Dear New MSW Student,

Welcome to the University at Buffalo School of Social Work (UB SSW)! Congratulations on your acceptance. The UBSSW is ranked within the top 10% in the nation and continues to improve annually, thanks to high-caliber students such as yourself!

To help our new students start the UB SSW MSW program on the right path, we ask that you complete the two following requirements:

1. **Complete the Online Pre-Orientation course prior to August 21, 2017**
2. **Attend New Student Orientation Thursday August 24, 2017.**

Completing the Online Pre-Orientation course and attending our New Student Orientation will be your **first official graduate student requirement.**

The online pre-orientation course will allow you to orientate yourself to the university and the School of Social Work policies, procedures, and resources at your own pace prior to August 21. The in-person orientation on August 24th will be a wonderful opportunity for you to meet your fellow students, our faculty and staff, and to initiate your graduate career by obtaining a clear understanding of the program requirements, expectations, and opportunities available.

The **in-person orientation will be held Thursday August 24, 2017 9:00am – 4:00pm (REQUIRED)** and Friday August 25, 2017 from 9:00am – 12:00pm (Optional).

Students are asked to report to Center for the Arts on Thursday August 24th **between 8:30am – 9:00am** to sign in and obtain your welcome packets. On Friday August 25th, students are encouraged to join a poverty simulation which will begin at 9:00am (see enclosed agenda).

**To register for the New Student Orientation, please go to:**

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017SSWNSO](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017SSWNSO)

**Please RSVP by Friday August 18, 2017.**

If you have any difficulty registering, or if you have questions about the orientation, please contact Student Services at 716-645-1229, 716-645-1863 or sw-studentservices@buffalo.edu. We look forward to meeting you on August 24th!

Sincerely,

Dana Horne, EdD
Assistant Dean for Student and Academic Affairs

*Please note: As this orientation program is specific to transitioning new MSW Graduate Students into our program, we ask that ONLY new MSW graduate students attend. We politely ask that parents, spouses/partners, children, and/or friends refrain from attending.*
New Student Orientation
Thursday August 24, 2017
DAY ONE
AGENDA

8:30 – 9:00 am  Registration and Breakfast beverages (Center for the Arts)
9:00 – 10:00 am  Welcome from the Dean, Introduction of Faculty & Staff
10:00 – 10:45am  Critical Thinking Discussion with Faculty: Identifying as a Social Worker
   What is Social Work?
   What does it take to be a good Social Worker?
10:45 – 11:00 am  Break
11:00 – 11:45 am  If the School all... UBSSW Podcast Discussion: Why are they angry with us?
11:45 – 12:00 pm  Getting Involved at the UBSSW – UBSSW Student Groups
12:00 – 12:50 pm  Lunch with your Advisor - Center for the Arts
   Student Resource Fair – Center for the Arts Atrium
12:50 – 1:00pm  Move to Davis Hall 101
1:00 – 2:45pm  Student Panel Discussion
2:45 – 2:55 pm  Break
2:55 – 4:00 pm  The Road to Professional Social Work Practice: (NSC 210)
   2:55 – 3:10pm: Curriculum Overview
   3:10 – 3:25pm: Licensure: LMSW vs LCSW?
   3:25 – 3:40pm: Expectations for Graduate School & Professional Practice
   3:40 – 4:00pm: Field Education: Making the most of your field practicum experiences.

*UB Campus Parking Services will be available in the Student Union from 2-4pm for students to pick up their parking passes.
New Student Orientation
Friday August 25, 2017
DAY TWO
(Optional)

8:30 – 9:00 am Check-in – Natural Science Center (NSC) 215
9:00 – 9:30 am Nuts & Bolts
9:30 – 9:35 am Move to Poverty Simulation location
9:35 – 12:30 pm Poverty Simulation – 107 Talbert Hall
10:00-11:00 am For those not attending Poverty Simulation - 684 Baldy
   • Intro to MyUB and UBlearns
   • Drop in Advising
12:30 – 1:00 pm Campus Tours (UB Card Office, Libraries)
   Meet outside of Baldy 101 – The Kiva
FACT SHEET FOR NEW MSW STUDENTS

To help you in successfully transitioning into the Masters of Social Work program at the University at Buffalo, outlined below are some key transition logistics. As the start of the semester is fast approaching we would recommend working through the following steps prior to attending orientation so that during your first week of the program you can purely focus on beginning your coursework.

