



RUTGERS

School of Social Work

Doctorate in Social Work
Student Handbook
2023-2024

Richard L. Edwards, Ph.D.
Interim Dean, School of Social
Work

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Doctorate of Social Work Faculty & Staff

E. Goldblatt Hyatt, DSW,
LCSW, MBE
Director, DSW Program and
Associate Teaching Professor
390 George Street,
3rd Floor
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
(848) 932-8485
erica.goldblatt.hyatt@ssw.rutgers.edu

Christine Kephart, PhD
Writing Instructor
390 George Street,
3rd Floor
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
(848) 932-8486
ck727@ssw.rutgers.edu

Abdul Ali, MS
Program Coordinator
390 George Street,
3rd Floor
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
(848) 932-8481
abdul.ali@rutgers.edu

Judith L.M. McCoy, PhD, LCSW
Associate Director of Doctoral
Programs and Associate Professor
217 N 6th St Camden, NJ 08102 and
390 George St 7th floor
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
(856) 225-2657
jmccoyd@ssw.rutgers.edu

Alex Gatten
MMP Instructor
390 George Street,
3rd Floor
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
alex.gatten@rutgers.edu

David Barry, MSW, JD
Faculty Advisor & Legal Consultant
390 George Street,
3rd Floor
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
davidbarry@comcast.net

DSW Mission Statement

The mission of the Doctorate of Social Work program is to transform experienced clinical social workers into leaders who promote individual, family, and community well-being and social justice in an increasingly diverse and global environment by training them to develop and disseminate clinical knowledge through peer-reviewed journal articles, national and international conference presentations, teaching, supervision, and innovative digital projects.

DSW Program Goals

Graduates of the DSW Program at the School of Social Work will:

- 1) Develop an area of expertise in the field of clinical social work.
- 2) Advance new scholarship in the field of clinical social work through the completion of a case study and qualitative research project.
- 3) Disseminate scholarship within an area of clinical social work through multiple modalities including the creation of a multi-media project, submission of original manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals, presenting at national and international conferences, supervision, and teaching.

Mission of the School of Social Work

To develop and disseminate knowledge through social work research, education, and training that promotes social and economic justice and strengthens family and community well-being in this diverse and increasingly global environment of New Jersey and beyond.

Curriculum

Overview

The Rutgers DSW Program challenges students to contextualize their practice using theories and research drawn from multiple disciplines. Because multidisciplinary knowledge and social justice intertwine at the heart of social work scholarship, we challenge students to grow beyond loyalties to one modality or perspective. The DSW builds on seasoned clinicians' practice experiences by cultivating their ability to present, publish, and create multimedia projects (MMPs) to disseminate their practice-relevant scholarship. The successful student tolerates ambiguity, engages with scholarly critique, thinks critically and creatively about clinical practice, and shares their insights in a professional manner.

Coursework, which is conducted during weekend residencies and through online modules, is grounded in three integrated sequences: foundation (training in theory development and

application), clinical practice (use and critique of clinical theories), and engaged scholarship (writing, clinical, and research proseminars). Graduation requires the successful completion of 54 credits. The program builds on students' initial case studies. Formulating the case study helps students to develop critical thinking skills needed to draw on the scholarly literature and to understand case material in a new way. This becomes the foundation for developing qualitative inquiry skills and enhancing writing skills in the second year of the program. The final year culminates in a multimedia project that allows students to disseminate their work while also engaging with the greater scholarly community. The DSW prepares graduates to address complex practice issues using critical perspectives and nuance, enabling social workers to become more sophisticated practitioners, teachers, and/or consumers and creators of scholarship.

The DSW curriculum is designed to help students:

- Recognize the links among theory, research, practice, and policy
- Engage in critical thinking and analysis
- Directly apply scholarly knowledge to various clinical practice contexts
- Tolerate uncertainty and ambiguity and view these elements as part of the process of knowledge development
- Be socialized to scholarly processes and practices
- Develop clinical expertise with a particular population or in a substantive area

Modular Philosophy

In the Rutgers DSW Program, courses are delivered in a modular format. Each module is three hours in duration. This approach not only provides the flexibility to calibrate instruction to the subject matter, but also allows students to learn from a wide variety of expert faculty. Modules allow faculty to focus instruction on what they know and do best. Discussion of module topics enhances and refines students' practice skills, introduces students to the scholarly process (e.g., theory development, critique of the literature, and writing case studies), and prepares students to publish, present at professional conferences, and teach social work courses.

