Students can benefit greatly from becoming acquainted with their adviser and using their adviser's knowledge, expertise and experience; and students are encouraged to meet with their advisers throughout the academic year. Advisers are expected to keep regular weekly office hours and to post these hours on their doors and/or online. Advisers are available extended hours during what is termed "academic advising week," the two weeks prior to registration for classes for the next quarter. Students must meet with their adviser during advising week to review and revise, if necessary, their academic plan. Failure to do so may result in a hold being placed on the student's registration.

CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION AND SATISFACTORY PROGRESS

The University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work (GSSW) is committed to a program of excellence, therefore students in our program must possess and demonstrate certain personal characteristics, abilities and behaviors necessary for success in the GSSW program. Students are expected to meet the standards listed on the following pages, both in the classroom and in their field internships, with or without reasonable accommodation for disability.

GSSW does not discriminate on the basis of disability and provides reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. *It is the responsibility of the student with a disability, who believes he/she may need reasonable accommodations to meet any of these standards, to contact the University of Denver's Disability Services Program (DSP) at 303.871.2455.* Early contact by admitted students with the DSP is strongly encouraged to ensure the timely provision of reasonable accommodations to both the classroom and field internship.

The following essential abilities and characteristics are required for both admission and satisfactory progress in the program.

Empathy

GSSW students must demonstrate respect in their interactions with fellow students, faculty, staff, clients and others. They must be able to communicate understanding and empathy for clients and their situations, while demonstrating the emotional stability and maturity to maintain appropriate boundaries and client safety.

Professional Behavior

GSSW students must understand and adhere to professional social work values and the NASW Code of Ethics, as well as abide by GSSW policies and procedures. They must exercise adequate self-care to withstand the rigors of graduate school and field internships, and they must be willing and able to use supervision and criticism constructively. They must demonstrate dependability, punctuality and the ability to appropriately prioritize responsibilities.

Integrity

GSSW students must demonstrate personal and professional integrity in both the academic and field internship settings. They must understand and practice academic honesty, and be willing and able to apply properly the rules of academic referencing and citation. GSSW students are also bound to abide by the University of Denver Code of Student Conduct.

Communication Skills

GSSW students must demonstrate effective oral, written and listening communication skills, including the ability to express ideas clearly, listen objectively and communicate effectively at a graduate professional level, in both academic and field internship settings.

Self-Awareness

GSSW students must be willing to engage in reflective thinking. Reflective thinking includes being able to clearly articulate beliefs, values, attitudes and feelings, and how past experiences affect their thinking, behavior and interactions with others. Students successful in the GSSW program must be willing to examine and change behaviors that interfere with student/client and other interpersonal relationships.

Sensory-Motor Abilities

GSSW students must have sufficient sensory-motor abilities to attend and participate in classes and field internships, acquiring, integrating and applying knowledge through the use of their senses. Students are responsible for providing their own transportation to field internship sites.

Cognitive Skills

GSSW students must demonstrate cognitive skills including short- and long-term memory necessary for the integration, deconstruction, synthesis and summary of new knowledge.

Academic Classification of Students

Students are classified at the time of admission as either regular, conditional or probational status.

Regular Status: A student unconditionally approved for graduate study enrollment holds regular status. Regular status is required for advancement to degree candidacy.

Conditional Status: A student holds conditional status for up to one quarter from the time of admission if any required documents are missing at the time of admission (e.g. final transcript with degree posted). All documents must be received prior to registration for the second quarter of enrollment, or the student will not be permitted to register and/or may be terminated from the MSW program.

Probational Status: A student holds probational status if he or she was admitted with a grade point average of less than 2.75 on a 4.0 scale.

A student who has been admitted with probational status will have no more than one quarter to demonstrate his or her academic competence through earning a minimum GPA of 3.0 and, if registered for field internship, earning a grade of "Pass." A student who has not met these criteria for academic competency at the end of the first quarter of study will be terminated from the program. The GSSW Registrar will notify the student in writing of termination and the right to appeal the termination. **The student may not register for, or attend, any courses or internship while an appeal, if any, is pending.**

Students admitted with probational status who receive one or more recorded grades of "I" (Incomplete) at the end of the first quarter of study will not be allowed to register for, or attend, additional classes until the work is completed and the instructor has changed the grade(s). If the student is registered for field internship in the first quarter in which he or she is enrolled in GSSW and receives a grade of "IP," the Director of Field Education will review the reasons the grade was assigned. If the "IP" was assigned for any reason other than lack of hours, a Conduct Review may be held as described in the *GSSW Field Manual*. Students who receive an "IP" may not be allowed to register for additional hours of field instruction until the "IP" has been cleared at the discretion of the Director of Field Education. Decisions concerning removal from probational status will be made after each "I" has been changed to a letter grade and/or the "IP" has been changed to a "Pass" or "No Pass."

If a student has been allowed to remain on probational status with an "IP" in field and her/his GPA falls below 3.0 during this time period, the student will be terminated from the program.

Students admitted with conditional and/or probational status are informed of their entry status at the time of acceptance into the program. They must sign a contract stating they are aware of their status and the policy at the time of admission.

General Academic Performance Requirements for Continuation

Students are expected to maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 at all times. If at the end of any quarter a student's cumulative GPA is less than a 3.0, the student will have one quarter to raise the cumulative GPA above 3.0. If the student's cumulative GPA is less than 3.0 for two consecutive quarters in which he or she is enrolled, the student will be terminated from the program.

The GSSW Registrar will notify students in writing at the end of any quarter in which their cumulative GPA falls below 3.0. The notification, with a copy to the student's adviser, the Director of Field Education and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, will state:

1. The cumulative GPA
2. The fact that, if the student's cumulative GPA is not above 3.0 at the end of the next quarter in which the student is enrolled, the student will be terminated from the program, and
3. That the student must contact his or her adviser to develop a plan designed to remedy the student's academic deficits

A student whose cumulative GPA is less than 3.0 for two consecutive terms in which he or she is enrolled will be notified in writing by the GSSW Registrar of termination from the program and the right to appeal the termination. The student may not register for, or attend, any additional classes or internship while an appeal, if any, is pending. *Please note: If the GPA falls below 3.0 as a result of fulfillment of requirements for incomplete grades from prior terms which results in two or more terms on the transcript with a GPA below 3.0, the student may not receive a warning that he/she has been placed on probation and may instead be terminated immediately at the time the grades are posted.*

Standards of Academic, Professional, and Ethical Behavior

The goal of the GSSW is to prepare students for the professional practice of social work. The faculty has the responsibility for determining whether students have demonstrated the required level of achievement - academic performance, professional behavior, and ethical behavior - sufficient to interact positively with client systems. Faculty therefore also have the responsibility to identify students who are not meeting acceptable standards of academic, professional, and ethical conduct and seek, when possible, a way to remedy problems that are identified.

Just as faculty has the right to expect the highest standards of professional and ethical behavior in students, students have the right to expect the highest standards of professional and ethical behavior in the faculty, including appointed faculty, adjunct faculty, and field liaisons.

Satisfactory Progress Guidelines

A student's continuation from one quarter to the next quarter is contingent upon satisfactory progress in the program. This progress is evaluated in both classroom courses and in field internship based on assignments, examinations and observations made by faculty members and internship instructors that evaluate knowledge, skills, values/ethics, and professional behaviors of students. The criteria for student satisfactory progress are outlined below in the areas of academic performance, professional behavior, and ethical conduct and in the Criteria for Student Evaluation and Review.

1. **Academic Performance.** Students are expected to:
 - a. maintain a 3.0 GPA and a "pass" (P) in field internship.

- b. demonstrate effective oral and written communication skill in English.
 - c. An “in progress” (IP) in field in one quarter must be cleared at the beginning of the next quarter in which the student is enrolled before she or he may start accumulating new earned field hours. A grade of “no pass” (NP) in field, will automatically prompt a Conduct Review or Termination Hearing. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall decide if a Conduct Review or Termination Hearing will be initiated.
2. **Professional Behavior.** Students are expected to:
- a. obtain and analyze data, synthesize information, and reach sound assessment judgments.
 - b. plan and implement effective interventions.
 - c. relate effectively and professionally with clients and client systems, student colleagues, University faculty and staff, and agency staff.
 - d. demonstrate a commitment to and skill in self-care and self-evaluation of practice.
 - e. respond to evaluation, testing, feedback, and criticism with appropriate modification of behavior.
3. **Ethical Conduct.** Students are expected to:
- a. demonstrate honesty and integrity in all aspects of their academic program as prescribed in the University of Denver Honor Code.
 - b. have an understanding of and professionally apply the National Association of Social Workers’ *Code of Ethics* in all interactions with clients, peers, staff, regular and adjunct faculty, practicum instructors, and all other members of the University community.

Assessment of Progress Policy

Role of the Faculty

The University and the profession of social work delegate to the faculty the responsibility for determining whether students have demonstrated the required level of achievement – academic performance, professional behavior, and ethical behavior – sufficient to interact positively with client systems and practice at an advanced professional level. Faculty, therefore, has the responsibility to identify students who are not meeting acceptable standards of professional and ethical conduct and seek, when possible, a way to remedy problems that are identified. As directed in the Council on Social Work Education accreditation standards guidelines, social work educational programs must inform students of their criteria for evaluating their academic and professional performance as well as set forth their assessment processes in writing. This document satisfies these directives.