**Step 1: Register for Fall 2017 Courses**

Registering for courses is one of your first major responsibilities in graduate school. As new students, the UB online registration process might be very different from your undergraduate program. If you have not received your registration materials, please contact our Registrar Beth Mathews immediately at (716) 645-1273 or bethmath@buffalo.edu.

Please take a moment to review the directions on how to register for courses:

To view course availability, locations, and times, please go to:

If you get stuck, let us know! We are here to help.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full-time students will register for:</th>
<th>Part-Time students will register for:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SW 500 Social Welfare Policy &amp; History</td>
<td>SW 505 Theories of Human Behavior &amp; Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW 505 Theories of Human Behavior &amp; Development</td>
<td>SW 510 Scientific Methods in Social Work*</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW 510 Scientific Methods in Social Work*</td>
<td>SW 514 Evaluations in Social Work</td>
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<td>SW 520 Interventions I*</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW 550 Field I</td>
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* When registering for these courses, please take into consideration that these courses are two-part courses and that you will remain with the same instructor for the academic year. For example – you will take SW 510 Scientific Methods in the fall and then will take the second research course SW 514 Evaluations in Social Work in the spring. As the content in SW 514 builds upon the content taught in SW 510, you will remain with the same instructor for both courses.

If you were notified in your admissions letter that you will need to fulfill the Human Biology requirement, please contact Beth Mathews at bethmath@buffalo.edu.

Need more information? You will be assigned a faculty advisor at the August Orientation. Your faculty advisor can assist you in understanding which courses might best align with your career goals. In the meantime, if you have any course questions, please call Dana Horne, Assistant Dean for Student & Academic Affairs at (716) 645-1229, Laura Shrader, Student Services Advisor (716) 645-1863 or Dr. Diane Elze, Director of the MSW Program at (716) 645-1228 for assistance.

**Step 2: Complete your Field Placement Application**

Completing your field placement application in a timely manner is vital logistic to complete prior to Orientation! Please go to http://www.social-work.buffalo.edu/myfielded/dashboard/login.asp. Using your UBIT Name and person number, please log in and follow the instructions listed. If you have questions about the field placement process, please contact the Field Education Department at (716) 645-1234 or sw-field@buffalo.edu.

**Step 3: Online Pre-Orientation Course**

In an effort to assist prepare you for your entry into graduate school and the School of Social Work, an Online Pre-Orientation Course has been created. It is essential that this is completed prior to Orientation.

This course is located in UB Learns – https://ulearns.buffalo.edu/ – and is named: School of Social Work Orientation Prep Course. If you have any questions email us at sw-studentservices@buffalo.edu.
**Step 4: Obtain your Student ID Card**

*You must register for classes before you can obtain your student ID card.* If you haven't registered, please do so immediately. The easiest way to obtain your UB Card is to go to one of the two UB Card offices in person to arrange for your card:

- **North Campus:** Student Union Room 228, Open M-F 9:00am – 4:00pm, (716) 645-6344
- **South Campus:** Harriman Hall Suite 104, Open M-W 9:00am – 12:00pm, (716) 829-3682

There will be time on day two of orientation to visit the UB Card office; however, please note that on August 25th, the lines to obtain new student ID cards will be quite long. It is recommended that, if possible, you visit the UB Card office prior to orientation to obtain your ID card.

**Step 5: Order Your Campus Parking Pass**

Student Parking permits are **required Monday through Friday, 7 am - 4 pm.** Your parking fees are included within your graduate student fees, so there is no additional cost to obtain your permit. You must order your parking pass online at: [http://www.ub-parking.buffalo.edu/permits.php](http://www.ub-parking.buffalo.edu/permits.php).

