TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF
What type of work do you see yourself doing in the next five years?

Describe any of your classes or experiences that might be related to this course.

Briefly describe your expectations for the program and what you would like to accomplish.

Apply online at bit.ly/1olwTkg
Please submit your online application along with a non-refundable $250 deposit (electronically). Deposits by check and money order, made payable to USC, can also be sent to:

Dan Hester
Office of Global and Community Initiatives
USC School of Social Work, MRF 202B
669 West 34th Street
Los Angeles, California 90089-0411
213.740.3939
hester@usc.edu

Washington, DC may call to mind presidents, monuments, memorials, Republicans, Democrats and the Supreme Court, but you might be surprised to find the city isn’t the stuffy political town it once was. Trendier than ever, the District is becoming an exciting East Coast vacation destination — and not just for patriots. Although government still commands center stage, DC also offers a host of renowned museums and interesting neighborhoods for shopping and strolling.

The vibrant city attracts nearly 20 million visitors a year, who come to explore the more traditional sites like the Washington Monument or the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials, and the National Mall’s free Smithsonian museums, including the Natural History Museum and Sculpture Garden. In the evenings, they unwind as Washingtonians do at one of the city’s many trendy bars before dancing in Adams Morgan or catching a live performance at the Kennedy Center.

As the capital of the world’s most powerful democracy, it is ironic that residents of Washington lack full self-government. Representation in Congress is limited to a non-voting delegate to the House of Representatives and a shadow Senator. The 1964 presidential election was the first time DC residents were able to vote. While elected and appointed officials come and go, giving the city its reputation as a transient community, many residents have called Washington home for multiple generations. Their stories give Washington its distinctive character as both a national and local city.
Military and Veterans Policy and Practice Immersion in Washington, DC

The USC School of Social Work offers a one-week national immersion program in Washington, DC inviting participants to learn about the development of federal policies and programs for service members, veterans, and their families; the responsibilities of the legislative and executive branches of government in the development and implementation of policies affecting the Department of Defense; and the role of policy/advocacy groups. Students will also meet with military leaders involved in mental health and family issues in the Department of Defense.

In addition to classroom sessions, site visits and seminars, students will have an opportunity to explore career options in our nation’s capital and enjoy its iconic monuments, museums, historic sites and attractions.

All campus-based and online concentration-year students are welcome to apply.

Program Overview

Fees and costs include seven nights of accommodations (double-room occupancy), daily breakfast, weekday lunches, local transportation during program hours and field excursions during the Washington portion. In addition, costs include a program administrative fee. Other fees are additional, including tuition for a required 3-unit course and a health insurance policy if not enrolled in the mandatory USC student health or other insurance plan. All participants will be responsible for their own roundtrip airfare from their home to Washington, DC; dinners, weekend lunches, non-program-related transportation, and other incidents.

WHAT STUDENTS WILL GAIN

- An understanding of how policies affecting service members, veterans, and their families are developed and shaped by the government, military structure and policy/advocacy organizations.
- The ability to use and expand evidence-based social work knowledge in professional practice to inform and evaluate policy, practice and service-delivery systems of military social work programs and service systems for military members, veterans, their families and/or their communities.
- Knowledge about in-garrison and deployment issues of service members, veterans, and their families are developed during the Washington portion. In addition, costs include a program administrative fee. Other fees are additional, including tuition for a required 3-unit course and a health insurance policy if not enrolled in the mandatory USC student health or other insurance plan. All participants will be responsible for their own roundtrip airfare from their home to Washington, DC, dinners, weekend lunches, non-program-related transportation, and other incidents.
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- Knowledge about in-garrison and deployment issues of service members, veterans, and their families.
- Insight into military culture to form a basis for study and service to military men and women, veterans and their families.

Program Details

 FORMAT

The Military and Veterans Policy and Practice immersion is offered during the spring semester and will primarily take place in Washington, with students also participating in classes prior to and following the Washington segment. The six days in Washington, DC, will consist of site visits to Congress, government agencies and policy/advocacy organizations; seminars with guests from government agencies and policy/advocacy organizations; and a one-hour class session at the end of each day, allowing time for discussion and reflection on the day’s experiences with time set aside for journal writing. This course is considered elective.

PARTICIPANTS

The program accepts a limited number of graduate-level social work students on a first-come, first-served basis. Prospective participants are encouraged to attend at least one informational meeting or contact the program instructor to become familiar with the expectations and logistics of these one-of-a-kind experiences.

ACCOMMODATIONS

USC will arrange housing at a hotel in Washington, DC.

COSTS

Program costs include seven nights of accommodations (double-room occupancy), daily breakfast, weekday lunches, local transportation during program hours and field excursions during the Washington portion. In addition, costs include a program administrative fee. Other fees are additional, including tuition for a required 3-unit course and a health insurance policy if not enrolled in the mandatory USC student health or other insurance plan. All participants will be responsible for their own roundtrip airfare from their home to Washington, DC, dinners, weekend lunches, non-program-related transportation, and other incidents.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Will I get credit for the program?

If you are enrolled in the USC School of Social Work, you will receive 3 credits for completing the program.

Will this program help my chances of finding a job?

Opportunities for federal employment will continue to grow in the coming years as large numbers of federal employees retire. The program will expose students to employment opportunities not only within federal agencies located in Washington, DC, but other organizations that work with the military and veteran groups.

Is financial aid available?

If you are receiving or are eligible for financial aid, you may be able to apply it toward this program. For details, contact the School of Social Work’s Financial Aid Office.

What is the weather like in Washington, DC?

Springtime in Washington varies from cooler evenings to slightly warmer daytime temperatures. Early summer weather can be hot and humid. Periodic rain and sometime snow showers can be expected.

What do I pack?

Washington, DC, is generally more formal in dress. However, business casual and light, but warm, clothing is acceptable. You may also want to bring a sweater, jacket or light overcoat for the evenings. Please note airline baggage requirements may change, so it is important that you check with your airline. You may be charged additional baggage fees.

For additional information about the program, please contact:

Fred P. Stone, MSSW, PhD
Colonel, U.S. Air Force, Retired
Clinical Associate Professor
USC School of Social Work
970.631.8270
fstone@usc.edu

Dan Hester
Office of Global and Community Initiatives
USC School of Social Work
213.740.3939
hest@usc.edu

Acceptance

The program accepts a limited number of graduate-level social work students on a first-come, first-served basis. Prospective participants are encouraged to attend at least one informational meeting or contact the program instructor to become familiar with the expectations and logistics of these one-of-a-kind experiences.

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Application

BASIC INFORMATION

Name _______________________________________________________
Student ID # ________________________________________________
Date of Birth __________/_________/__________
Address ____________________________________________________

Phone __________________________Cell _______________________
Email _______________________________________________________

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Enrolled at
☐ Orange County Academic Center
☐ San Diego Academic Center
☐ Skirball Academic Center
☐ University Park Campus
☐ Virtual Academic Center

☐ Full-time ☐ Part-time

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name ____________________________
Relationship ______________________
Address ____________________________________________________
Phone __________________________