Criteria for Student Evaluation and Review

Academic standards are explicitly stated in this guide; fieldwork standards are explicitly stated in the *GSSW Field Manual*, and the *Code of Ethics* of the National Association of Social Workers is the reference point for determining professional and ethical conduct of GSSW students. Social work students are social workers and are to be held to the same standards of behavior as graduate professionals. Failure to adhere to the *Code* in the student role is grounds for termination from the program. In addition to the NASW Code of Ethics as a reference point, the following behaviors, if they affect the student’s ability to make appropriate progress toward graduation, will be considered in determining when an evaluation/support process should be instituted with a student:

- 1. Inadequate interpersonal relationship skills necessary for social work practice, including the inability to form positive working relationships with clients, faculty, supervisors, and peers.
- 2. Inadequate written or verbal communication skills, which impede the ability to work effectively with faculty, peers, clients, and supervisors.
- 3. Inability to successfully secure a field internship within a reasonable period of time or following three or more post-interview rejections of a student by potential field agencies.

4. Impaired performance in the classroom or in field. Behaviors include, but are not limited to, being actively suicidal, inability to focus or communicate, distortion in thought processes, or otherwise unable to develop appropriate working relationships in the social work context even though appropriate ADA accommodations may have been provided.
5. Termination from a field internship related to student performance.
6. Active substance abuse.
7. Lying, cheating, or any form of plagiarizing in course work or fieldwork.
8. Excessive absences from class or field, which are considered predictive of poor professional performance.
9. Persistent inability to meet deadline dates on assignments and projects, suggesting an inability to be dependable and responsible in serving clients.
10. Non-disclosure of felony conviction, discipline by state licensing board, or malpractice judgments.
11. Abuse of clients.
12. Behavior or language that suggests the student might harm clients in any way.
13. Failure in a required academic course or “no pass” (NP) grade in the field placement.

Note: For purposes of determining the grade point average, field grades will not be computed; however, a grade of “No Pass” in field will result in an automatic Conduct Review or Termination Hearing.

Assessment of Progress: Process and Procedure

The intent of the Assessment of program policy and procedure is to ensure a preventive and collaborative assessment process that identifies appropriate faculty concerns early and provides both support and guidance for the student’s successful completion of the GSSW program. Methods of problem identification may include discussions between a student, her/his adviser, faculty member(s), field supervisors, and the Director of Student Services. Brief, informal discussions to review students’ performances at designated times in faculty meetings will also occur. If academic, behavioral, or ethical problems are not resolved informally to the satisfaction of all concerned, a faculty member may initiate a review of a student’s performance in the classroom or in the field internship at any time. The process and procedures for a student review follow.

For the purpose of this policy, “faculty” is defined as any GSSW appointed, clinical, or adjunct faculty member. In addition to all classroom instructors, the term “faculty” includes field supervisors and field liaisons.

“Assessment of Progress” is a process intended to assure that each student maintains adequate progress in gaining the knowledge, skills, and professional behaviors required for graduation. Students are automatically moved forward to the next quarter and should consider themselves as making satisfactory progress unless they are informed otherwise.

When a faculty member believes a student has not made sufficient progress toward graduation under the criteria set forth above, the faculty member shall notify the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs who will initiate a **Conduct Review**, or a **Termination Hearing**, depending on the seriousness of the problem.

Conduct Review

A Conduct Review is a formal process whereby a student is notified that he or she may not meet the Graduate School of Social Work’s criteria for student progress. The purpose of a Conduct Review is to prevent a student’s academic, behavioral, or ethical problem from becoming so serious it threatens the student’s graduation.

1. **Notification/Meeting Process.** Whenever a faculty member has a concern regarding a student's academic performance, professional behavior, or ethical conduct, he or she shall immediately notify the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in writing. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will then notify the student, the student's adviser, the GSSW Registrar, the Director of Student Services and the Director of Field Education in writing. The notification may be distributed electronically.
 - a. Within two weeks of notification, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will meet with the student, the student's adviser, the Director of Student Services, field team members (as appropriate), and other involved faculty to examine the concern and develop a plan to remediate the problem. A GSSW staff member may also be present as note taker, but will not be an active participant in the meeting.
 - b. The student may invite one support person to be present during the meeting.
 - i. By doing so, the student understands that this support person will have access to those aspects of the student's educational record (protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) that are presented as part of the meeting. The student will be asked to complete and submit a "[Release of Confidential Student Record Information](#)" form and submit it to the GSSW Registrar at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.
 - ii. This is not a judicial proceeding, and therefore attorneys will not be permitted to attend.
 - iii. The support person cannot be a current student in the MSW program.
 - c. The meeting will be chaired by the Associate Dean.
 - d. Notes from the meeting will be recorded by the note taker.
 - e. All members present will be given the opportunity to share their perspective related to the concern.
 - f. Directly following the meeting, the student and the student's support person, if any, will be excused and the remaining participants will deliberate potential remediation plans.

2. **Remediation Plan.** Based on the deliberation, the Associate Dean will then compose a letter to the student that summarizes the meeting and presents a remediation plan. The plan shall:
 - a. be in writing.
 - b. specify the conditions the student must meet in order to continue in the program.
 - c. specify any further actions that will be taken by GSSW faculty related to the concerns that were expressed.
 - d. specify the date by which the student must fulfill the requirements set forth in the letter. (The plan must allow for a reasonable period of time for remediation, but shall not allow more than one quarter beyond the quarter in which the concern is expressed.)

The Associate Dean will distribute copies of the plan to the GSSW Registrar, the student, the adviser, and, as appropriate, the Director of Field Education and the Director of Student Services. The Director of Field Education will distribute copies to field supervisors and the field liaison as appropriate. *Please see the Field Manual for details related to remediation plans for field concerns.*

Final Determination of the Conduct Review. On or before the date specified in the plan for completion of the remediation, the Associate Dean, in consultation with relevant faculty, shall decide whether or not the student remediated the cause of the Conduct Review:

- e. If the Conduct Review is alleviated, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall notify, in writing, all involved parties and the GSSW Registrar that the Conduct Review was resolved.
- f. If the Conduct Review is not alleviated, it immediately becomes the subject of a Termination Hearing. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall so notify, in

writing, all involved parties, the Dean, and the GSSW Registrar. The Dean will then appoint a Termination Review Committee, and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will notify the student.

3. **Progress during remediation.** The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall notify a student who has an unresolved Conduct Review whether she or he may progress to the next quarter on a probationary basis. *A student will not be advanced to candidacy or graduated if she or he is undergoing a Conduct Review or has not satisfied the terms of a remediation plan.*

Termination Hearing

A Termination Hearing is a formal process whereby the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs notifies a student that she or he has not met the School's criteria for student progress as described below and therefore should be dismissed from the school.

1. A Termination Hearing concerning a student's performance can be written in two instances:
 - a. a faculty member has knowledge of serious ethical misconduct on the part of a student.
 - b. there is not satisfactory resolution of a Conduct Review.In either instance, the Office of the Dean shall write a Notification of Termination Hearing and send it to the student, the student's adviser, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, the Director of Field Education, and the GSSW Registrar. The notification shall:
 - c. be in writing.
 - d. specify ways the student has not achieved the *Criteria for Satisfactory Progress* and/or the *Criteria for Student Evaluation and Review* (listed above).
 - e. state the date and time of the Termination Hearing and the procedure to be used by the Evaluation and Review Committee.
2. **Once a termination hearing has been initiated, the student will be withdrawn from all classes by the GSSW Registrar and may not attend classes or field while a decision is pending.**
3. The Dean shall appoint an Evaluation Review Committee to recommend to him or her whether or not the student should be terminated from the program. The Committee shall consist of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (chair) and three faculty members (including one faculty member representing field instruction) who have not had a faculty/student relationship with the student in the previous year. If the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs is the student's adviser, then another person shall be appointed by the Dean to serve as chair. Also attending the meeting shall be the faculty member who initiated the termination hearing, the student's adviser, the Director of Field Education, any relevant field representatives, and the student.
 - a. The student may invite two people who have specific knowledge of the student's behavior which was cause for the hearing to speak on his or her behalf.
 - b. By doing so, the student understands that these people will have access to those aspects of the student's educational record (protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) that are presented as part of the meeting. The student will be asked to complete and submit a "[Release of Confidential Student Record Information](#)" form and submit it to the GSSW Registrar at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.
 - c. Outside documents pertinent to the hearing may be submitted by the student to the committee.
 - d. This is not a judicial proceeding and therefore attorneys will not be permitted to attend.
4. The Evaluation and Review Committee shall gather information from all relevant parties. It shall meet within 10 days of notification to:
 - a. hear the response of the student, hear from the person(s) speaking for the student, and discuss with the student's adviser and other relevant persons earlier attempts to resolve the problem.

- b. At the conclusion of the discussion, all persons shall be asked to excuse themselves from the room except the members of the Evaluation and Review Committee who shall then recommend to the dean in one of three ways:
 - i. In the case of a Conduct Review leading to a Termination Hearing, it is determined that the student has provided evidence that the remediation plan was satisfactorily completed and that he or she therefore should not be terminated from the program, or
 - ii. It is determined that the student's conduct did not warrant the recommendation of termination and therefore the student should not be terminated from the program, or
 - iii. In the event of serious ethical misconduct leading directly to a Termination Hearing, it is determined that serious ethical misconduct did not occur and the student therefore should not be terminated from the program, or
 - iv. The student should be terminated from program.

