

Supporting Students during the Pandemic

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Students & Professors: Common Pandemic Experience

- COVID-19, racial injustice, and election has elevated stress and triggered grief and trauma for some
- Maneuvering in an unfamiliar world of online learning and teaching
- Overwhelmed and fatigued
- Need strategies to survive the winter semester
- Offer recommendations for faculty consideration



Reality of Social Work Education

- Critical that students demonstrate competencies
 - SSW are gatekeepers to the profession
 - Social workers without foundational competencies can harm clients (individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities)
 - Need to continue with benchmark assignments and field hours
- Simultaneously, we need to offer support and flexibility that does not impact students' competency attainment



Pass/No-Pass Policy

Undergraduate Students

- Effective for the fall and winter

Graduate Students

- Effective for the fall
- Graduate School has not made a decision about the winter

Students who plan to graduate in fall 2020 will need to make any P/N grading option selections by December 23rd, 2020.



BSW Students Pass/No-Pass Policy

Letter Grade	Pass/No Pass Grade	Notes
A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-	P	Students may elect to change these grades to P. The earned credit will be retained, but the grade will not be factored into GPA calculations.
D+, D, D-	N	Students may elect to change D grades to N. If changed to N , no credit will be earned and the D grade will not be factored into GPA calculations.
F	N	These grades will automatically change to N. No credit will be earned and the grade will not be factored into GPA calculations.

MSW Students

Letter Grade	Grade/No Pass	Notes
A, A-, B+, B,		After the end of the normal grading period, students who receive a grade that is normally considered a passing grade by graduate standards will receive their earned letter grade
B-, C+, C, F	N	Students who earn any of these grades may request that the instructor change the grade to an N. Students will not receive credit for those courses.

Pass/No-Pass and Termination

- *Students who opt for and receive a No Pass grade during the fall 2020 semester will **not be terminated** from the social work program as per the School's [policy on Academic Performance](#); however, students will be **required to repeat the course** in order to meet degree requirements.*
- *Additionally, **low-passing grades** (e.g., B- to C for MSW students and D to D- for BSW students) received during the fall 2020 semesters will **still be subject to the School's [policy on Academic Performance](#)**. Students who receive low-passing grades may opt to take the No Pass grade and retake the course in order to meet degree requirements.*



Know your Course Format Boundaries

Asynchronous Courses

- Cannot require students to attend scheduled class sessions
- Supplemental instruction is allowable on Zoom if students are not required to attend. You should record for all students.

Synchronous Courses

- OTL recommends limiting Zoom session to 90 minutes
- You can have students engage in asynchronous activities to make sure they are receiving the full amount of instruction



Create Connection

- Check in with students often
 - Ask them to express how they are feeling in words, GIFs, or emojis
- Hold virtual office hours (arranged or by appointment)
- Synchronous: Keep Zoom open a half hour before or after for socializing or Q & A
- Asynchronous: Voluntary meet and greet at beginning of semester
- Consider team-based learning (e.g., small groups assigned to discussion boards; use breakout rooms for discussions or quiz bowls)



Reduce Confusion

- 'Ask the Instructor' discussion board so all students can see instructor responses to questions
- Survey at end of each module: what helped, areas of confusion
- Use the [Canvas Calendar](#) for all assignments including discussion board posts so students can see all of their assignments across all of their courses in the [task dashboard](#)
- Provide clear instructions on the weekly student expectations



Example of Clear Expectations

1. READ:

- **Beck:** Ch. 2: “Overview of Treatment” AND Ch. 3: “Cognitive conceptualization”.
- **Greenberger & Padesky:** Ch. 2: “Understanding your problem” AND Ch. 3: “It’s the thought that counts” AND Ch. 4 “Identifying and rating moods”

2. REVIEW the slides for this week's meeting: [caseconceptualizationslides.ppt](#)

<https://canvas.wayne.edu/courses/137061/files/6975858/download?wrap=1> 

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3. COMPLETE HOMEWORK:

- Mind over Mood Worksheets 2.1, 3.1, 4.1 & 4.2 [Homework Unit 2](#)
<https://canvas.wayne.edu/courses/137061/assignments/988599>

4. VIEW the videos included here for further illustration of the structure of a CBT session and Cognitive Case Conceptualization tools/techniques: [VIDEOS on SESSIONS/CASE](#)

[CONCEPTUALIZATION](https://canvas.wayne.edu/courses/137061/pages/videos-on-sessions-slash-CONCEPTUALIZATION) [https://canvas.wayne.edu/courses/137061/pages/videos-on-sessions-slash-](https://canvas.wayne.edu/courses/137061/pages/videos-on-sessions-slash-CONCEPTUALIZATION)

Instruction

- Support engaged reading: Provide discussion questions early so students have them while reading
- Provide feedback in discussion boards and assignments
- Focus on the complex concepts in recorded lectures
- Break down concepts by explaining and providing examples in recordings



Assess Course Workload

- Cannot remove/alter benchmark assignments
- Did you add extra assignments that can be removed/reduced?
 - Do they help students develop competencies or are they busy work?
 - Can you let go of any of those to reduce student workload?
 - Or make them extra credit?
- Provide points for student participation but clarify expectations



Assess Course Policies

- Course policies that reflect current struggles
 - Can you ease your “no late paper” policy to a late paper with reasonable penalty?
 - Will you consider an incomplete for students who are close to finishing but had an end of the semester crisis?



Advice for Students

- Communicate concerns with faculty early
- Turn on your cameras for synchronous courses if you can
 - Connection, non-verbal feedback for confusion, engaging
- Talk with your advisors about your options when you are struggling
- Consider part-time if your work and family responsibilities are overwhelming
- Do not engage in cheating or plagiarism; your reputation as a SW with integrity will last for longer than the memory of your GPA



Advice for All

- Engage in self-care, self-compassion
- Embrace the humor of this bumpy new world
- Express gratitude for those who are a part of this journey with you
- Celebrate micro-successes along the way



Student Supports

- [Student advisors](#) and their roles
- [Information shared with students throughout the semester](#)
- [Student supports](#)
- [Counseling & Psychological Services](#)
- [Student Disability Services](#)
- [Academic Success Center](#)
- [Preparing for online learning](#)



Student Policies

- [School of Social Work Media Policy](#)
- [Petition for transfer of undergraduate credit](#)
- [Petition for transfer of graduate credit](#)
- [Request for a Modified Plan of Work](#)
- [Course Override Request](#)
- [Incomplete Policy](#)
- [Incomplete Grade Policy Document](#)
- [Directed Study Application Form - Undergraduate](#)
- [Directed Study Application Form - Graduate](#)
- [SSW Student Reinstatement Policy, Instructions and Reinstatement Form](#)
- [School of Social Work Grade Academic Performance, Termination, Grade Appeal](#)
- [Request for Grade Appeal Instructions and Form](#)
- [Student Program Withdrawal, Readmission and Leave of Absence Policy and Procedures](#)
- [Student Professional Performance Policy](#)