Overarching module content areas include:

- Advanced Clinical Practice with Individuals, Groups, and Families
- Case Study
- Diversity and Social Justice
- Ethics
- Literature Review
- Multimedia Project
- Qualitative Research
- Supervision/Administration
- Teaching
- Theory

Sub-content areas may include curricula exploring bereavement; clinical decision-making; grief and loss; sexual and gender identity; social work pedagogy; trauma; culture, race, and ethnicity; addiction; masculinity; feminist, queer, and critical race theory; spirituality; moral panic, and more.

Grading Policy for Modules

Students are responsible to module faculty for completing readings and engaging with the material (readings and lecture) actively. Module faculty assess students' understanding of the material using quizzes, written assignments, and other evaluation methods. Doing so ensures that readings have been completed and that the student has a grasp on the material related to each module. In order to pass a module, students must successfully complete both the module assessment as assigned by faculty, in addition to the in-class content of the module. Module attendance is mandatory.

However, if a student is unable to attend a module in the rare event of a very extenuating circumstance, they must obtain written approval in advance from the DSW director and then contact content module faculty immediately to make arrangements for substitute assignments. If a student fails a module assignment, they will be notified by the program coordinator and will be expected to contact module faculty for feedback in order to successfully resubmit the assignment.

Students who fail more than two module assessments in one semester are placed on academic probation. Therefore, if they fail an additional module assessment in the following semester, they will be dismissed from the program pending review by the DSW Director. Students will also be given a failing grade if they miss a module and do not complete makeup assignment(s) as delineated by module faculty or they engage in unprofessional behavior such as using cell phones during class, demeaning others, or otherwise disrupting the classroom environment. Students may appeal these judgments. See the appeals process on page 16.

Engaged Scholarship

Engaged scholarship requires students to actively engage with ideas, texts, and colleagues in a scholarly way. Using writing, clinical, and research proseminars, students learn to critically assess relevant ideas, texts, and scholarly writing, as well as those of their fellow students and colleagues. Students also learn to engage with critique of their own work by DSW faculty and fellow students in professional and non-defensive ways. The engaged scholarship sequence consists of three assignments that make up the DSW portfolio. The portfolio replaces the traditional dissertation and is a culmination of students' work in the program. It demonstrates DSW students' abilities to explore topics in-depth, produce and disseminate clinical knowledge and scholarly work, and manage projects from beginning to end.

Case Study

The first-year intensive writing practicum is a unique opportunity to engage in guided clinical writing and revision practices. The main goals of the case study assignment are:

- 1) To gain a comprehensive understanding of what a case study is
- 2) To learn how to write a literature review that provides a frame for the case study
- 3) To understand the need for connective thinking when preparing scholarly manuscripts
- 4) To receive and provide constructive criticism of clinical practices and writing samples in a proseminar setting
- 5) To participate in the process of composition through a series of short writing assignments that each student will revise in order to be proficient in an array of writing skills, such as thesis writing, paragraphing, drawing on available scholarship, developing research skills, employing APA format correctly, and demonstrating grammatical proficiency

First year writing instruction helps set the foundation for writing the case study. Students will be introduced to the scholarly writing process from conceptualization and literature exploration to the writing and publication. Students will begin by preparing an in-depth literature review in the fall semester. This review will then be used in the second semester to frame the students' case study, which is due at the end of their first year. In addition to proseminar feedback, mandatory "one-on-one" conferences with DSW faculty are an opportunity for feedback about writing and development of the case study. Final case study papers should be of publishable quality and no more than 25 pages including abstract, title page, and references. We strongly encourage students to submit their final papers for publication consideration to peer-reviewed journals.

Grading Policy for Case Study

Students must receive a grade of PASS on their literature review and case study assignments from both their first-year mentor and writing instructor in order to continue in the program. If a student fails one of these assignments, they will have one opportunity to redo the assignment. Students who receive another failing grade on the revised assignment will receive a failing grade in the engaged scholarship course and will be dismissed from the program.