The Evaluation and Review Committee may recommend a return to the level of a Conduct Review for remediation only if it finds that procedural errors were made in the original Conduct Review Hearing.

5. The Evaluation and Review Committee Chair shall write a report that summarizes the Committee's deliberations and decision(s) and deliver it to the Dean with three (3) working days of the meeting. The report shall be confidential, and it and all other Committee records shall become part of the student's educational record and be treated accordingly. As such, a copy of the report will be provided to the GSSW Registrar.
 - a. The Dean shall send written notification of his or her decision to the student within two working days of receiving the report of the Evaluation and Review Committee. A copy of the notification shall be sent to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, the Director of Field Education, the student's adviser, all involved faculty and field personnel, and the GSSW Registrar.
 - b. To the extent possible, all evaluation and review processes should be completed no later than the last day of the quarter following that in which the termination hearing was held.
 - c. Decisions of the Evaluation and Review Committee may be appealed. For appeal procedures, please see below.

APPEAL PROCEDURES

University appeal procedures for graduate students and procedures GSSW has adopted, consistent with University procedures, are presented below.

GSSW Appeal Procedures

Students may appeal:

- any termination from the program
- the findings and recommendations of a student conduct review or termination hearing
- Students who wish to appeal a decision should do so as quickly as possible since they will not be allowed to register for or attend any classes at the University while an appeal is pending. **All appeals must be made in writing to the Dean within one quarter of the decision to be appealed.**

If the student is appealing a decision of the Dean, the student must appeal to the Provost as stated in the University Appeals Procedures for Graduate Students as stated below.

University Appeal Procedures for Graduate Students Regarding Academic Decisions

1. A graduate student will direct any appeal of an academic decision, within one year of the decision, first to the Chair of the department in which the issue arises or, if no departmental unit exists, to the Director/Dean of the appropriate school or college. **In professional schools or colleges reporting directly to the provost, the first level of appeal, unless specified otherwise by the school or college, is to the Director/Dean.**

2. The Head of the unit to which the initial appeal is made may propose consultative procedures in a preliminary attempt to resolve the disputed issue.

3. Should those procedures not resolve the situation to the satisfaction of the student, the Head of the unit shall refer the matter to a standing committee or an ad hoc faculty/ professional staff committee chaired by the Head or a designate. Members of the committee may represent units or sub-units other than the one from which the appeal is made. All review committees at all levels of appeal may, at their sole discretion, accept additional evidence or arguments from the student or from any other person. The appeal committee will normally furnish a decision to both parties within two weeks of its meeting.

4. **Appeals on grades will be accepted by the Dean only when based on problems of process, and not simply differences in judgment or opinion concerning academic performance. The Dean's decision on grade appeals is final and not subject to further appeal.**

5. Only grievances and appeals based on bias or retaliation are allowed to be appeal to the Provost. The Provost may refer appeals to appropriate bodies or personnel for their recommendation on specific issues. The Provost may refer any appeal to the Graduate Council. If the issue is referred to the Graduate Council, its Chair shall appoint three members of the Council as a Grievance Committee to hear the appeal case and shall designate one of the committee members to serve as Chair. The findings of anyone called upon by the Provost shall be transmitted to the Provost as a recommendation, usually within four weeks after the case has been referred to them.

6. The Provost is the final authority in the appeal matter, and final action by the Provost should usually take place within three weeks after receipt of appropriate recommendations. The Provost shall provide notice of the final decision to the student, the Chair of any committee involved, and the Head of the unit from which the appeal originates.

GRIEVANCES AGAINST FACULTY AND STUDENTS

Either faculty or students may initiate a grievance when they believe standards of professional or ethical conduct have been violated.

Students may initiate a grievance against a faculty member when such faculty member:

- Improperly discloses students' views, beliefs, and political associations.
- Limits freedom of expression.
- Acts in a manner deemed to be in violation of the norms of professional or ethical conduct.
- Evaluates students' work arbitrarily or capriciously.

A student may not initiate a grievance against another student.

Faculty may initiate a grievance against a student when such student:

- Makes slanderous or libelous written or verbal statements, which cast aspersions upon the faculty member's competence.
- Acts in a manner deemed to be in violation of the norms of professional or ethical conduct.

Procedures to be Followed Prior to Invoking the Grievance Process

The procedures that must be followed prior to invoking the grievance process are designed to, whenever possible, reach informal resolution of the concerns being raised.

1. In the event the complaint is against a faculty member, the student should, if at all possible, discuss the matter with the faculty person. If the student is not comfortable discussing the problem with the faculty member or if, after discussion, the problem is not resolved, the student should discuss the situation with his or her adviser who, in a mediating capacity, will seek to resolve the issue individually or jointly. In case the adviser is the person against whom the grievance is lodged, the student should contact the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs who will work in the capacity of adviser to resolve the issue. If the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs is both the adviser and the person against whom the grievance is lodged, the Doctoral Program Director will be called upon to work toward a settlement of the issue. If failure takes place at this step, the student may formalize the complaint and invoke the grievance process.

2. In the event the complaint is against a student, the faculty person shall a.) initially discuss the matter with the student and, if not resolved, b.) pursue the matter with the student's faculty adviser and, if still unsettled, then c.) formalize the complaint and invoke the grievance process.

The Grievance Committee

The Dean shall appoint the Chairperson and two faculty members to serve on the Grievance Committee for one academic year. The Chairperson shall vote only in the case of a tie. The GSSW Graduate Student Association shall appoint two students to serve on the Committee for one academic year.

Statement of Grievance

A Statement of Grievance must include the content listed below, and three copies must be given to the Chairperson of the Grievance Committee:

- Name of the aggrieved student or faculty member.
- Name of the faculty member or student against whom the grievance is directed.
- Nature of the grievance.
- Date(s) and place(s) of incident(s).
- Name(s) of witness(es) to the incident(s), and/or other supporting evidence.
- Preliminary actions taken by the aggrieved student or faculty member to resolve the grievance.
- Signature and date of signing.

Procedures for Grievance Hearings

1. Three copies of the Statement of Grievance must be submitted in person to the Chairperson of the Grievance Committee who shall sign, date, and return one of the three copies to the aggrieved and one to the person against whom the grievance is directed. The original document is kept for the official records of the Grievance Committee.

2. No later than seven working days after the statement has been officially submitted, the Chairperson of the Grievance Committee shall convene the Committee to consider the grievance. The Chairperson shall notify the members of the Committee orally and in writing of the date, time, and place of the Committee

meeting as well as the names of the Committee members. The aggrieved and the person against whom the grievance is directed shall receive a copy of the above notification.

3. Faculty members and/or students will have the option of disqualifying themselves, or may be requested to disqualify themselves by other committee members when a conflict of interest is presumed to be present. In case of any doubt of such conflict of interest the Chairperson will make the decision whether a conflict of interest does exist and whether the request for disqualification be honored. Such a written request, in triplicate, shall be submitted in person to the Chairperson of the Grievance Committee no later than two working days after the Chairperson has issued the call to convene the Grievance Committee. The request for exemption and the statement of permission shall be distributed immediately to the student and to the faculty person who is party to the grievance. One copy shall be retained for the permanent record of the Committee. Notice of the action shall be circulated immediately by the Chairperson to the remaining members of the Committee. The names of all persons appointed as pro-tem replacements shall be supplied in writing by the Chairperson to all members of the Committee, to the student, and to the faculty person involved immediately upon receipt of such information. In case of need for a pro-tem replacement, the time limit for convening the Committee to consider the issue shall be no later than fourteen working days following official receipt of the formal written statement of grievance.

4. The Chairperson of the Grievance Committee will act as secretary pro-tem and keep a record of the Committee's proceedings, deliberations, and votes. In order to safeguard due process, all proceedings, deliberations, and the announcement of the results of voting shall be tape-recorded. The recording, before its destruction, shall be kept for one year following the termination or graduation of the student whichever is the sooner. The Chairperson of the Grievance Committee shall keep all documents and tapes relating to the grievance at issue in a confidential file.

5. All parties directly affected by the grievance shall have the right, during the course of the Committee proceedings, to representation from among their respective peers. (For students this means other students; for faculty, other faculty.) The role of such representative or advocate is that of pleading the cause of the complainant or respondent, questioning those present and ensuring that the rights of the aggrieved and/or the aggrieveds are protected. The right to question those present shall also be reserved for Committee members, and to any others to whom the Committee delegates such responsibility. All parties directly affected by the grievance at issue shall be present for the proceedings of the Committee. Witnesses shall be asked to leave when their testimony is completed.

6. The deliberations of the Grievance Committee shall be conducted in a closed Committee meeting. All voting shall be conducted in the closed Committee meeting and, when voting becomes necessary during the Committee's deliberations, shall be by secret ballot.

7. The aggrieved may withdraw his/her statement of grievance at any point after filing the statement with the Chairperson of the Grievance Committee. The action is accomplished by the aggrieved submitting a written request to the Chairperson of the Grievance Committee. Upon receipt of such a request, the Chairperson shall circulate an announcement to the Committee and to the parties directly involved that the grievance at issue has been resolved as a finding of "No Grievance." The Chairperson shall immediately notify the Dean in writing of such a decision.

