



Greetings students,

In these times of enhanced awareness of human needs as well as the failures of leaders and systems, there is an urgent demand for skilled social workers. SIUE and the faculty at the social work department are committed to providing high quality education to all our students. In order to maintain equitable high-quality education in a safe manner, we have requested to have all **social work courses be offered online with synchronous sessions for the fall**. That means that you will attend class via zoom or another platform. (Note that some departments at SIUE will have face to face options). It will take the scheduling system several weeks to make all the changes. You will be contacted by the registrar for each class that you are in.

We are committed to creating a **community** of learners so that you can connect to faculty and other students. We welcome ideas to help us reach that goal. Some faculty have zoom lounges or zoom office hours, others have had walking meetings outside. Social work students have created groups online. If you have ideas about creating virtual communities, please contact Jill Schreiber, [jjschre@siue.edu](mailto:jjschre@siue.edu).

Given the change to remote learning, you may want to make different choices. You have several options. You can choose to defer your acceptance for a 1, 2, or 3 semesters (Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Summer 2021). You can change between full time and part time. Note that students will still need to complete all coursework before you can enter practicum, and some changes could extend your course of study. **If you want to defer, change your status or if you will not be attending, please contact your program director** (for MSW program Swanke, Jayme [jswanke@siue.edu](mailto:jswanke@siue.edu) or for the BSW program, Gerald O'Brien [gobrien@siue.edu](mailto:gobrien@siue.edu)).

The campus is planning to be open for fall (following the State of Illinois guidelines). The campus documents [information](#) about SIUE and COVID on their website. As long as campus is open, you can use campus computers and internet for your classes. [Student services](#) including MUC, Library, counseling and other resources are still available. Please wear a mask when on campus.

There are additional financial aid resources on campus resources for students. If you were a student at SIUE in the spring 2020 you can apply for [CARES](#) funding (for example, CARES funding may provide money for needed technology). If you are new to SIUE, please contact financial aid. The social work department has scholarships and financial awards. More information about the department financial awards or scholarships are on the SIUE [webpage](#) and we will send more information about them in a future email.

Please contact [ITS](#) for computer support.

We know that some students will be relieved that classes and practicum will be online and other students will be disappointed. Many people spent hours trying to consider all the issues. However, we may not be aware of your specific situation. Please feel free to contact me with any thoughts or concerns.

**A special note just for SENIORS** All fall practicums will be done remotely to ensure student safety. Some agencies only offer remote practicums already, but some agencies are designed for face to face interactions. If you already have a placement do not panic and do not email them. We will be contacting the supervisors to inform them of this decision and determine if your placement will still work. **Our field director will email you as soon as she has information**. This will happen before the start of the semester, please be patient. We are all in this together and working as hard and as fast as we can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jill Comerford Schreiber, MSW, PhD".

Jill Schreiber, MSW, PhD  
Chair of Social Work Department

p.s. We don't have plans for courses or field for spring yet, but we will be working on that soon!