Qualitative Inquiry and Report

During year two, students learn the skills of qualitative inquiry, including research question formulation, study design, data collection and analysis, writing results, and preparing a scholarly manuscript. Students also learn how to assemble application materials to get research protocols evaluated and approved for review by the Rutgers University Institutional Review Board (IRB). In the fall semester, students will proceed through the steps of proposal development that include refining their literature reviews, creating research questions as well

as plans for data collection and analysis. Throughout the year, one-on-one conferences with DSW faculty are an opportunity to receive mentoring and guidance in completing the research process and written report. By November, students will start the IRB process and, upon complete IRB approval, begin data collection by early in the spring semester. Students will execute a small-scale qualitative study (5-7 participants) and submit the manuscript as a component of their portfolio. Papers should be of publishable quality and no more than 25 pages including abstract, title page, and references. We strongly encourage students to submit their final papers for publication consideration in peer-reviewed journals.

Grading Policy for Qualitative Project

Students must receive a grade of PASS on their qualitative research report assignments as evaluated by both their second-year mentor and writing instructor in order to continue in the program. If a student fails this assignment, they will have one opportunity to revise it. Students who receive another failing grade on the revised assignment will receive a failing grade in the engaged scholarship course and will be dismissed from the program.

Students must not proceed with data collection until they get documented complete prior approval from the Rutgers IRB. Students are further prohibited from using clients as subjects of the Qualitative Research Project. Doing so will result in an automatic fail of the assignment and expulsion from the DSW program.

Multimedia Project (MMP)

In year three, students pursue the work of recontextualizing their acquired knowledge from their literature reviews, case and qualitative studies, into the world of resources the web makes available. Third-year students produce a dynamic, interactive multimedia project (MMP) that synthesizes their scholarship and makes their work accessible and useful to a global audience. Our graduates learn to use video, audio, data visualizations, and other tools to advance human understanding, and to connect with and serve their chosen communities.

From the onset, the multimedia project is designed for the screen and for a readership that assumes that any important contemporary document is accessible digitally. Successful graduates will be literate in the culture's most powerful means of communication and conversant with the challenges that digital technology poses.

Grading Policy for Multimedia Project

Students must receive a grade of PASS on their multimedia project by both their third-year mentor and technical MMP instructor in order to graduate. If a student fails the assignment, they will have one opportunity to revise it. Students who receive another failing grade on the revised assignment will be dismissed from the program and unable to graduate.

Summary of Engaged Scholarship Assignments

Year One: Complete a contextualized and theorized case study worthy of publication

Year Two: Conduct a qualitative study and prepare as a scholarly article worthy of publication

Year Three: Create a multimedia project

Grading for Engaged Scholarship Assignments

- Pass [P]: Pass will be used for performance reflecting acceptable competency for doctoral- level work.
- Fail [F]: Fail will be used for performance which demonstrates unacceptable competency for the doctoral-level, including failure of two modules, unprofessional demeanor in classes, or absenteeism without making up the module.
- Temporary Fail [TF]: A TF is used when a student's semester performance is not sufficient or not yet complete and a specified plan for finishing has been devised. The student will receive a final grade once the assignment is completed and evaluated, or will fail the assignment if the revised deadline is not met.

Academic Policies and Procedures

MMP Access

The School of Social Work requires that the multimedia project be distributed via the DSW website in the interests of making the multimedia projects readily available both to other scholars and to other practitioners in the field. Students are copyright owners of their multimedia projects and can have their multimedia project embargoed; only the title, author, and abstract would be posted.

Although students can embargo and prevent us from posting MMPs on our website, it is our hope that students will complete MMPs that respect the goal of engaged scholarship, that is, producing and disseminating new knowledge that is open access---free to everyone.