Findings of the Grievance Committee

1. The Grievance Committee, after deliberating and voting, may arrive at one of the following decisions: "No Grievance" or "Grievance." If the Committee finds "Grievance," the Committee may make recommendations to address the basis for the grievance.

2. If the Grievance Committee finds “Grievance,” it shall attempt to bring about a reconciliation between the parties. It cannot enforce any of its recommendations; it can only act as a mediating body. If the issue is reconciled, this fact will be added by the secretary pro-tem to the findings of the Grievance Committee.
3. The findings and recommendations of the Committee, along with a report on the outcome of any attempts to reach reconciliation, shall be forwarded in writing to the Dean by the Chairperson of the Grievance Committee with a copy to the person against whom the grievance was filed.
4. If the grievance is sustained against a member of the faculty, the Dean will take action consistent with GSSW and University personnel policy.
5. If the grievance is sustained against a student, the Dean will make the final decision concerning action, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Committee and the outcome of efforts concerning reconciliation. The Dean will notify the student in writing of the decision and the right to appeal. The student may not register for or attend any classes while the appeal is pending.

GRADUATION AND COMMENCEMENT

Graduation Requirements

Application for graduation must be made no later than the first day of the quarter before that of the anticipated graduation date (e.g. students planning to graduate at the end of Spring quarter must apply by the first day of Winter Quarter) .Students can apply for graduation electronically under the “Student Records” link in MyWeb, or by requesting an application from the GSSW Registrar.

Once a student submits their application, the faculty adviser will be asked to verify that the student is eligible for graduation. The student will not be considered a graduation candidate until adviser approval is received. Graduation may be after the Fall, Winter, Spring, or Summer Quarter, dependent upon when the student meets the following degree requirements:

- Advancement to Candidacy at least one quarter before the quarter in which the student expects to complete the degree
- Enrollment for at least three quarters earning a minimum of 45 credit hours at GSSW
- Within four years of the date of first enrollment, completion of 90 quarter hours or, in the case of advanced standing students, 60 quarter hours, including all required courses, field internship credits and electives, with incomplete and in progress grades removed, and
- Having a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0
- Students who receive an incomplete in their final quarter of enrollment automatically defer the certification of their degree to the following quarter

Please note that, although degrees can be certified in any academic quarter, formal commencement ceremonies are only held following Spring (June) and summer quarter (August). Students who complete degree requirements in the Fall or Winter quarter will be eligible to participate in commencement exercises the following spring.

Students who fail to achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 when degree certification is verified will be notified by the GSSW Registrar and will be allowed to register for no more than 6 credit hours of additional coursework at GSSW in order to raise the GPA to 3.0. If the cumulative GPA remains at less than 3.0 at the end of the next quarter in which the student is enrolled, the student will be terminated from the program. The GSSW Registrar will notify the student in writing of the termination and the right to appeal the termination. If the student chooses to appeal, he/she will not be allowed to register for additional classes until a decision is granted.

Graduation candidates must fulfill all degree requirements including course assignments and field hours no later than the last day of the term in which they intend to graduate. Faculty cannot extend deadlines for submission of coursework past the last day of the term.

The final responsibility for completing all graduation requirements lies with the student. Students should review their online transcript and APR (Academic Progress Report) each quarter to ensure progress towards completion of degree requirements.

A delay of graduation fee of \$20 will be assessed for graduation candidates who do not graduate at the end of the academic term for which they applied. Students whose graduation term is delayed must submit a new application for graduation to be considered for the subsequent term.

Advancement to Candidacy

Advancement to candidacy must be accomplished no later than one quarter prior to the expected date of completion of requirements for the degree. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs must approve any exceptions.

Following completion of the requirements of the foundation curriculum for two year students or, in the case of advanced standing students, the completion of the second quarter of study, the student is eligible for advancement to candidacy for the degree, based upon the following criteria:

- enrollment as a regular status student
- having a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0, and
- **two year students:** completion of foundation courses and foundation field internship
advanced standing students: completion of SOWK 4132, 4299, advanced policy, one elective, and five hours of field internship with a grade of “Pass”

Advancement to candidacy is not automatically made upon the completion of any required number of courses or hours of field. If a student fails to make satisfactory progress in the areas of academic performance, professional attitude or behavior, ethical conduct, and/or field performance, the GSSW Registrar may withhold advancement upon recommendation by the faculty.

Participation in Commencement Ceremonies

Commencement ceremonies at the University of Denver are held in June and August each year. GSSW students **must complete all degree requirements before participation in commencement ceremonies.** In the following circumstances, students may request an exception to this policy:

1. The student has five or fewer credits of “In Progress” in SOWK 4960 or SOWK 4961 that will be completed by the end of the quarter, including summer session, following the commencement ceremony, or
2. The student has registered for a block placement in SOWK 4960 or SOWK 4961 and is within 200 clock hours (equal to five credits) of satisfactorily completing field, or
3. The student has registered for an international travel course which will remain in progress until travel occurs after the end of the academic term.

Students must submit a request for an exception. Forms are available from the GSSW Registrar.

Students should note that participation in commencement ceremonies does not, in and of itself, indicate completion of degree requirements. The diploma will be conferred only after the GSSW Registrar certifies that all requirements for the degree have been completed.

PREPARATION FOR POST-GRADUATION

Preparation for Licensure

The Graduate School of Social Work and the University of Denver provide resources to students to assist them in the licensure and job search process.

- All job postings that are received by GSSW will be forwarded to the gssw-jobs listserve. Please see pages 13-14 of this Guide for detailed instructions for joining the listserve.
- All job postings received by the University will be posted on the Career Services website at www.du.edu/career. Students will need to use their DU ID to login to this site.
- In the spring, the GSSW Alumni Council usually hosts a Job Fair for graduating students, as well as brown bag presentations about the licensure process.
- GSSW offers a variety of post-graduate continuing education offerings, including licensure preparation courses.

Licensure is governed by state law, and the requirements differ from state to state. For information about requirements in Colorado, visit www.dora.state.co.us/mental-health/sw/licensing.htm, the website for the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies. For information about licensing requirements and procedures in other States, visit www.aswb.org, the website for the Association of Social Work Boards.

All licensure applications needing signatures or requests for letters verifying graduation should be submitted to the GSSW Registrar.

Please note: Students are strongly encouraged to save syllabi from all courses completed; these are often required by licensing boards in states other than Colorado, as well as by many prospective employers.

Provisional Special Services License for School Social Workers

Persons who are school social workers in Colorado must hold a Provisional Special Services License for School Social Work in Colorado, awarded by the Colorado Department of Education. For information about the license, students should contact the GSSW Registrar or visit www.cde.state.co.us/index_license.htm, the website for the Colorado Department of Education.

Completion of either SOWK 4715—School Based Prevention & Early Intervention Strategies or SOWK 4712—Law of Family & Child at the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work is required in addition to completion of the MSW degree requirements. *GSSW strongly recommends that students take both courses, if possible.* It is additionally recommended (but not required) that students complete the clinical concentration; clinical elective courses pertaining to children, high-risk youth and families; Mental Health Interventions with Children (SOWK 4500), Building Resilience: Healthy Development in Childhood & Adolescence (SOWK 4315), and a field internship in school social work.

Additionally, students must have completed at least one field internship with children and/or youth (or be able to provide documentation of at least 900 supervised hours of work with children and/or youth).

Students interested in school social work in states other than Colorado are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the requirements specific to that state to ensure that requirements are met in their choice of courses and internship.

GSSW GUIDELINES ON MSW STUDENTS PERFORMING PRIVATE INDEPENDENT PRACTICE OF PSYCHOTHERAPY OR COUNSELING CONCURRENT WITH THEIR GRADUATE EDUCATION

Policy

GSSW strongly discourages masters-level students from engaging in private independent practice of psychotherapy concurrent with their graduate education. Students who choose to practice psychotherapy with private clients during their graduate education assume sole responsibility for the care and treatment of these clients. GSSW, its faculty and staff, and the University of Denver assume no responsibility for the care and treatment of students' private practice clients. This policy statement and guidelines are not meant to prohibit or restrict students from agency employment in social work, mental health, or related human service organizations during their graduate education.

Definition of Terms

As used here, "private independent practice" refers to the delivery of psychotherapeutic services by a mental health practitioner on a fee-for-service basis, independent of a GSSW-approved agency structure, whether practiced as a sole endeavor or group enterprise, business partnership, or as an owner or employee of a professional service corporation. This includes private work done under the contract, auspices, and/or supervision of a psychotherapist or clinical social worker (whether licensed or unlicensed) in private practice.

Guidelines

For those MSW students who choose to see "private practice clients" while enrolled in GSSW, the following guidelines shall apply:

1. The Colorado State Board of Social Work Examiners regulates the practice of social work, including clinical social work and applied psychotherapy, clinical practice, and community practice. In addition, the Colorado State Mental Health Grievance Board regulates the practice of psychotherapy by unlicensed therapists. Students in private practice are expected to conform to all applicable Colorado laws and regulations [see C.R.S. 12-43-101 *et seq.*] and regulations of the Colorado State Board of Social Work Examiners and the Colorado State Mental Health Grievance Board. This includes registering in the Colorado database directory of unlicensed psychotherapists, taking a jurisprudence examination or workshop, using a mandatory disclosure form with clients, and practicing only within their competency and training and within generally accepted standards of care. In addition, students are expected to practice according to the NASW Code of Ethics and the clinical standards determined by the social work profession.