The preferred parking lots for the School of Social Work are as follows:
- **North Campus:** Jacobs, Baird, or Slee
- **South Campus:** Parker Lot

For more information about parking, please go to: [http://www.ub-parking.buffalo.edu](http://www.ub-parking.buffalo.edu)

**Step 6: Are you Tech Ready?**

Students are encouraged to visit the UB Information Technology website to familiarize themselves with the various technology platforms used at UB: [http://www.buffalo.edu/ubit/information-for-students.html](http://www.buffalo.edu/ubit/information-for-students.html)

**UBLearns**

As UBLearns is utilized in many of our courses, it is highly recommended that students familiarize themselves with the basics of UBLearns prior to the start of the academic year. To learn about UBLearns, please visit: [http://www.buffalo.edu/ubit/service-guides/teaching-technology/learning-resources-for-students/ublearns.html](http://www.buffalo.edu/ubit/service-guides/teaching-technology/learning-resources-for-students/ublearns.html)

**Free Software Available**

As a UB graduate student you will need to utilize word processing software to be successful in your course work. As a part of your comprehensive fees, students can download software such as Symantec Endpoint Protection, Office 2016 Professional Plus for Windows, Office 2016 for Macintosh, Adobe Reader and many other products online from UBIT. It is strongly recommended that you upgrade your software if you are using an Office Product that is older than 2013.

To download and upgrade your software, please go to: [http://www.buffalo.edu/ubit/service-guides/software/downloading/windows-software.html](http://www.buffalo.edu/ubit/service-guides/software/downloading/windows-software.html)

**Printing Services**

All students receive a page allowance, or allocation to print materials for free at UB. The allocation includes 650 Single-Sided pages for each Fall and Spring semesters and 200 pages for the Summer semester. If you do not use your quota for each semester, your remaining print allocation is deleted (they do not carry over to the following semester). For more information about Printing at UB, please go to: [http://www.buffalo.edu/ubit/service-guides/printing.html](http://www.buffalo.edu/ubit/service-guides/printing.html)

**Step 7: If All of the School… - Please listen to the podcast before August 24th**

If All of the School … – Orientation Faculty/Student Discussion Groups:

Prior to orientation please listen to the UBSSW podcast – *Episode 197 – Dr. Larry Davis” “Why are they angry with us?”: A discussion on Race and Racism in America.* Students can download or listen to the podcast at [http://www.insocialwork.org/episode.asp?ep=197](http://www.insocialwork.org/episode.asp?ep=197)
The purpose of the “If All of the School …” is to generate critical inquiry and discourse about complex contemporary social issues and to encourage creative and innovative thinking among social work students, faculty and staff. Through the shared experience, the program challenges us to think differently about ourselves, our country, the world community and the contributions of our profession.

In this selected podcast episode, Dr. Larry Davis engages in a wide-ranging discussion on race and racism in America. The topics he addresses include his use of cognitive dissonance theory to understand racism and racist behavior. He explores how implicit racism affects all members of American society and defines a concept he refers to as "relative deprivation." Dr. Davis also explains why multiculturalism is insufficient as the principal method of addressing racism.

During the orientation discussion we'll be interested in hearing people's overall reactions to the podcast. However, we will also have some specific discussion questions to facilitate a deeper discussion. To suggest discussion questions, please go to http://bit.ly/1Yo9G6i. Please submit any questions by Monday August 21, 2017.

**Additional Helpful Things to know…**

**Medical Insurance Waiver**

The University requires all students taking 9 credits or more of graduate study to have adequate health insurance coverage. **All students** enrolled in 9 or more credits will automatically be charged for the University plan on the first qualifying tuition bill for the semester. **Students who have adequate private coverage may waive the plan by providing proof of comparable coverage and submitting an online waiver.** Comparable coverage must be in effect on or before the first day of classes.

For more information about this university policy or to complete the online waiver, please go to: https://www.gallagherstudent.com/students/student-home.php?idField=1272

**Class Schedule**

Your **fall semester will begin on Monday, August 28.** The full class schedule can be found at: http://registrar.buffalo.edu/schedules/index.php. Additionally the student academic calendar can be found at: http://registrar.buffalo.edu/calendars/student/index.php. You may find it helpful to print a copy of the calendar for each semester. Information concerning your field education labs will be provided at orientation.