The Role of DSW Faculty Mentor

DSW faculty mentors are assigned to each student at the beginning of each year of in the program. The mentor (together with the writing faculty member) will be available to help guide the student in developing the case study, the qualitative study, and the MMP and also give them final grades in conjunction with the writing and MMP instructors. The same faculty member may follow the student into subsequent years depending on availability and subject area matches, but all students will have a DSW faculty mentor for each year they are matriculated. Traditionally, first-year students are mentored by the Assistant Director, second-year students are mentored by the Director, and third-years are divided among Director and Assistant Director. The Assistant Director collaborates with the Director regarding any

academic matters of concern. DSW faculty mentors work closely with the writing instructors and other DSW faculty to assure that students are progressively completing their writing assignments and course work. Students are responsible for keeping DSW mentors apprised of concerns about their projects as well as their progress in the program. They are also to be in contact with them regularly to arrange meetings regarding the portfolio products.

Attendance Policy

The DSW faculty and staff work hard to recruit expert faculty from Rutgers and from around the world. Our principle aim is to create a unique intellectual community, where faculty and students interact with researchers and practitioner-scholars. These interactions have been designed to provide maximize exposure to new developments and intellectually rich ideas in clinical social work. In addition, students and faculty often have the chance to meet with the instructors individually. These meetings are useful for getting to know visiting scholars, to ask more detailed questions about their work, and to share ideas. Workshop and proseminar modules, including those covering writing instruction and MMP skills are highly interactive and “hands-on,” making in-class attendance essential.

We require that students attend all on-campus residencies and modules. This policy is intended to emphasize the importance of your complete participation. Students are required to sign in for each residency.

Students are not permitted to miss modules. Although rare, it is understood that extremely extenuating circumstances may result in a missed module. In these circumstances, requests for exceptions will be considered. Such requests must be sent to the DSW Director before the residency weekend. With the written approval of the Director, the student must then contact module faculty in order to arrange for alternate assignments in order to pass.

In cases of illness or emergency when advance notice is not possible, the student must contact the Director immediately after an unplanned absence. If the Director deems the absence reasonable and excusable, the student, the instructors of the missed modules, and the director will devise a plan to make up the work. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure contact with the Director and get written approval of the plan. Further, if medical issues continually intrude, it is the student’s responsibility to explore the wisdom of a medical leave or contact with the Office of Disability Services to explore accommodations.

A student will not be able to make up more than 6 modules for the entirety of the program. If a student misses more than six modules for any reason, and the student cannot account for any reasonable health or family extenuating circumstance, the student is subject to termination from the program. If a student experiences extenuating circumstances that would require missing more than 3 modules a year, that student must alert the DSW Director and consider the need for a leave of absence. Workshop, proseminar, and experiential modules cannot be made up with a position paper, and count as absences that cannot be made up. Check with the

Director to see whether or not a module can be made up.

Inclement Weather Policy

If the University closes due to inclement weather, DSW students should not risk coming to campus. However, classes will still be held remotely via:

- An interactive lecture via a videoconferencing software such as WebEx or Zoom
- A narrated PowerPoint slide deck to be uploaded to Canvas by our Program

Coordinator Instructors will give assignments that ensure that you have completed module requirements.

Student Teaching Policy

First-year DSW students are not permitted to teach in any other part of the School of Social Work (SSW). Because, during the first year, students are learning about and adjusting to the demands of the program, we strongly discourage students from teaching at other intuitions. All second and third-year students who wish to teach in the SSW must get approval from the DSW Director.

Classroom Civility/Etiquette

The DSW program remains committed to an environment of diversity, equity, and inclusion. We align with the stated priorities of the **School of Social Work's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives** (<https://socialwork.rutgers.edu/iidea-0>). Furthermore, students and faculty must always use inclusive language in the classroom and in assignments; racist, ethnic, homophobic, ableist and all other slurs against oppressed groups are prohibited and will not be tolerated. This is to ensure a conducive learning environment for all. As an aside, familiarize yourself with the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed), pp. 131-149.

Here is information on reporting bias incident:
<http://inclusion.rutgers.edu/report-bias-incident/>

Classroom Etiquette Regarding the Use of Technology

Although the DSW program recognizes that some students must maintain a cell phone on “vibrate” for emergency calls, we expect that students will have cell phones out of sight during each module. If a student is expecting an emergency call, they must notify the instructor and fellow classmates that they may need to leave the classroom to take it. However, this should be done only in extenuating circumstances.