Note: The titles "social worker," "registered social worker," "licensed social worker," "licensed clinical social worker," and "licensed independent social worker," and their abbreviations "RSW," "LSW," "LISW," and "LCSW," are legally restricted to only those persons who have successfully passed the state's licensing or registration process. The practice of psychotherapy by social workers is restricted to persons holding an LCSW or an LSW who are being supervised by a LCSW.

2. The name of the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work may not be stated in conjunction with "MSW candidate," "social work candidate," or "social work intern" for the purposes of representing a student's competence or qualifications to engage in private practice, in advertising, or recruiting private practice clients.

3. Students are prohibited from using private practice clients to fulfill any GSSW academic course or field education assignment. Students' private practice may not be used as a work site for field placement setting. GSSW faculty, staff, and field instructors will not supervise, either voluntarily or on a fee-for-service basis,

students' clinical work with private practice clients. Students are prohibited from transferring or referring clients seen in a field placement agency or setting to their own private practice.

4. In the event that a student receives a sustained violation of professional and ethical standards, legal violation, or judgment of professional misconduct or negligence which has occurred in the context of private psychotherapy practice, she or he shall notify the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs within five (5) working days of the determination that the complaint has merit. In the event the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs is absent or unavailable, the student shall notify his or her academic adviser and/or the Dean.

5. As defined here, a sustained violation is an allegation or complaint which has been duly investigated and been determined to have merit by a court of law, state regulatory body, agency or organization, or a professional association's ethics committee or peer review committee. Evidence that a violation has been sustained includes termination of employment by an agency for unprofessional and/or unethical behavior, malpractice suit, ethical sanctions imposed by a professional association (e.g., NASW) for unprofessional and/or unethical behavior, any judgment or disciplinary action taken by the State Board of Social Work Examiners or the State Mental Health Grievance Board, and conviction for violation of Colorado laws regarding the practice of mental health.

It is important to remember that the Graduate School of Social Work is a member of the larger University of Denver community. The DU Honor Code and relevant policies follow.

University of Denver Honor Code

PROCEDURES GOVERNING STUDENTS

Formally adopted by the University of Denver Board of Trustees
April 15, 2000

Jurisdiction

This Code applies to all students at the University of Denver. Matters relating to academic honesty are within the general jurisdiction of the Provost or his or her designee. If an alleged violation occurs while engaged in activities as a student, these procedures will apply. (If an alleged violation occurs while a staff or administrator is teaching a for-credit class the Procedures Related to Faculty Appointment, Promotions, and Tenure will apply. If an alleged violation occurs while engaged in activities as a staff or administrator, the Honor Code Procedures Related to Staff and Administrators will apply.) The Provost shall resolve any conflict or dispute concerning which procedure governs in the enforcement of the Honor Code.

Definitions

A. University of Denver Community - Students, faculty, staff, administrators and trustees whose actions affect the educational process of the University.

B. Violation - Any intentional misrepresentation of material in the academic or professional setting or deception in academic matters. Intent to misrepresent or deceive may be inferred from the facts and circumstances surrounding any act charged as a violation of the Honor Code.

The following are some examples of violations of the Honor Code under this principle. Violations include, but are not limited to, taking or assisting someone else in taking the following actions:

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: any of the following acts, when committed by a student, shall constitute academic dishonesty:

- **PLAGIARISM:** representation of another's work or ideas as one's own in academic submissions.
- **CHEATING:** actual or attempted use of resources not authorized by the instructor(s) for academic submissions.
- **FABRICATION:** falsification or creation of data, research or resources to support academic submissions.
- **AID of ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** intentionally facilitating plagiarism, cheating or fabrication by others.

Reporting of Violations

- Every member of the University of Denver Academic Community is strongly encouraged, but not required to report apparent violations of the Honor Code.
- A violation is reported when the Academic Dishonesty Allegations Form (ADAF) is submitted to the Office of Citizenship and Community Standards.

Consultation Prior to the Academic Conduct Review Process

Before initiating a formal inquiry or filing an Academic Dishonesty Allegations Form, any member of the

University community who becomes aware of an actual or possible violation of the Honor Code may consult with the Office of Citizenship & Community Standards to request anonymous advice as to the nature of the procedures, information about available options, as a sounding board, or on any other relevant matter. No records are kept of such consultations. Faculty members may also consult with the student suspected of a violation about possible Honor Code violations for purposes that include but are not limited to gathering additional information and clarifying perceptions of student behaviors.

Academic Conduct Review Process: Procedures for Faculty

A faculty member who believes that there is reasonable suspicion that a student may have committed a violation of the Honor Code, should either:

1. Initiate a history check and/or
2. File an ADAF form.

History Check

The purpose of a history check is to ascertain whether the student in question has previously been sanctioned for academic dishonesty. If the history check shows that the student has previously been sanctioned, the faculty member must submit the Academic Conduct Review Board (ACRB) will handle an ADAF form and the case. The Office of Citizenship & Community Standards will maintain a tracking log of all history checks. This log will be used for internal administrative purposes. If the history check indicates that the student in question has not previously been sanctioned, there are three routes available to the faculty member.

1. Faculty Disposition without an ADAF
2. Faculty Disposition with an ADAF
3. Disposition through the ACRB.

A. Faculty Disposition without an ADAF. The faculty member shall discuss the suspicions or allegations with the student in question and come to one of three types of resolution.

- No further action. In the judgment of the faculty member, either no violation occurred, or there is insufficient evidence of a violation.
- Sanctions that do not involve assigning a failing grade either for the assignment or for the course (e.g., additional work on this or a substitute assignment).
- Assigning a failing grade either for the assignment or for the course. The instructor shall notify the Office of Citizenship & Community Standards of the nature of the final disposition, at which point the name of the student will be removed from the tracking log. If the Office of Citizenship & Community Standards has not been notified of a final disposition within one month of a history check, it may follow-up with the faculty member in order to clear the log. If the disposition does not involve assigning a failing grade for either the assignment or for the course, no record of the case will be made. If a failing grade has been assigned because of academic dishonesty, this will be recorded. In addition to assigning a failing grade for the assignment or the course, the faculty member may submit an ADAF with the intent of having the case considered by the ACRB. This might occur, for example, if the faculty member believed that mandatory attendance at a workshop or academic probation should be considered in this case. Such additional sanctions can be imposed only by the ACRB, not by an individual faculty member.

B. Faculty Disposition with an ADAF

Any subsequent alleged violations of the Honor Code require that an ADAF be filed; however, faculty members have the option of immediately referring any allegations to the ACRB

C. Disposition by the ACRB Faculty are strongly encouraged to use procedure C, Disposition by the ACRB, in order to maintain consistency across cases and to support the principle of student ownership of the Honor Code process. Honor Code violations are a matter of community concern, not merely a private issue between instructor and student. Procedures A and B should be considered unusual rather than standard. They are available where the instructor feels that they are most appropriate given the particular nature of the case, but they should not be considered the norm.

Rights of Accused Student

Throughout his or her involvement in the disciplinary process, the accused student has the following rights:

Right to Notice

The student shall receive written notice of charges. The student will be requested to attend an advisory conference with the director at which time they will be advised of the date, time, and place of the ACRB hearing. The notice is sent to the local mailing address listed with the University information system. Notice may also be delivered in person.

Right to an Advisory Conference

The student accused of violating the Honor Code will meet with the director of Citizenship & Community Standards to be advised of procedure, rights and responsibilities for an Academic Conduct Review Board hearing.

Right to Prepare

No later than 5 working days (Monday through Friday except for official University holidays) before the ACRB hearing the student shall be entitled to obtain from the Office of Citizenship & Community Standards (1) all documentary evidence to be presented at the hearing, (2) the names of all ACRB members, and (3) the names of all witnesses the University will call.

Right to an Adviser

An adviser may accompany the student during the advisory conference or ACRB hearing. The student is not allowed to have an attorney present unless the Director gives permission. If such permission is given, the attorney or adviser will be allowed to consult with the student, but not participate in the proceedings.

Right to Present Information

The student will have the opportunity to present information by witness, affidavit, and/or personal testimony that he/she feels is important for consideration with regard to the complaint.

Right to Hear Testimony

The student has the right to hear all information presented at a hearing and be involved in the entire hearing except for deliberation.

Right to Witnesses

The student may invite relevant witnesses to present information at the hearing. The accused student must provide a list of all witnesses he/she will be calling at least 48 hours before the hearing. Generally, no more than two (2) character witnesses will be allowed. Written character references may be accepted.

Right to Respond

The student has the right to respond to the information presented at the hearing and to question, through the Chair, witnesses who present testimony at the hearing.

Right to Written Disposition

The student will receive written notification of the findings of fact, standards violated, and sanctions after the ACRB hearing.

Right to Challenge an ACRB member

The student has the right to request the removal of any ACRB board member based on a demonstrated, significant prejudice or bias. Prejudice or bias must be actual, not merely potential. This request should be made in writing to the Director of Citizenship & Community Standards at least 3 working days before the ACRB hearing. The Director will rule on all such requests.

Right to Disciplinary File

The student has the right to review his/her disciplinary file within thirty days of the request.

Right to Review the Audiotape

The student may review the audiotape recording of the ACRB hearing in the Office of Citizenship & Community Standards.

