



Stony Brook
School of Social Welfare

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Dear SSW students,

As you learned within the past few weeks, the University has plans for a more fully in-person experience for Fall 2021. They are carefully monitoring the evolving public health guidance and the rollout of the vaccine to determine what health and safety protocols may be necessary for the fall semester so that you can continue to make progress toward your degree.

Following University guidance, last week we issued the Fall 2021 course schedule. It has been planned based on the assumption that public health conditions will improve and that a significant percentage of our faculty, students, and staff will be vaccinated by the end of summer. But just as the University, we are making contingency plans and monitoring COVID-19.

Of course, we hear your concerns about the safety of in-person learning and the desire for additional learning options. We share them. The fall schedule was designed to offer some online options for most of the courses with the exception of "Practice" designated courses. The Practice class is highly interactive and best-suited for in-person learning as it is intended to prepare you for face-to-face work with clients in the field. We also have the fewest number of students in Practice courses with a capacity of 25 students in each section, and we are working to ensure that larger classrooms are used. In addition to Practice designated courses, some other courses have been scheduled as in-person sequentially with the Practice courses so that you can remain on-campus for at least two classes in a timely manner. All safety protocols and social distance guidelines based on public health guidance will be in place.

We understand your anxiousness given all of the uncertainty. The University and the School will continue to monitor public health conditions and you will be updated about plans for the fall semester. Adjustments to the schedule will be made as needed to ensure the health and well-being of everyone.

Thank you for your flexibility, adaptability and resilience as we continue to work together and look ahead to a more familiar future.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline B. Mondros, D.S.W.
Dean & Assistant Vice President for Social Determinants of Health

Richard Morgan, Ph.D.
Associate Dean and Graduate Program Director