Advocacy Alert!
The advocacy fight to keep anti-discrimination language in the Social Work Code of Conduct continues and we need YOUR help!
Social work voices across the state and nation helped the Behavioral Health Executive Council (BHEC) retain anti-discrimination language regarding disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in the Social Work Code of Conduct in October 2020. Now, the fight continues after the Texas Attorney General issued a nonbinding legal opinion on June 14, 2021 that states the Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners (TSBSWE) may not adopt a Code of Conduct more expansive than the non-discrimination clause currently in our statute. This strips protections for disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression and destroys the statutory authority of TSBSWE to set the ethical standards for the profession. READ THE NASW TX TALKING POINTS.

What Can You Do?
We need as many voices as we can get to ask TSBSWE to adhere to the NASW Code of Ethics and maintain anti-discrimination language in the Code of Conduct.

**It is vital that we show TSBSWE that social workers will not stand for changes to the Code of Conduct by the Governor of Texas!**

We need your advocacy in this fight. Check out the NASW advocacy page for more background info, additional resources, and letters from various legislators and other groups to give you a brief overview of the background on the issue and our advocacy strategy. Read more here.
Announcement
Brooke Troutman, our UTA social work librarian, is leaving UTA to pursue another opportunity. As we await their replacement, students can reach out to socialworklibrarians@uta.libanswers.com for assistance.

Rental Assistance
Rental assistance is available for up to 6 months through Arlington Housing Authority for Arlington residents who are behind on their rent due to the pandemic if they meet certain criteria such as income, need is directly related to the pandemic, currently behind on rent, and a few others. Apply here: www.arlingtonhousing.us

Getting support? Attend Mavs Hour Wednesdays. Next Wednesday's group will be at 7pm. Email Chantinia Chansler for the link to participate.

Know a non-social work student who needs support? Make a referral to the weekly support groups to the left.

Who may participate:
Must be 18 years of age or older
Individuals affiliated with UTA (students, faculty, staff, etc.)—each group has their own selection criteria (i.e. students only)
At this time, we are not serving students from the School of Social Work to maintain HIPPA and FERPA standards. These students will be connected with resources and university personnel to best serve their needs.
Individuals who have been referred to the SSW Virtual Clinic and reached out through the email: SSWCOVIDSHELP@uta.edu

Need support? Attend Mavs Hour Wednesdays. Next Wednesday's group will be at 7pm. Email Chantinia Chansler for the link to participate.

You Matter
Hi Everyone,

My name is Sarah Herrera, and this is my first You Matter post. Before I start hyping you up, I'd like to take a second to introduce myself. I am a doctoral student in the School of Social Work, and I am on Dr. P's research team. I'm also a clinical social worker with experiences in various social work fields. I'm honored to contribute to You Matter because it revolves around what I focus on in research in practice: student wellbeing. My commitment to you all is that I will write this from the heart. I will never tell you what you "should" do. I'll offer you my viewpoints not in hopes that you will always agree with me, but that you will take the time to consider the topics within the context of your own life. So, with all that laid out, let's move on to why we're really here...my cat Fredrick.

Fredrick is my only cat. He's short-haired, black, and happens to have 3 legs. Out of all of his qualities, the one I love most is his awareness. He knows exactly what's about to happen when he hears the metal can of cat food open. He can sense Olive (our outdoor cat) on the patio without even looking. And often, he can sense when I'm feeling anxious even before I'm willing to admit it.

I had my first panic attack as an undergrad, but I didn't know that at first. After a couple of trips to the ER, a very compassionate nurse whispered to me, “Have you thought about seeing a therapist?” That first time thinking about my mental health. Like, ever. Yes, I would feel all the symptoms of anxiety, but I ignored them so often it felt like panic attacks came out of nowhere.

I went to therapy and started to grow my self-awareness. I learned to check in with myself daily and really listen to my body and what it needed that day. Eventually, my panic attacks faded, and I thought, “I’m cured.” I began to slack off on my self-awareness routines and everything was fine again. Fast-forward to my MSW experience. The first semester in, my panic attacks “came out of nowhere” again. I had the realization that this isn't going away, and I needed to plan past my panic attacks ending.