Right to Appeal

The student has the right to request an appeal if circumstances meet the conditions outlined in the appeal process.

Sanctions

The following are some examples of sanctions. In the case of a recommendation of Suspension or Expulsion from the University, the ACRB will make its recommendation to the Vice Provost for approval. Sanctions include, but are not limited to:

- Workshops offered through the Office of Citizenship & Community Standards
- Community service
- Disciplinary probation at the University
- Suspension from the University
- Expulsion from the University

Procedural Guidelines

1. The individual found responsible must file the Appeal Form
2. After submission of an Appeal Form, the Vice Provost shall have five (5) working days to decide whether the case should be presented to the ACAB.
3. If an appeal is warranted, the Vice-Provost shall have five (5) working days to notify the ACAB members of the need to convene.
4. An official member of the Office of the Vice Provost shall facilitate the review process. This person has no vote.
5. The decision of the ACAB is final.

Records

All records and files of violations of the Honor Code will be kept with the Office of Citizenship & Community Standards. An expulsion keeps the incident on file permanently. A suspension is kept on file for six years after the completion of the suspension period. At this time the student may request, in writing, that the file be expunged. Probation, and other sanctions are kept on file for four years or until date of graduation, whichever occurs later.

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

University of Denver Code of Student Conduct

Introduction

The University of Denver has a *Code of Student Conduct* to maintain the general welfare of the University community. The University is committed to creating a campus environment conducive to education, work, study, and personal development.

Admission to the University carries with it the expectation that each student (including all full- and part-time, undergraduate, graduate, and non-traditional students) will be a responsible member of the campus community. When you enroll at the University, you assume the responsibility of observing the standards of conduct. By accepting the responsibility to respect the personal safety and individual rights of every member of the University community, each student is given the opportunity to pursue his/her education in an environment based upon mutual respect.

The Office of Citizenship and Community Standards direct the efforts of students and staff in matters involving student discipline. This office is responsible for determining the charges against a student, interviewing and advising students involved in the disciplinary process, resolving cases of student misconduct, supervising and training the Conduct Review Board (CRB), and maintaining all disciplinary records.

The director or associate director of the Office of Citizenship and Community Standards are available to answer questions and hear concerns about the *Code of Student Conduct* and all of the disciplinary procedures. Call 303.871.4851 if you feel that the following policies have not been followed or that you have been treated unfairly.

Authority

Disciplinary authority is delegated by the University to the associate vice provost for campus life, other University administrators, faculty, students, committees, and organizations as described in this *Code*, or in other policies, rules, or regulations adopted by the University.

Members of the University faculty also have broad discretion regarding grading, graduation, and other academic matters. As a condition to enrollment or graduation, the faculty in any academic area may require that its students adhere to ethical or professional standards. Failure to comply with such requirements may result in sanctions (including probation, suspension, or dismissal) in accordance with applicable academic procedures. Additional details may be obtained from the appropriate dean's office.

Statement of Jurisdiction

This *Code* applies to all undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Denver. The standards of conduct primarily prohibit misconduct on University premises (buildings or grounds owned, leased, operated, controlled, or supervised by the University) but may address off-campus conduct when the behavior shows, in the University's sole judgment, that the student may threaten the welfare and safety of the DU community.

Students may be held accountable to both civil authorities and the University for breaking a law that also violates the University standards of conduct. The University may, at its sole discretion, elect to pursue disciplinary action under this *Code* at the same time as criminal proceedings even if criminal charges involving the same incident are not complete, have been dismissed, or were reduced.

Standards of Conduct

The University expects each student enrolled at the University of Denver to follow the standards of

conduct in order to promote a safe and civil campus environment. Listed below are the standards of conduct. Violations of these standards may result in disciplinary action.

1. *Alcohol Violations*

Possession, use, manufacture, distribution (exchange), or sale of alcoholic beverages, as an individual or recognized University organization, in violation of the law or University policies is prohibited. Refer to the University's policy on alcohol use in the Student Handbook and the University publication "For the Record."

2. *Discrimination*

The University is committed to the principle that all students may use and enjoy its educational services, social activities, and facilities free from discrimination on the basis of religion, age, ancestry, sex, color, disabled status, national origin, race, sexual orientation, or veteran status. The complete policy against discrimination may be found in the Affirmative Action Office, Columbine Hall, and room 104.

3. *Failure to Respond to Instruction*

Failure to comply with any written or verbal instructions of University officials who are performing their duties is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, safety officers, residence hall staff, faculty, and administrative staff.

4. *False Reports*

Initiation of any false report, warning, threat of fire (e.g. pulling a fire alarm), threat of explosion, or other emergencies on University premises or at any University-sponsored activity is prohibited. This includes any activity on or off campus, which is initiated, aided, authorized, or supervised by the University. It is also a violation of the *Code* to knowingly or recklessly make false reports or statements to University officials, including but not limited to safety officers, residence hall staff, administrative staff, and faculty. Students may not tamper with, impair, disable, or misuse fire protection systems such as fire detectors, sprinklers, alarms, and extinguishers.

5. *Falsification of Information*

Forgery, alteration, falsification, or misrepresentation of University documents, records, or credentials is prohibited. This includes grade transcripts, student identification cards, computer records, and other official documents. The use of a document that has been forged or altered by someone else is also a *Code* violation.

6. *Harassment*

Harassment includes, but is not limited to, conduct that would place a reasonable person in fear of his or her personal safety through words or actions you have directed at this person. In addition, threatening or endangering the health or safety of any person by physically abusing, physically restricting, or coercing another person is considered harassment. Other forms of harassment, which the University has identified as unacceptable, include:

- ❑ Interference with University Functions--Harassment includes unauthorized conduct of any kind which interferes with the ability of other students to pursue their education in designated environments (e.g., residences, study areas, classrooms, or libraries), the functioning of faculty or staff, or any other aspects of the University's educational mission.
- ❑ Assault--This includes laying hands upon, striking, treating violently, or threatening to do bodily harm to another person.
- ❑ Sexual Harassment--This is defined as any unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual

favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, when (1) submission to such conduct is either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment or status in a course, program, or activity, (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as a basis for employment or educational decisions, or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with work performance or educational experience or performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment for working or learning. The University has the right to discipline students who engage in the sexual harassment of other students. A copy of the University policy on sexual harassment may be obtained from the Affirmative Action Office, Columbine Hall, and Room 104.

- Stalking--Stalking includes the following behavior: (1) Making a threat to another person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her life or safety and, in connection with the threat, repeatedly following that person. (2) Making such a threat to another person and, in connection with the threat, repeatedly attempting to contact that person.

7. *Hazing*

Any action that in any way adversely affects the health or safety of any person as a condition of participating in any student organization or activity will bring University action. Students may not create a situation, on or off University premises, that involves the physical or emotional abuse of another member of the University community by causing physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Such activities may include forced drinking of alcohol, paddling, creation of fatigue, physical shocks, morally degrading or humiliating games, road trips, scavenger hunts, physical harassment, public stunts, late work sessions that interfere with academic performance, or any activity not consistent with the regulations and policies of the University.

8. *Identification*

Using, or attempting to use, false or illegally altered identification is prohibited. Also, student identification cards are University property and must be shown or surrendered when requested by a University official. Students should carry their DU ID at all times.

9. *Illegal Drugs*

Possession, use, manufacture, distribution, or sale of illegal drugs in violation of the law or University policy is prohibited. Possession of drug paraphernalia is prohibited. For additional information, refer to the University's policy on drug use in the Student Handbook and the University publication "For the Record."

10. *Interference, Obstruction, or Disruption*

It is a violation of this *Code* to interfere with, obstruct, or disrupt any normal University activity such as teaching, research, recreation, meetings, public events, and disciplinary proceedings, the freedom of expression and movement of students or other members of the University community and their invited guests, and police or fire responses to an emergency.

11. *Misuse of University Facilities*

Entering or using a University building or facility in a way that is unauthorized is prohibited. Students may not use University property for any illegal activity.

12. *Sexual Assault*

Inflicting sexual contact, sexual intrusion, or sexual penetration on any person without that person's consent is a violation of this *Code*. Conduct will be considered "without consent" if no clear consent is given; if inflicted through force, threat of force, or coercion; or when inflicted upon a person who is unconscious or otherwise without the physical or mental capacity to consent. For example, if you

inflict sexual contact or intrusion on someone who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, it may be considered “without consent” because that person may not have the physical or mental capacity to consent. Harassment without physical contact will not be deemed sexual assault. Refer to the University Sexual Assault Policy in the Student Handbook following the Student *Code* of Conduct.

13. *Theft and Property Damage*

Stealing or damaging University property (including vandalism or graffiti) or property belonging to visitors or anyone else on University premises is prohibited. This also includes the unauthorized copying of computer software that belongs to the University and possession of property that you know is stolen.

14. *Violation of Local Laws/Off-Campus Conduct*

Violating any federal, state, or local laws while on University premises is prohibited. Violation of such laws while off campus is also a violation of this *Code*, if the conduct, in the University's sole judgment, indicates the student may be a threat to the safety or security of the University.

15. *Violation of University Policies*

Students are expected to follow all University policies and regulations. Such policies and regulations may include but are not limited to the following: residence hall contracts, on-campus selling and advertising policy, guide to residence hall living, undergraduate and graduate bulletins, and alcohol and drug policies.