Texting is not permitted in class under any circumstances. Students should make all efforts necessary to have personal and professional responsibilities covered while in class. The use of

laptops/iPads for note taking is permitted, but if an instructor or peer notices that chatting, web surfing, or texting is taking place, the student will be counted as absent for that module. The module may not be made up. Keep in mind, you are paying for this education, so you do not want to shortchange yourself.

Course Sequencing

Due to the unique modular structure of the DSW program, there is one standard course sequence that all students must adhere to. Transfer credit from other institutions or doctorate programs will not be accepted.

Year 1: Fall

19:910:604 Foundation to Advanced Practice I

19:910:682 Clinical Practice I

19:910:695 Engaged Scholarship I

Year 1: Spring

19:910:666 Foundation to Advanced Practice II

19:910:688 Clinical Practice II

19:910:696 Engaged Scholarship II

Year 2: Fall

19:910:681 Foundation to Advanced Practice III

19:910:689 Clinical Practice III

19:910:697 Engaged Scholarship III

Year 2: Spring

19:910:690 Clinical Practice IV

19:910:694 Engaged Scholarship IV

19:910:698 Engaged Scholarship V

Year 3: Fall

19:910:691 Clinical Practice VI

19:910:699 Clinical Practice V

19:910:700 Engaged Scholarship VI

Year 3: Spring

19:910:692 Clinical Practice VII

19:910:701 Engaged Scholarship VII

19:910:702 Engaged Scholarship VIII

Academic Integrity Policy

All work submitted in a graduate course must be the student's own.

It is unethical and a violation of the University's Academic Integrity Policy to present the ideas or words of another without clearly and fully identifying the source. Inadequate citations will be construed as an attempt to misrepresent the cited material as your own. Students must use the APA citation style which is described in the Publication manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th edition.

Definition of Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the representation of the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or by appropriate indentation and must be properly cited in the text or footnote.

Acknowledgement is required when material from another source is stored in print, electronic, or other medium and is paraphrased or summarized in whole or in part in one's own words. To acknowledge a paraphrase properly, one might state: "to paraphrase Plato's comment..." and conclude with a footnote identifying the exact reference. A footnote acknowledging only a directly quoted statement does not suffice to notify the reader of any preceding or succeeding paraphrased material. Information which is common knowledge, such as names of leaders of prominent nations, basic scientific laws, etc., need not be footnoted; however, all facts or information obtained in reading or research that are not common knowledge among students in the course must be acknowledged. In addition to materials specifically cited in the text, only materials that contribute to one's general understanding of the subject may be acknowledged in the bibliography. Plagiarism can, in some cases, be a subtle issue. Any question about what constitutes plagiarism should be discussed with the faculty member.

Plagiarism as described in the University's Academic Integrity Policy is as follows:

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the use of another person's words, ideas, or results without giving that person appropriate credit. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and both direct quotation and paraphrasing must be cited properly according to the accepted format for the particular discipline or as required by the instructor in a course. Some common examples of plagiarism are:

- Copying word for word (i.e. quoting directly) from an oral, printed, or electronic source without proper attribution. Paraphrasing without proper attribution, i.e., presenting in one's own words another person's written words or ideas as if they were one's own.
- Submitting a purchased or downloaded term paper or other materials to satisfy a course requirement.
- Incorporating into one's work graphs, drawings, photographs, diagrams, tables, spreadsheets, computer programs, or other nontextual material from other sources without proper attribution".

Plagiarism along with any and all other violations of academic integrity by graduate and professional students will normally be penalized more severely than violations by undergraduate students. Since all violations of academic integrity by a graduate or professional student are potentially separable under the Academic Integrity Policy, faculty members should not adjudicate alleged academic integrity violations by graduate and professional students, but should refer such allegations to the appropriate Academic Integrity Facilitator (AIF) or to the Office of Student Conduct. The AIF that students should contact is **Associate Dean Patricia Findley** pfindley@ssw.rutgers.edu The student shall be notified in writing, by email or hand delivery, of the alleged violation and of the fact that the matter has been referred to the AIF for adjudication. This notification shall be done within 10 days of identifying the alleged violation. Once the student has been notified of the allegation, the student may not drop the course or withdraw from the school until the adjudication process is complete. A TZ or incomplete grade shall be assigned until the case is resolved. For more information regarding the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures, see: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers>.

