TO: Child & Family Development, Family Studies, and Youth & Community Development Majors

DATE: March 26, 2020

SUBJECT: Summer 2020 Professional Experience Courses: FCS 2020 and FCS 4290

Family Science Program Update

In recognition of current and future impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the viability of professional experience placements, the Family Science program, in partnership with the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and the College of Education and Human Development, is enacting temporary modifications to summer professional experience courses and field work requirements.

With ongoing commitment to the professional development of WMU Family Science students, the service of our community site placement partners, and the continuity and integrity of Family Science programming, the following adaptations have been established for Summer I and Summer II semesters. Please note that modifications are different for each course. Please read and review thoroughly prior to making scheduling decisions.

FCS 2020 Field Experience

Placements

- Site placements will not be required or approved for Summer I or Summer II enrollment. Students will fulfill all course objectives and their demonstration of academic and professional competencies through online course participation and assignments. Additional coursework and tasks (e.g. virtual job shadows, online career explorations) will take the place of on-site contact hours and associated professional learning and experiences.
- Students who have already secured a site placement need to reach out to the site supervisor to update them on the discontinuation of on-site requirements for summer 2020 field experience students.
- While field experience contact hours are to be discontinued for Summer I & II, professional field experiences remain of high value. The Family Science program encourages those who have the capacity to explore the following options:
  - Reconfigure site opportunities for students to serve in an optional, volunteer capacity clearly distinguished from FCS 2020 course participation and/or requirements. Volunteer service is entirely optional and cannot be counted towards any future Family Science program requirements.
  - Consider delaying the professional experience until the student is ready to fulfill the requirements for their FCS 4290 Internship.

Enrollment

- Students who would like to enroll in FCS 2020 for Summer I or Summer II need to have fulfilled the prerequisite requirements (completion of FCS 1010 and FCS 1030).
- Students need to contact Field Experience and Internship Advisor Mindy Holohan (melinda.j.holohan@wmich.edu) for program approval and registration.
FCS 2020 summer 2020 registration can no longer be divided among semesters.

**FCS 4290 Internship**

**Placements**
While remaining hopeful that students will have opportunities to move forward with on-site internship opportunities, it is likely that COVID-19 related disruptions in services, capacities, communications and organizational structures of internship site placements will overlap with the WMU summer semester timeline. In response to these challenges, students will be offered two pathways for FCS 4290 summer course completion:

**Option A**
Students that can pursue the required 360 hours at their internship site are encouraged to do so. Students in this position will work within the existing structure and requirements of the FCS 4290 course.

**Option B**
Students that experience a permanent or extended inability to complete on-site contact hours over Summer I/II will be offered the option (in coordination with the course instructor) to complete up to six credits of online coursework and virtual internship activities.

**Enrollment**

- Students who would like to enroll in FCS 4290 for Summer I and/or Summer II need to have fulfilled the prerequisite requirements (FCS 1010, FCS 1030 and FCS 2020).
- Students need to contact Field Experience and Internship Advisor Mindy Holohan (melinda.j.holohan@wmich.edu) for program approval and registration.
- FCS 4290 credits/registration can continue to be divided between Summer I and Summer II semesters.

**Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) Provisional Certification**

The National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) requires professional experience contact hours as a component of provisional CFLE certification. The Family Science program is in close touch with NCFR to ensure that professional experience credit hours will be considered accordingly.

**Moving Forward**

The Family Science program is deeply committed to professional learning and development. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we pursue programmatic solutions and adaptations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We encourage you to be in touch with your questions and updates.

In community,

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