16. *Weapons, Firearms, and Fireworks*

Possession or use of firearms, explosives, unauthorized fireworks, or other dangerous weapons (any object or substance designed to or used to inflict a wound, cause injury, cause damage, or incapacitate, including but not limited to all firearms, pellet guns, switchblade knives, and knives with blades longer than 3 1/2 inches) while on University premises is prohibited. A harmless instrument designed to look like a firearm, explosive, or dangerous weapon that is used to cause fear in or assault another person is considered a dangerous weapon. While possession of mace and other legal self-defense instruments is not prohibited, offensive or reckless use may constitute physical harassment or assault and may be subject to disciplinary action.

Disciplinary Procedures

In addition to protecting the community, the University views the disciplinary process as a learning experience that can result in growth and personal understanding of one's responsibilities and privileges within the University community. The disciplinary process is not meant to be a substitute for civil or criminal legal proceedings but instead is designed to provide a fair evaluation of whether or not a student has violated the *Code*. Formal rules of evidence will not apply in the University disciplinary process. The University encourages the reporting of any criminal activity to campus security and the Denver Police Department.

Office of Citizenship and Community Standards

The Office of Citizenship & Community Standards has jurisdiction over *Code* enforcement. The office has the discretion to determine, among other things, whether (1) to press charges in connection with a complaint, (2) to dismiss a case after an administrative conference with the accused student, (3) to implement a disposition of the case after an administrative conference with the accused student, or (4) to refer the matter to the appropriate body to conduct a CRB hearing. Reports of behavior that may result in suspension or expulsion may be referred to the CRB. The office may consult with a representative from the accused student's college, school, or department when appropriate.

Complaint

Anyone may file a written or verbal complaint (a written complaint must follow a verbal complaint) with

the Office of Citizenship & Community Standards whenever a student is believed to have violated any of the *Code* standards. The complaint must include a statement of facts describing the alleged violation. A complaint often takes the form of a security report. The office will not accept anonymous complaints.

Upon receipt of the written or verbal complaint, the office decides whether there is substance to the complaint, whether the complaint falls within the jurisdiction of the *Code*, and whether to charge a student with a violation of the *Code*.

The victim of an alleged incident of student misconduct should expect to be asked to participate in the judicial process involving the accused. This generally includes making a timely report of the incident, filing a written complaint with the Office of Citizenship & Community Standards, discussing the incident with the office, and providing testimony in the presence of the accused. The University's ability to take action is limited if the victim chooses not to participate in the disciplinary process or is unable to fulfill these responsibilities.

Notice

The office initiates the disciplinary process by sending written notice of charges to the student who has allegedly violated the *Code*. The notice is sent to the mailing address listed with the University information system or the address listed on the security report. Notice may also be delivered in person by security or University staff.

The notice describes the *Code* standard(s) allegedly violated and informs the student about the reported circumstances underlying the alleged misconduct. The notice informs the student of the time, date, and place of an administrative conference with a hearing officer. If the student is unable to meet at the time and date scheduled he/she must contact the Office of Citizenship & Community Standards within five working days of the date of the notice to reschedule the appointment. Copies of all documents pertinent to the incident are available to the accused student upon request at the Office for Citizenship & Community Standards for review before and during the administrative conference.

Administrative Conference

The administrative conference is a preliminary meeting between the hearing officer and the accused. When the student appears at the administrative conference, the hearing officer explains the disciplinary process, discusses the student's rights, and reviews the charges with the student. The administrative conference may be continued to another date in order to allow the hearing officer to conduct further investigation or a decision on the case may be made at that time. The hearing officer is responsible for assessing the charges and (depending on the severity) deciding whether to hear the case or refer the matter to a CRB hearing. Although a hearing before the hearing officer is less formal than a CRB hearing, the student will in either case have an opportunity to respond to the charges and explain the situation by calling witnesses (any individual with information relating to a conduct case) or presenting other evidence if the student chooses to do so.

If the student does not schedule an administrative conference by the deadline given in the notice or fails to attend a scheduled conference, the hearing officer can unilaterally resolve the case in the student's absence. The hearing officer may grant exceptions. However, unless unusual circumstances beyond the control of the student arise, the hearing officer normally will not grant a delay.

Mediation

The hearings provided for in this *Code* serve as the University's method of arbitrating disputed cases involving *Code* violations. In addition, the hearing officer may attempt to mediate a case or refer the case to the Student Mediation Center. Mediation is an informal, voluntary process in which the hearing officer, or a designee, meets with the individuals involved. The purpose of the meeting is to address the

complaint, encourage communication between the parties involved, and generate possible solutions. If a consensus is not reached, the hearing officer retains discretion to resolve the matter through either a CRB hearing or a disposition by the hearing officer.

Disposition by the Associate Hearing officer

After the student has been notified of charges and an administrative conference has taken place, the hearing officer may investigate the incident further when information is insufficient or if the facts presented contradict each other. The hearing officer will offer the accused an opportunity for a hearing before the hearing officer. The hearing officer will then prepare a written administrative disposition in follow-up to the investigation. This letter will include the findings of fact, a conclusion as to whether or not the standard(s) of conduct were violated, and the sanction imposed by the hearing officer. The student has the right to request an appeal by the CRB if the conditions outlined in the appeal process are satisfied.

Composition and Jurisdiction of CRB

The *Campus Review Board (CRB)* will hear cases referred to it by the hearing officer. It also will consider appeals following a disposition by the hearing officer. Reports of behavior that may result in suspension or expulsion may be referred to the CRB. Normally, the CRB will comprise three students (at least one undergraduate and one graduate student will be represented), one faculty member, and one staff member. A minimum of four CRB members must be present to hear a case.

CRB Hearing Procedures

1. Call to order by CRB chair.
2. Announcements and opening remarks by the chair, including the following:
 - ◆ Identification of the parties attending the hearing.
 - ◆ Statement of the nature of the case.
 - ◆ Statements of the conditions of the hearing will include the following:
 - ◆ The hearing will be audio recorded.
 - ◆ The hearing is closed.
 - ◆ The hearing is designed to be fair to all parties involved.
 - ◆ Comments/statements must be restricted to matters directly relevant to the case.
 - ◆ Any person disrupting, interfering with, or not abiding by the rulings of the chair may be dismissed.
 - ◆ The adviser's role is restricted to advising the student. The adviser may not address witnesses or the CRB unless invited to do so by the chair.
 - ◆ CRB deliberations are closed and are not audio recorded.
 - ◆ Statement of confidentiality.
3. The chair will read the complaint and state the charges.
4. The director of Citizenship & Community Standards or a designee directs the presentation of the university's evidence and witnesses.
5. The chair will ask the accused student and CRB members if there are any questions with regard to witnesses or the information presented by the director of Citizenship & Community Standards or a designee.
6. The chair will ask the accused student to respond to the charges, present evidence on his/her behalf, and call any witnesses.
7. The chair will ask the CRB members if they have any questions for the accused student and/or the student's witnesses.
8. The CRB may ask questions of or recall any hearing participants to address specific issues or questions at the request of either the accused student or a CRB member.
9. The accused student and the director of Citizenship & Community Standards or designee present closing statements.

10. The chair concludes the hearing, dismissing the accused student and adviser.
11. The CRB enters closed-session deliberation.
 - ◆ The CRB decides whether or not the accused student has violated the *Code of Student Conduct*.
 - ◆ If a violation has occurred, the CRB decides on an appropriate sanction.
 - ◆ The CRB will normally make its decisions the same day the case is heard.
12. The CRB will write a letter to the accused student outlining the decision to include the following:
 - ◆ What, if any, standard(s) of behavior has been violated.
 - ◆ The sanction being imposed.
 - ◆ The rationale.
 - ◆ Steps in the appeal process.
14. The Office of Citizenship & Community Standards keeps a record of the hearing. The record includes copies of all correspondence between the accused student and the University, an audio recording of the hearing, and the decision.

Rights of Accused Students

Throughout his or her involvement in the disciplinary process, the accused student has the following rights:

Right to Notice.

The student shall receive written notice of charges.

Right to Prepare.

The student is given five working days (Monday through Friday, except for official University holidays) from the date of the letter of notice to prepare for an administrative conference. The student is given seven working days to prepare prior to a hearing before the CRB. The student shall receive 1) all documentary evidence to be used at the hearing, 2) the names of all CRB members, and 3) the names of all witnesses the University will call at least five working days before the CRB hearing.

Right to an Adviser

The student may be accompanied by an adviser during the administrative conference or CRB hearing. The student is not allowed to have an attorney present unless the director gives permission. If such permission is given, the attorney will be allowed to consult with the student but not to participate in the proceedings.

Right to Present Information

The student will have the opportunity to present information by witness, affidavit, and/or personal testimony that he/she feels is important for consideration with regard to the complaint.

Right to Hear Testimony

The student has the right to hear all information presented at a hearing and to be involved in the entire hearing except for deliberation.

Right to Witnesses

The student may invite relevant witnesses to present information at the hearing. The accused student must provide a list of all witnesses he/she will be calling at least 48 hours before the hearing. Generally, no more than two character witnesses will be allowed. Written character references may be accepted.

Right to Respond

The student has the right to respond to the information presented at the hearing and to question witnesses, through the chair, who present testimony at the hearing.