That same semester, my husband and I adopted Fredrick. I would watch him nap in his favorite spots, demand cuddles when he wanted, and go outside to watch the birds when he felt like it. He lived his life based on what he needed in that moment. I tried living like Fredrick. I went back to asking myself daily, “Where are my energy levels today?” “What are my priorities?” “What can I let go of today?” Those questions led me to things like going to niece’s birthday party on the same day an assignment was due. I also started having weekly date nights with my husband. And even though in the back of my mind, I was sure I was going to flunk out of my MSW program, life started getting better. I had more energy for my work because I was participating in life-giving activities. For the first time in my life, I felt like I was thriving. Don’t get me wrong, life isn’t perfect. I still struggle with anxiety, but it’s finally easier to recognize. I shared my symptoms with my friends and family so they know when it’s time to talk to me, even if I haven’t realized it. This of course, includes Fredrick. He seems to know when my thoughts are racing and my body is more tense. Any time he comes to cuddle with me during the day it’s a gentle reminder to let go of my anxious thoughts. I hope you all can consider two things from my experience. First, how are you going to continue strengthening your self-awareness? And second, have you found a Fredrick in your life that can remind you to check in with yourself? School matters, but you matter more.

-Sarah H

If you like You Matter posts and want to explore them more deeply, please consider joining us for a Wounded Healers meeting. You can find us on Teams!

Social Work Council Cap & Gown Lending Closet Spotlight

Calling ALL UTA Alumni
The Social Work Council is creating a Cap & Gown Lending Closet for future graduates at all levels.

Donate your cap & gown to The Social Work Council to help current graduates as they step across the stage. If you need a gown please contact us!

For more information contact The SWC utasocialworkcouncil@gmail.com

Wounded Healers
FIELD PLACEMENTS

Feeling a bit lost? Already worrying about Fall as you begin Summer? Start with your Graduate Student Leader! Don’t know who that is? Email Julie Henderson or Nicole Ferguson.

- If your advisor’s appointment schedule is full, please consider emailing them for email-advising, or attend their weekly Power Hour. Please check advising appointments every Monday when new availability opens up for the coming weeks.

- Don’t need a full advising appointment but have general questions? Join your advisor for their weekly Power Hour!
  
  Toy Howard Mon 10-11 Click here to join the meeting
  Valerie Adame Tue 11-12 Click here to join the meeting
  Maresia Davis Wed 11-12 Click here to join the meeting
  Cleondria Marable Thu 11-12 Click here to join the meeting

SPECIALTY SELECTION

If you joined us in January of 2021 and are classified as a foundation student (i.e., you don’t have a BSW), it’s time to pick your area of focus (concentration/specialty) for the second half of the MSW. If you haven’t picked your specialty and/or want to view the event overviewing the different specialties, here is the info you need:

- Video Recording
- Information on Specialties
- Information on Certificates

If you already are certain of your specialty (and certificate choice if you’d like to add an optional certificate), please click here to officially declare.

LICENSING

- If you’re in your final semester and want to get started on applying to ASWB to take the LMSW licensing exam, click here to request the Dean’s Letter for Licensure, which UTA will send to ASWB. More info can be found on the ASWB site and our SSW Licensure page.
- Missed the Social Work Licensing Info Session? Here is a link to the recording!
- Interested in the LCDC? Scroll to the end of this page and click on the Texas LCDC Licensing 2021 PDF for a chart that shows how different education levels can prepare you for the LCDC.

FIELD POWER HOURS

This is an opportunity for you to ask questions, similar to Office Hours for faculty!