Academic Standing Issues

The academic performance of students will be closely monitored by DSW faculty mentors and the Director to ensure that students' grades meet the academic standards specified above and that they proceed through the various stages of the DSW program. Students have the right to be informed about the procedures that will be followed in the event of substandard performance and are entitled to fairness in the procedures by which their academic performance and progress are assessed.

If substandard performance occurs in course work, the portfolio products, or the student fails to meet specified time frames, the student will be notified in writing by the DSW Director specifying the source of the concern, the applicable DSW program rules, and the proposed action or remedy that the student should pursue. This letter constitutes a formal warning of possible course failure and dismissal. Failure to meet the specified provisions may result in termination. The student is officially terminated from the DSW program upon receipt of a termination letter from the Director of the DSW program.

It is also worth noting that if a student is found to have committed an ethical violation per the NASW Code of Ethics (<https://www.socialworkers.org/about/ethics/code-of-ethics>), they will be dismissed from the program. As for all other students who are dismissed, such students may appeal their dismissal.

Academic Disputes

Program Procedures for Handling Academic Disputes

Students have the right to bring any matters of concern to their DSW faculty mentor or to the DSW Director. Although every effort will be made informally to resolve academic disputes, students have the right to formally appeal any action taken by the program. The right to appeal covers all evaluations received for academic performance; i.e., grades received for course work (grades for modules) as well as evaluations of the portfolio products: the case study, qualitative inquiry report, and multi-media project. Any warning or dismissal notices may be appealed. All appeals should be addressed to the DSW Director within 14 days of the date of the letter informing them of their dismissal.

Students have the right to voluntarily withdraw from the DSW program at any time during the process of warning or dismissal appeals by notifying the DSW director in writing.

Appeals

Students may appeal their dismissal from the program to the DSW Program Academic Standing Committee. This committee is comprised of all members of the DSW Executive Committee along with the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, with the exception of the faculty member who failed the student, and the DSW Director and Assistant Director. All appeals must be provided to the DSW Director in writing to disseminate to the Academic Standing Committee. This committee will determine whether the dismissal is arbitrary or capricious, or if DSW protocols and policy were not followed. The most senior faculty member of this committee will chair the appeals process. A simple majority vote is needed to uphold or overturn the student's dismissal from the program.

The DSW Executive Committee will respond to all appeals submitted during the academic year within 30 days. If an appeal is submitted at the end of a semester, the appeal process may be delayed pending faculty availability and may have to wait until the following September. The chair of the ASC will send a letter to the student informing them of the decision and copy the Director of the DSW.

If this appeal is unsuccessful, the student may appeal this decision to the Dean of the School of Social Work. The student must do this in writing to the Dean within 14 days of receiving the determination of the DSW Program Academic Standing Committee. Her decision marks the end of the appeal process and is binding and final.

Disability Accommodation

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports the

student's request for reasonable accommodations, the campus' disability services office will provide a Letter of Accommodations. Students should share this letter with instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in their courses as possible. To begin this process, students should complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Other Resources

Our school is committed to fostering a safe, productive learning environment. Title IX and our school policy prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, which regards sexual misconduct — including harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We understand that sexual violence can undermine students' academic success and we encourage students who have experienced some form of sexual misconduct to talk to someone about their experience, so they can get the support they need.

Confidential support and academic advocacy are available through the Rutgers Office on Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance, 848-932-1181, <http://vpva.rutgers.edu>. Services are free and confidential and available 24 hrs/day, 7 days a week.

Active Shooter Resources

Over the years, there has been an increase in the number of active shootings on campus. It is important that you know what to do in case there is an active shooter on campus. Please go to this site to retrieve information that will reduce your personal risk in case of an active shooting on campus-<http://rupd.rutgers.edu/shooter.php>.