**Ways to get involved**

At the School of Social Work there are many ways for students get involved. These include serving as an officer on the Graduate Student Association, volunteering with the DREAM: Developing Relationships through Empowerment, Advocacy, and Motivation. (http://socialwork.buffalo.edu/current-students/volunteer-opportunities/dream-program.html), joining a student group, serving on School Committees, or engaging with faculty on research projects. For more information, please contact sw-studentservices@buffalo.edu.

To stay current with what’s going on at the UB School of Social Work, “like” us on Facebook. There are two pages to “Like” us on Facebook – 1) UB School of Social Work 2) UB School of Social Work: MSW Students, or follow us on Twitter http://twitter.com/#!/UBSSW.

**Library**

Library privileges are available to enrolled University at Buffalo students, faculty, and staff. Students can go directly to the Libraries to retrieve books, copy articles, search databases, access course reserve readings or request interlibrary loans. Students are also able to obtain many of these resources and services remotely from home, an office, or an extension program site.

Howard Pikoff is the subject librarian for Social Work and is available for research consultations, instruction, and curricular support. Dr. Pikoff’s office is located in 323 Lockwood Library.
For more information about the UB Libraries, please visit: [http://library.buffalo.edu](http://library.buffalo.edu)

**Student Lounge**

A student lounge is available for all MSW students. The lounge is located at 631 Baldy Hall. The lounge is equipped with a microwave, mini fridge, computer workstations, a printer, and couches. The code for the lounge is **125**, the lounge is only for SW students. Giving out the code to non-SW students may lead to the student lounge no longer being available to students.

**Purchasing Textbooks**

You have several choices for purchasing textbooks. Purchase options include the UB bookstore, online vendors, and local bookstores. Your instructors have preordered books through the UB bookstore. If contemplating renting books, please keep in mind that many of the required texts may be used in subsequent courses.

*Did you know?* The school has a partnership with Amazon.com. A percentage of purchases that are made with Amazon.com by clicking through our website link are returned directly to the school. These funds are used to support student scholarships and special events. If you frequently purchase books/items on Amazon.com, please consider linking to Amazon by clicking the Amazon Icon on the School’s website.

**Human Biology Requirement**

If you were notified (in your admissions letter) that you need to complete a human biology course prior to the start of your advance courses, it is *extremely important* to complete a course *by the deadlines*. If you do not fulfill the requirement you will not be able to proceed into advanced courses or your advanced field placement.

To assist our students in fulfilling this requirement, we do offer a course during the fall. Here is the pertinent registration information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number:</th>
<th>SW 101:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Title:</td>
<td>Social Context/Human Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Instructor:</td>
<td>Elaine Hammond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credits:</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course #:</td>
<td>122206 or 12221</td>
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If you have any questions about this requirement, please contact [sw-studentservices@buffalo.edu](mailto:sw-studentservices@buffalo.edu).

To register for this course, please download the form “Petition for Course Credit Outside your Primary Academic Career” (found at: [http://registrar.buffalo.edu/pdfs/OutsideofCareerPetition.pdf](http://registrar.buffalo.edu/pdfs/OutsideofCareerPetition.pdf)). Please complete the form utilizing the information above (Justification for request: To fulfill a pre-requisite requirement within the MSW Program) and submit the completed form to Beth Mathews – 685 Baldy Hall or fax it to (716) 645-3456.

**Campus Tours**

New to UB? Want to orientate yourself with the North Campus prior to the start of classes? For tours of campus, please contact the Dana Horne, Assistant Dean for Student & Academic Affairs at [sw-studentservices@buffalo.edu](mailto:sw-studentservices@buffalo.edu). Additionally, campus tours will be arranged for Day 2 of Orientation.

**Questions?**

Please contact Dana Horne, Assistant Dean for Student & Academic Affairs at (716) 645-1229 or Laura Shrader, Student Services Advisor (716) 645-1863 or e-mail us at [sw-studentservices@buffalo.edu](mailto:sw-studentservices@buffalo.edu)
Tutorial on How to Access Pre-Orientation Course

1. Access UBLearns (http://ublearns.buffalo.edu)

2. Press the green Login button and login using your UBIT Name and Password

3. Select School of Social Work Orientation Prep Course

4. Proceed with Course!