- Foundation MSW
  - Field Advisor: Natalie Mangham
  - 1st & 3rd Monday of the month, 3-4
  - Click here to join the meeting
- CAP & Children & Families
  - Field Advisor: Monica Brown
  - 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month, 3-4
  - Click here to join the meeting
- Mental Health
  - Field Advisor: Hector Ramos
  - 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month, 3-4
  - Click here to join the meeting
- Aging & Health
  - Field Advisor: Sharon Martin
  - 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month, 3:30-4
  - Click here to join the meeting

InPlace has a new URL! All students, agencies, and Field Instructors will need to use the new URL: https://inplace.uta.edu/

- The InPlace fee is $67 per year or $130 for a lifetime. Each student will need to plan to pay the InPlace fee on the first day of class for that semester they are starting field.
- InPlace Training and Logbook Training can be found here!
- Field forms are available here!
- Field FAQ
- If you are having technical difficulties withinPlace please email sswfield@uta.edu and include a screenshot of the issue.

Are you a CAP student ready for your advanced field placement? Check out the Field Advisor: Sharon Martin.

The Spring 2022 Field Application opens Oct. 01

- The reduction in Field Hours has been extended to May 31, 2022 Spring semester. Find more information regarding Summer 2021-Spring 2022 Field accommodations here.
  - Block students must complete a minimum of 408 hours for Summer 2021
  - Split students must complete a minimum of 204 hours for Summer 2021
- The Block Field 14-week Summer Session & Split Field 11-week Summer Session dates have been updated on the Field website calendar

The Fall 2021 Field Application closed June 4th. No late applications will be accepted.

- Fall Field placements are currently being assigned based on the order in which field applications were submitted. If you have a question, please contact your field advisor.

The Spring 2022 Field Application opens Oct. 01 – Nov. 26, 2021. These dates are subject to change. See the full Fall 2021 Field Education Calendar here.

Read the Summer 2021 – Spring 2022 Field Accommodations here.

This is an opportunity for you to ask questions, similar to Office Hours for faculty!
**VIRTUAL EVENTS OF THE WEEK**

**NASW's Congressional Advocacy Day**

Please join us on **July 22** to advance critically important congressional legislation that will strengthen the social work profession and the clients they serve. This is a key opportunity to meet with your congressional delegation, educate them about the value of social work and social workers, and to gain their support for priority legislation. To register for the event, please click [HERE](#). Registration is $25. Space is limited, so please register early. Participants will be able to register on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Featured Webinar: “When It is Darkest: Why People Die by Suicide”**

CAMS-care will sponsor a webinar presentation featuring Dr. Rory O'Connor! Rory will be talking about his new book and innovative IMV model of suicide. Join us live on **Wednesday July 14** at 12 PM Eastern time (U.S.). Register [here](#).

**21-Day Challenge**

The [Arlington-Mansfield Area 21-Day Challenge](#) encourages daily actions to learn more about racial equity, promote unity, and combat divisiveness in our communities.

**CO U R S E  R E G I S T R A T I O N**

Fall registration is open.

**G R A D U A T I O N**

- The deadline to apply to graduate passed on July 1. To apply late, contact your advisor ASAP.

There is an additional $60 late application fee.

- SSW [commencement ceremony](#) tentatively scheduled for **August 18 at 7pm at College Park Center**
- The Virtual Ceremony is to be held on Saturday, August 21, 2021.

  Guest ticket info: Click [here](#)

- Are you an NASW student member graduating in August? Be sure to request your [graduation cord](#) before Friday, July 16. Not a member yet? You can join NASW before you graduate for only $60 and receive a discount on your membership dues for the next two years if you retain active membership. Click [here](#) for more information.
**FUNDS**

**FUNDING**

**Social Work Course Guides**

**Student Research Opportunity Center**

**RESEARCH**

**Historic Black communities**

Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported on a group of UT Arlington students and faculty that is helping historic Black communities facing steep challenges. Read more [here](#).

**WE WANT TO HIRE YOU!**

Research assistant positions available for this upcoming fall semester!

**SPEAK**

SOCIAL POLICY EDUCATION, ADVOCACY, & KNOWLEDGE

**CLICK HERE TO APPLY**

**FUNDING**

Wells Fargo Veterans Scholarship Program

Provides scholarships to fill unmet financial need of veterans after military benefits and other grants and scholarships have been packaged by their school. Apply [here](#). Deadline is July 8.