Student Leave and Program Withdrawal

Students admitted into the DSW degree program of the School of Social Work–New Brunswick are expected to remain registered for every fall and spring term thereafter until they complete the program and earn the degree. Normally a student registers for courses and, if necessary, may register for matriculation continued (leave of absence). Any student who fails to maintain continuous registration may not resume formal graduate study or register again in the School of Social Work–New Brunswick without first applying through the DSW office. If a student does not register for one semester, and has not taken a formal leave of absence, an Application for Readmission (see below) must be filed by the student in order to reactivate the registration process.

Application for Readmission

Students who have interrupted their graduate registration without receiving a DSW degree must apply for readmission. Students should file a new application through Graduate Admissions if they have not been registered for one term and/or their program no longer has their original application.

Interrupted Studies: Matriculation Continued

Students who are obliged to interrupt their studies, or for whom no other registration is appropriate for a given term, may with the approval of the DSW Director, register for matriculation continued for a maximum of two consecutive terms. For example, students who have completed 11 residencies but are not registered for the second year would register for matriculation continued.

There is no tuition fee for this registration, although a student fee is charged.

Leave of Absence and Withdrawal

Students may be granted a leave of absence with the approval of the DSW Director. It is the student's responsibility to request a medical leave of absence. During the leave of absence, the student must register for 'matriculation continued.' The length of the absence will be determined by the circumstances. Final decision granting a leave and its length rests with the DSW Director. If a student does not register matriculation continued during their leave of absence and does not follow the specified leave of absence requirements, they will be terminated from the program. At any time during the program, a student may submit in writing to the DSW Director a letter stating their withdrawal from the program.

Withdrawals and Tuition Refunds

Complete withdrawals may entail processing refunds, depending on the date the forms are received at either the Graduate Registrar's Office or the Office of Academic and Student Services. Before classes begin, a 100% tuition refund will be issued; as of the first day of class (first residency), an 80% refund will be issued, and every two weeks after that date the refund drops another 20%, until the end of the second residency, at which time no further refunds will be issued. There are no refunds for dropping one or two courses when there are other courses on the same registration.

Inclement Weather and Backup Residency

If the Rutgers campus has not closed due to adverse weather, then neither will the DSW. If the University closes due to inclement weather, the DSW program will close its physical campus location. DSW students should not risk coming to campus and remain in their physical locations. During adverse weather conditions, accurate weather-related campus information including delayed openings, class cancellation, or closings will be disseminated on the Rutgers website and New Brunswick website with links to the "Campus Status Page". Additionally, information will be distributed via email and will be available via RU-info at 732-445-INFO (including 24-hour voice mail). For additional details, including links to University Policies and Procedures, visit the New Brunswick Campus Adverse Weather Information website at <http://emergency.rutgers.edu/weather.shtml>.

It is imperative to note that if the physical campus closes due to adverse weather, *DSW classes will still continue and students should expect to be available online.* (See additional information under Attendance Policy in this manual.) Therefore, students should check their emails for notification from the administration regarding alternate arrangements for content delivery. If classes are to be cancelled, students will be notified via email. Students should refrain from calling the Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD) with weather status questions.

General Information

Registration

DSW students register for nine credits each fall and spring semester, amounting to three courses per semester and eighteen credits per academic year. Registration occurs online through the Rutgers WebReg system. Students login to the WebReg system using their RUID number and PAC number or with their NetID and password. The index numbers for the required classes will be communicated to DSW students prior to registration. Directions for course registration are as follows:

- 1) Go to sims.rutgers.edu/webreg
- 2) Under **WebReg Login Options** on the left-hand side of the screen, click on **log into WebReg using RUID and PAC** OR enter your NetID and password in the fields presented. (*If using your NetID and password, skip to step 5*)
- 3) Enter your 9-digit RUID number and your PAC (Personal Access Code)
- 4) *Your PAC is the month and day of your birthday, so if you are born on January 23rd, your PAC would be 0123
- 5) Choose the semester you are registering for from the dropdown menu. Click **Continue**.
- 6) In the **Add to Registration** box on the left-hand side, add the three index codes for your courses. Keep Pfx selected.
- 7) Click **Add Courses**.
- 8) The three courses that you registered for should appear under **Registered Courses** on the right-hand side of your screen.

