

Hello and Welcome to the University of Denver!

I hope that you are staying safe and healthy this summer and looking forward to joining our DU community in the fall. My name is Professor Sara Chatfield and I'll be your FSEM professor and mentor this coming year. Our First-Year Seminar is Restroom Revolutions: A Political History of American Bathrooms, and we'll be exploring restrooms as a site of political struggle across a variety of dimensions and issues – race, gender, disability, gender identity, the workplace, and even disease and sanitation. This course is also a Grand Challenges class, meaning that it ties into broader campus-wide initiatives focused on improving daily living and advancing deliberation and action for the public good.

In addition to being your professor for this course, and your guide through Discoveries Week, I will also act as your mentor and advisor over the coming academic year. I know this is a challenging time and a lot is unknown about what exactly fall quarter will look like. I want you to know that part of the purpose of FSEM is to make sure you have someone you can always check in with about any concerns – big or small. Please feel free to contact me at [Sara.Chatfield@du.edu](mailto:Sara.Chatfield@du.edu). I am happy to help, and if I don't know the answer, I know who to ask to find out what you need to know. You can also email me just to say hi and introduce yourself.

Although the exact format for orientation is still being figured out, a big part of both orientation and FSEM more generally is starting to build a strong community at DU. In the past, I've had students from my FSEMs form connections that last far beyond the one quarter of our class. I am excited to start building this community with you regardless of exactly what orientation looks like this year. All of the sessions during Discoveries Week are intended to get you mentally, culturally, administratively, and academically ready for starting classes the next week. We will discuss a variety of topics in these sessions, including campus and academic culture and practices. As I mentioned, there is also a healthy dose of fun and community-building, so that you don't feel you're starting your time at DU on your own.

I look forward to meeting you in September and to working closely with you throughout the year. Feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions, comments, or just because. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Best,  
Prof. Chatfield

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*In the spirit of healing, I acknowledge and honor the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, and all of the original Indigenous peoples of the land upon which the University of Denver stands.*