**Expanded COVID-19 vaccine opportunities to include on-campus availability**

UTA has established a partnership with OptumServe to provide all interested employees and students access to COVID-19 vaccines at a convenient on-campus location and free of charge. UTA students and employees are strongly encouraged to participate in COVID-19 vaccinations if they are able. Please visit the UTA [COVID-19 Vaccination Information and Resources](#) page to access registration links and instructions for both vaccine opportunities.

**STAY SAFE**

**For the latest updates on UTA’s response and guidelines for COVID-19, please visit the [Coronavirus Information Page](#).**

**FACE MASK POLICY**

UTA no longer mandates the wearing of masks on campus but continues to strongly encourage and recommend that Mavericks wear masks, particularly when inside campus buildings.

**Dean Ryan’s Statement on COVID-19 Health Disparities**

For the latest updates on UTA’s response and guidelines for COVID-19, please visit the [Coronavirus Information Page](#)."

**KNOW YOUR STATUS**

**Dean Ryan’s Statement on COVID-19 Health Disparities**

**If you believe you have contracted COVID19, please type in 'COVID-19 Testing' and your zip code into the Texas Health and Human Services to find a testing location closest to you.**

**Scholarships**

Fall scholarships are open and close on July 9th. Visit the [ScholarShop](#) to search scholarships you might qualify for.

**Have you tested positive?**

Had close contact with someone with Covid?

1. **Complete mandatory reporting form**
2. If needed, you can:
   - Ask professors for deadline leniency
   - Contact your [USL](#), Program Director and/or Academic Advisor for additional support and guidance.

**MANAGING STRESS AND ANXIETY DURING COVID-19**

UTA COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS)

**THERAPIST ASSISTED ONLINE (TAO)**

Visit TAOconnect.org

**THRIVE APP**

Download "Thrive at U" on App Store or Google Play

**MAYS TALK 24HR CRISIS LINE**

Visit uta.edu/caps for more information

Call (817) 222-6215

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Download "Thrive at U" on App Store or Google Play

**MAYS TALK 24HR CRISIS LINE**

Visit uta.edu/caps for more information

Call (817) 222-6215
RESOURCES

**UTA Academic Calendar**

**Evidence-Based Practice Research Guide**

**Check Canvas for the MavsUnite Page!**
To add please e-mail: Chantinia Chansler

**SAR Center**
(Formerly Office of Students with Disabilities)

**MavsTalk**
24 Hour Crisis Line

817-372-TALK (8255)
4153 UTA East Campus 3rd Floor Student Services Center

**DREAMERS WELCOME**

In Crisis?
Text HELLO to 741741

**UTA Library Accessibility**

**On-Demand & Live Fitness Classes**

**Webinar Library**
Isabella Hong, an MSW Alum, graciously compiled a list of webinar resources and a video going over the basic functioning of Teams to any who may need assistance. Special thanks to Jose B. Yerena, LCPAA, who has taken over updating the list on a weekly basis! **Please note that it is necessary to ask your supervisor permission for these to count towards any required field hours.**

**MSW Specialties**

**Social Work Webinars List**

**Basic Function of Teams**

**Rental Assistance Program**
The Tarrant County Rental Assistance Program assists residents who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. For more details, email renthelp@tarrantcounty.com or call 817-850-7940.

**Emergency Assistance Fund**
UTA students with a temporary financial hardship resulting from a sudden emergency may apply for financial help.

**Get Microsoft 365, The Wall Street Journal and Other Apps FREE with your student email!**

**How to gain access to SSW writing resources:** Advising & Student Success Canvas

**UTA/Tri-C Food Pantry Distributions**
Currently distributing groceries on Thursdays only, from 9-11:45 a.m. and 2-4:45 p.m. To receive these grocery bags you must send an email to utafoodpantry@gmail.com to request a pickup time. Include student name, last four digits of UTA ID, requested grocery pickup time, choice of vegetarian, chicken, or any meat groceries.

**If you have any questions or content suggestion for the newsletter, please contact Safiyah Ricks rdr0162@mavs.uta.edu**

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"Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Do not become bitter or hostile. Be hopeful, be optimistic.
Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get into good trouble, necessary trouble.
We will find a way out of no way." --Former US Rep. John Lewis (2/21/40 - 7/17/20)