Right to Written Disposition

The student will receive written notification of the findings of fact, standards violated, and sanctions after the administrative conference.

Right to Challenge a CRB Member.

The student has the right to request the removal of any CRB board member based on a demonstrated, significant prejudice or bias. Prejudice or bias must be actual, not merely potential. This request should be made in writing to the director of Citizenship & Community Standards at least three working days before the CRB hearing. The director will rule on all such requests.

Right to Disciplinary File

The student has the right to review, at any time, and request copies of the contents of his/her disciplinary file.

Right to Audiotape

The student may make an audiotape recording of the CRB hearing and have access to the University's audiotape for review and copying (at the student's expense).

Right to Appeal

The student has the right to request an appeal if circumstances meet the conditions outlined in the appeal process.

Rights of Victims

Throughout his or her involvement in the conduct process, the victim of any alleged student misconduct has the following rights:

Right to Be Informed

The victim shall be informed of the progress and outcome of the conduct proceedings subject to requirements imposed by the Campus Security Act, as amended by the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 (see Campus Security Act).

Right to Provide a Statement

The victim may provide a written impact statement, in addition to giving testimony at the hearing, for consideration during the disciplinary proceedings. The statement describes the harm that the victim sustained as a result of the alleged misconduct.

Right to Reasonable Efforts to Ensure Safety

A victim has the right to demonstrate that steps should be taken, with the exception of the hearing, to prevent unwanted contact or proximity with the student(s) accused. The University has sole discretion in determining whether to grant such a request. The victim will be informed of what his or her options are if the accused or the third party acting on behalf of the accused intimidates or harasses him/her.

Right to an Adviser

A non-lawyer adviser throughout the disciplinary process may accompany the victim.

Sanctions

The procedures for imposing sanctions are designed to assign similar sanctions for similar violations of the *Code*. There can, however, be no assurance that identical sanctions will be imposed for identical violations, because it is important to be concerned with the individual student and consider all of the circumstances in a particular case. Mitigating factors (extenuating circumstances that an accused student believes should be taken into account to reduce the sanction) may be considered, including past disciplinary record, nature of the violation, and severity of damage, injury, or harm. Repeated or aggravated violations (a violation which resulted or could have resulted in significant damage to persons or property or which posed a substantial threat to the stability and continuance of normal University functions) of any standard in the *Code* may also result in suspension or expulsion. Attempts to commit acts prohibited by this *Code* will be treated the same as completed acts. One or more of the following sanctions may be imposed for violating the *Code*.

Warning

A warning is written or oral communication that further misconduct may result in more severe disciplinary action.

University Disciplinary Probation

As a result of several minor violations or a more serious violation of the *Code*, a student may be placed on disciplinary probation. A time period is established in which a student is required to show changes in behavior, but he/she does not lose good academic standing with the University. Specific sanctions or restrictions may be levied or recommended as part of probation, such as disqualification from holding office in any student organization or representing the University in extracurricular activities. Violating the terms of probation or subsequent misconduct is grounds for further disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion.

Restitution

The student is required to make payment, either in money or services, to the University or to other persons, groups, or organizations for damages associated with the *Code* violation.

Registration/Transcript Holds

If a student has failed to comply with the terms of a sanction, a hold may be placed on the student's registration or academic transcripts by the director. The hold will be released as soon as the student follows through with all instructions regarding disciplinary action.

No Contact Order

If a student has been accused of harassing, assaulting, stalking, or sexually assaulting another person, he/she may be issued a no contact order. The student will be told not to contact or attempt to contact a particular person for a specific period of time. If the order is violated the student will face additional disciplinary charges which may result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

Interim Suspension

The director of Citizenship & Community Standards or a designee may suspend a student for an interim period prior to a CRB hearing. An interim suspension will be effective immediately, without prior notice, whenever the director of Citizenship & Community Standards, or his/her designee, determines that the continued presence of the student on the University campus poses a substantial threat to himself, herself, any member of the University community, or the stability and continuance of normal University functions.

A student suspended on an interim basis will be given an opportunity to appear personally before the associate vice provost for campus life or a designee within five working days from the effective date of the interim suspension. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss only (1) the reliability of the

information concerning the student's conduct, and/or (2) whether or not the conduct and surrounding circumstances reasonably indicate a substantial threat as described above. A CRB hearing will take place as soon as reasonably possible following an interim suspension.

Suspension

The student is required to leave the University for a specified period of time. Notification may accompany a student's transcript. After the period of suspension has expired, the student may request in writing to have the notification removed. The student shall not participate in any University-sponsored activity and is likely to be excluded from University premises.

Expulsion

The student is required to permanently leave the University. Notification may accompany a student's transcript. The student will be denied access to the University campus or designated portions of campus.

Notification

In cases where suspension or expulsion is the outcome in the disciplinary process, a letter from the director of Citizenship & Community Standards may be enclosed with requested transcripts. The letter will note that the student has been dismissed from the University for disciplinary reasons.

Appeal Process

1. Basis. The basis of the appeal is limited to 1) procedural errors so substantial that the accused was denied a fair hearing, 2) new and significant evidence becoming available which could not have been discovered by a properly diligent respondent before or during the original hearing, and/or 3) the imposition of a sanction that was arbitrary and capricious. In some cases where a matter initially was resolved by the director through an administrative disposition, the director may, but is not obligated to, request additional fact-finding on appeal to the CRB.

2. Steps in Requesting an Appeal. Accused students are entitled to one stage of appeal. If a charge is initially heard by the hearing officer in an administrative conference, the accused student may appeal the results of the administrative conference to the CRB. The CRB decision on the appeal will be final. If a charge is initially heard by the CRB, the accused student may appeal the results of the CRB hearing to the associate dean of student involvement and social responsibility. The decision of the associate dean will be final. The student has 10 working days from the date of the letter of disposition to file a written request with the associate dean or CRB through the Office of Citizenship & Community Standards. The request should be made in writing and include the student's reasons for requesting the appeal and all supporting information. Failure to submit an appeal in writing within the allotted time will render the original decision final and conclusive. Normally, a final decision will be made within 10 working days.

3. Actions Available to the CRB. The CRB will make a decision based on the record of the original administrative conference with the hearing officer and the written appeal submitted by the accused student. The CRB may (1) affirm the procedures, factual findings, and sanction imposed by the hearing officer, (2) affirm the findings of fact (or make new findings if requested) and modify the sanction, (3) identify procedural errors so substantial that the student was denied a fair hearing or find the student did not violate the *Code* and therefore dismiss the case, or (4) hear the case itself or refer the matter back to the associate hearing officer for another hearing.

4. Actions Available to the Associate Vice Provost for Campus Life. The associate vice provost will make a decision based on the record of the original CRB hearing and the written appeal submitted by the accused student. The associate vice provost may (1) affirm the procedures, factual

findings, and sanction imposed by the original board, (2) affirm the findings of fact and reduce the sanction, (3) identify procedural errors so substantial that the student was denied a fair hearing and refer the case back to the original board with recommendations on how to correct procedures, or (4) refer the matter to a new CRB. The CRB may then make a new decision, and the student may submit another request for an appeal.

Classroom Behavior

Students are expected to conduct themselves in class in accordance with the accepted standards of behavior set forth by the University and by an individual instructor. Any instructor may require a student to leave a class, either temporarily or on a permanent basis, when his/her behavior is such that it interferes with the instructor's ability to teach or other students' ability to learn. Any instructor may also initiate a complaint if he/she feels the standards of conduct have been violated in class.

Computer and Network Acceptable Use

The University of Denver's computer and network infrastructure enriches the teaching, learning, and research environment by providing students, faculty and staff convenient, inexpensive access to computer services.

Traffic on the campus computer network and loads on central computers are monitored by system personnel. Normally, only traffic volumes and system loads are monitored. However, more detailed monitoring may occur if there is reason to suspect unauthorized or unacceptable use of a computer or the network. Computers connected to the campus network have direct access to an international network of computers called the Internet. In order to protect the University of Denver's status within the Internet and assure legitimate access to University computers, people using University computers and the campus network will be expected to abide by the following rules:

- ◆ All illegal activities are prohibited.
- ◆ All commercial activities other than University of Denver business are prohibited.
- ◆ Using excessive bandwidth is prohibited.
- ◆ Placing an excessive load on central computers is prohibited.
- ◆ Disguising message sources is prohibited.
- ◆ Misuse of IP numbers is prohibited.
- ◆ Interfering with legitimate use of network resources by others is prohibited.

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY

The University of Denver believes that sexual assault in any form is reprehensible and will not be tolerated. All students have the right to be free from abuse, personal force, violence, or threats of violence. The University reserves the right to take whatever measures it deems necessary in response to a charge of sexual assault in order to protect students' rights and personal safety. Such measures include, but are not limited to, modification of living arrangements, removal from campus pending a hearing, and reporting to the local police. Even if the local police choose not to prosecute, the University may pursue disciplinary action. The University also reserves the right to impose sanctions ranging from a warning to expulsion from the University, depending on the severity of the offense. The University will consider the concerns and rights of both the person making the charge and the accused student.

A victim or any other individual may complete an anonymous report detailing an occurrence of sexual assault on campus. Anonymous reports will be taken at the departments listed above. These reports will help track any trends and patterns of sexual assault on campus. The data will be used to plan awareness and educational programs. Confidentiality will be maintained.