Reassurance from the CYFS team

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To: CFS Students <SSW-CFSstudents-Group@pdx.edu>, SSW-CFS-Faculty-group <SSW-CFS-Faculty-group@pdx.edu>, SSW-CFS-Adjunct-Faculty-group <SSW-CFS-Adjunct-Faculty-group@pdx.edu>

Hi, CYFS students -

I hope this message finds you all healthy and starting to manage these very strange new times we face.

By now, I think you've all received messages from the PSU President and from Dean Coll in the School of Social Work, outlining some of what's to come for us in Spring term. I wanted to take a quick minute to underline some of their thoughts from a program perspective.

The CYFS core faculty met this afternoon, and we're all prepared to provide you and one another with the best possible support as we go together into the coming weeks. None of us can know exactly how the next several weeks will unfold, but here's what we know so far:

- **CYFS courses will be offered remotely through at least the first three weeks of the term.** Remote education doesn't mean that your faculty will be converting all their classes to a fully online option. That's not what you signed up for, and faculty don't have the time or bandwidth to try to pull that off in any event. Instead, it means you can expect faculty to be using lots of different tools to deliver content. You can probably assume that you'll still be attending class (virtually) at the scheduled class time for many of your courses. Your faculty will probably use Zoom for that, so it's a good idea for you to get familiar with how to use Zoom. The Office of Academic Innovation can help with that: [https://www.pdx.edu/oai/](https://www.pdx.edu/oai/). Faculty will be in touch with you about what you can expect for your individual classes. If you have circumstances that make remote learning difficult (poor internet connection, irregular access to technology, etc), communicate with faculty up front - we're in this together, and we're going to figure it out.

- **We're asking students, faculty, and staff to please practice social distancing where possible.** This means we'll be scheduling meetings remotely, either via Zoom, google hangout, or over the phone. Very few of us will be on campus very much until we receive different guidance. But know that we will continue to be available to you!

- **If you're in practicum, follow the policies and guidance of your site.** If this means you can't go to your placement because the site is closed or has shifted work arrangements, just be in touch with your seminar instructor. We can be flexible with practicum hours in these kinds of extraordinary circumstances. We're in this together, and we're going to figure it out.

- **If you have kids who are out of school, know that we get it.** Districts across the region are closing for anywhere between three and six weeks. That's going to have an impact on many of you - we know! It's hard enough to be a student when everybody's healthy, work is steady, and kids are in school. With all the stressors piling up right now, adding kids at home full time into the mix is complicated. Talk with your faculty, do your best to come up with a plan, and know that we get it. We're in this together, and we're going to figure it out.

- **If you're anxious about graduating and you worry this will mess it all up, you're going to be fine.** Supporting students is our program's and the university's main goal. I don't know right now just how we're going to work it all out, but we're going to make sure that as long as you're doing your part - all the way through this very strange moment - we will do everything we can to help you stay on track. We're in this together, and we're going to figure it out.

When we have more information, we'll be sure to pass it along to you. For now, though, just know that things are going to get super weird over the coming weeks. We all understand that, and as much as we'd love to, we can't make it not happen. What we can do is communicate clearly and often with one another, do our best to show up and keep showing up, practice social distancing to keep the curve as flat as we can, and remember: We're in this together, and we're going to figure it out.

Please be in touch if you have questions,

Ben

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Pronouns: he/him/his