Continuing Education Units

Students can receive CEU credit for their graduate courses. The Board of Social Work Examiners regulations states that one can receive CE hours for “completion of an undergraduate or graduate course at a regionally accredited institution: three credits for each course credit, up to a maximum of one-half of the required continuing education credits.” Students are responsible for keeping records of their own completed courses in case of an audit by the Board. See <https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/regulations/Chapter-44G-State-Board-of-Social-Work-Examiners.pdf>

Computer and Printing Services

Computer labs are located on all of the Rutgers campuses equipped with Mac and PC devices. Students are also eligible to purchase computing software at a discounted price through the University Software Portal.

Financial Assistance

Graduate students are only eligible for Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans. You must fill out a FAFSA annually in order to be eligible for any type of federal financial aid. Contact the Office of Financial Aid for questions about your award letter, loan package, or other financial questions. Contact Student Accounting for specific questions about your term bill.

Health Insurance

All full-time undergraduate and graduate students at Rutgers are required to have health insurance. Students must present proof of outside health insurance when fall term bills are due in order to be exempt from the Rutgers student health insurance fees. Rutgers student health insurance is provided through First Student.

Health Services

Health centers and pharmacies are located on the College Avenue, Cook/Douglass, and Livingston campuses in New Brunswick. Students are also eligible to use the Counseling, ADAP, and Psychiatric Services located on College Avenue and Cook/Douglass as needed

Libraries

General and area-specific libraries are located on all Rutgers campuses. Alexander Library on College Avenue is where Dr. Karen Hartman, the social sciences librarian, works. She can provide students with information on locating scholarly (peer-reviewed) materials, the ETD submission process, and using inter-library loan for hard to access materials. You can locate electronic scholarly journal articles, books, RefWorks, and other resources on the University Libraries website.

PAC

Students' PAC number is generated from their birthday. For example, if a student's birthday is January 23rd, then their PAC is 0123. PAC is used in tandem with the RUID number for university identification and online services.

Parking

Parking is available for students in garages in downtown New Brunswick for a fee on Fridays.

On Saturdays, students can park for free at meters in downtown New Brunswick. On Sundays, free parking is available in the parking garages and at the meters in downtown New Brunswick.

Program Communication

Students will receive correspondence from the University and the DSW Program through their Rutgers University email addresses.

Registrar

Students use the Registrar website to register for classes during the fall and spring semesters. Additionally, transcript requests and enrollment verifications can be processed through this office.

RUconnection ID Card

Your RUconnection ID card serves as your student ID during your time at Rutgers, and allows you to check out books from any Rutgers library, use the recreation centers and computer labs, and go to football games and other Rutgers events. Additionally, your printing fees are connected to this card. When presented at some stores, you can obtain student discounts with your RUconnection ID Card.

RUID Number

Students' RUID number is a primary identification tool for the university. An RUID is a 9-digit number that is generated and emailed to prospective Rutgers students once they have submitted their online application for admission.

Textbooks

Information about required and recommended readings will be disseminated by the DSW staff. Textbooks are available for through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and other similar websites.

Tuition

Term bills must be paid prior to the fall and spring semesters. Students will be contacted via email by the university when their tuition bills are available to be viewed and paid. Term bills are paid through Student Accounting.

Additional Resources

Computing Services:

<http://www.nbcs.rutgers.edu/index.php> Social Work

Homepage: <http://socialwork.rutgers.edu/> DSW

Program Website: <http://dsw.socialwork.rutgers.edu/>

Health Insurance for Rutgers Students:

<http://www.firststudent.com/schools/RutgersTheStateUniversityofNewJerseyNewBrunswickCampus.htm>

Libraries and Catalogs: <http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/>

MyRutgers Portal: <http://my.rutgers.edu>

Office of Disability Services:

<http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/coordinator.html> Office of Graduate and

Professional Admissions: <http://gradstudy.rutgers.edu/> Office of the Registrar:

<http://nblogistrar.rutgers.edu/nblogindex.htm>

Office of Financial Aid: <http://studentaid.rutgers.edu/>

RUconnection ID Card:

<http://ruconnection.rutgers.edu/nbp/?page=content/index.php> Rutgers Campus Maps:

<http://rumaps.rutgers.edu/> Student Accounting: <http://www.studentabc.rutgers.edu/>