

## Commanding a Role

Graduates of the program can expect to help military personnel, veterans and their families prepare for, and cope with, the outcomes of war through a range of preventive and clinical services, including family support that can enhance their skills to deal with issues in their everyday lives, better manage their relationships, reintegrate into the community and workforce, manage life-changing injuries and disabilities, and resolve personal and family problems.

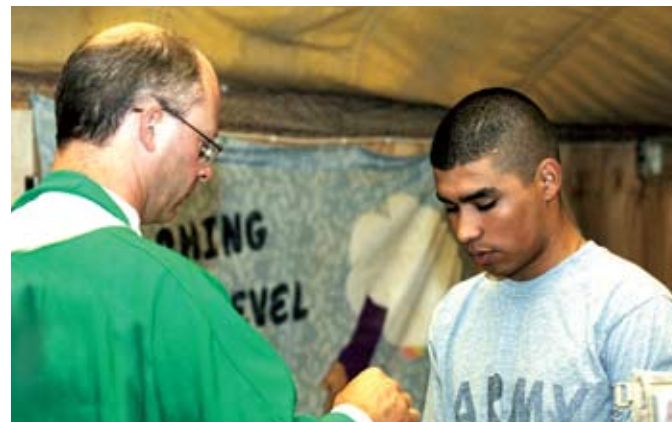
## Potential Job Responsibilities

- Disaster response planning
- Counseling to deploying soldiers
- Family support groups
- Couples communication
- Parenting skills
- Post-traumatic stress counseling
- Stress management
- Anger management
- Conflict resolution
- Suicide prevention
- Rehabilitation and disability management
- Adjustment and reintegration counseling
- Substance abuse intervention and treatment
- Connecting military families with community resources such as childcare, transportation and finances
- Morale-building in combat units

## Facing the Facts

- Of the 1.6 million service members who have deployed to war in the last five years, one in five has reported symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder or major depression.
- Only 53 percent of service members and veterans who reported symptoms of PTSD or depression sought treatment.
- According to a study by the RAND Corporation, the two-year cost of treating service members who return from war with symptoms of PTSD or depression is estimated at \$6.2 billion, an amount that includes medical care, lost productivity and losses from suicide.
- Veterans suffering from PTSD experience significantly higher rates of marital, parental and family adjustment problems than those without PTSD.
- Substance abuse is a particularly common occurrence in returning veterans and is exhibited in 50 percent to 85 percent of those with PTSD.
- The suicide rate among active duty soldiers in 2006 was the highest in 26 years of record-keeping.
- Rates of interpersonal violence in both active duty and veteran populations are estimated to be three times greater than for civilian populations.

*Sources: Department of Defense, New York Times, McClatchy Newspapers, Journal of Abnormal Psychology and Journal of Consulting Clinical Psychology.*



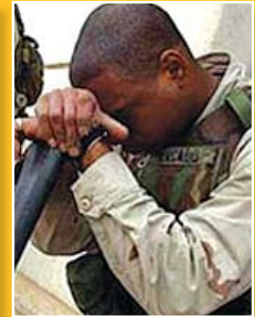
## For More Information

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MILITARY SOCIAL WORK &  
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*Caring for America's Wounded Warriors*

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# MILITARY SOCIAL WORK & VETERAN SERVICES PROGRAM

*Caring for America's Wounded Warriors*

## Enlisting the Help of Social Work

Traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries, amputations, severe burns, broken bones and even blindness are wartime injuries presenting growing treatment and rehabilitation challenges. Healthcare providers are scrambling to repair broken bodies and battered spirits.

But the wounds of war are not confined to the battlefield. Soldiers and their families also struggle with less visible psychological injuries. The stress associated with combat exposure, extended separations, increased workloads and recurring deployments can contribute to post-traumatic stress, anxiety and depression, which can lead to substance abuse, domestic violence, child abuse and suicide. Social workers and other trained mental health professionals are badly needed to help service members and their families adapt and cope with the pressures of military life and post-war adjustments.

In response, the University of Southern California School of Social Work has introduced a specialization in military social work and veteran services to prepare individuals to provide a full range of human services to the nation's armed forces personnel, military veterans and their families, helping them manage the stresses of war and return to a healthy civilian life.

## Arming Students with Skills to Serve

**Master of Social Work Specialization in Military Social Work**  
Students pursuing a master of social work degree may choose a sub-concentration in military social work and veteran services in their concentration year, typically the second year of the program. These individuals will have selected Work & Life as their primary concentration of study, which offers preparation for delivering such services as mental health counseling, family therapy, disaster response, crisis intervention, program development and organizational consulting within work and employment settings. USC is one of only four graduate programs in the nation to offer an occupational social work concentration.

The school also offers the military social work sub-concentration to MSW candidates enrolled in the Nurse Social Work Practitioner option. This unique program admits registered nurses with bachelor of nursing degrees, advancing their knowledge in case management and a concentration area, and preparing them for the best practices of two professions.

The specialized military social work training is designed to educate and prepare recovery coordinators to create and facilitate comprehensive care and recovery plans for military personnel and their families. These courses can also be taken as electives.

### **Post-Graduate Certificate in Services to Military Personnel, Veterans and Their Families**

Individuals with two to five years of clinical practice experience may enroll in the post-graduate certificate program. Completion requires the same courses as the graduate program but on a more accelerated basis. Graduates are immediately employable in military social work and veteran services settings. The school offers the certificate as part of a continuing education summer institute series and during the regular fall and spring academic terms, and will be available through distance education using teleconferencing and web-based technology in the near future.



### Required Courses

- The Military as a Workplace Culture
- Managing Trauma and Post-traumatic Stress
- Clinical Practice with the Military Family
- Preventive Care and Health Management in Military Settings

### Electives

- Case Management
- Clinical Practice with Couples
- Disabilities and Family Caregiving
- Domestic Violence
- Loss, Grief and Bereavement
- Managing Diversity in a Global Context
- Psychopharmacology in Mental Health
- Practice with Severe and Persistently Mentally Ill
- Spirituality
- Substance Abuse and Other Addictive Disorders

### Field Education Internships (600 hours)

- Military Hospital
- Base Family Services Unit
- Vet Center
- Veterans Affairs Department
- Military Correction Facility

The school has consulted with more than 20 national and community advisors with specific military experience, ranging from active and retired armed forces personnel, clinical social workers and educators to help develop the curriculum and teach the courses.

Some courses will be offered at both the University Park campus in Los Angeles, as well as the Orange County Center in Irvine. By fall 2009, the military social work program will be available at a new USC satellite center in San Diego.

