

**1) A statement as to why your program exists? What need does it fill? (i.e. Where and in what capacities do your graduates serve within the Military Health System?)**

The Army Master of Social Work Program exists in response to the high demand for behavioral health services, as a result, of the increased number of Soldiers and families affected by the global war on terrorism. In November 2006, the Army Surgeon General, recognizing the shortage of social work officers, approved the concept of establishing a Master of Social Work (MSW) Program to recruit and train previously commissioned officers. As an additional force multiplier to offset the decrement of licensed clinical social workers available to serve Soldiers and their families, the Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) and the Department of the Army authorized Department of the Army civilians in July 2009. On 26 February 2010, the Army Deputy Chief of Staff, G1 approved the Army Medical Command's request to allow all active duty enlisted Soldiers to apply for the US Army Master of Social Work (MSW) degree program to enhance accessibility, availability, and productivity of behavioral health services throughout the military services.

Graduates of the Army-FSU MSW Program can expect to serve as clinical social workers in an array of behavioral health treatment environments; staff officers at various command levels; and behavioral science offices in a number of combat support and/or medical treatment facility environments such as Brigade Combat Teams or chiefs of behavioral health clinics. Additionally, they will be expected to routinely practice and document evidenced-based social work practice, which usually consists of treatment of Soldiers and families affected by the traumas of combat, substance abuse, domestic violence, policy practice, corrections, research, education, and human service program administration.

**2) Provide a list of your university, school, and program-level accreditations, if applicable.**

The Fayetteville State University Department of Social Work has been accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) since 2006 and was recently recommended for reaffirmation until 2018. In addition to being accredited by CSWE, the Army –FSU MSW Program is also accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

**3) A brief description of what distinguishes your program, making it desirable. (i.e. Program history, key alumni, school ranking, student benefits, noteworthy accomplishments, etc)**

The Department of the Army offers a 14-month graduate of social work program whereas most universities only offer a 24-month graduate of social work program. The MSW program has also been extended to MEDCOM Department of the Army GS Civilians, all enlisted personnel, and medical service corps officers. Furthermore, this program enables graduates of the MSW Program the opportunity to complete the requirements for their independent practitioner license during a post-master's internship program. DA Civilians entering the program are promoted to GS-9 or GS-11 upon successfully completing phase 1 of the MSW Program. Once they have successfully completed phase 2 of the program, they are eligible for promotion to GS-12.

Most graduate social work programs do not assume any responsibility for assisting social work students in the licensure process. The Army MSW Program, however, not only provides funding to pay for the student's initial license as master level social workers; this program also provides a comprehensive post-masters internship that ensures that graduates of the program receive adequate clinical supervision, clinical experience, and licensing exam preparation to meet most states' requirements to become licensed independent practitioners.

**4) Provide an inclusive list of your Admission requirements.**

- a. Hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.
- b. Have a minimum of 3.0 undergraduate grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale in all undergraduate work.
- c. Provide official transcripts that reflects a broad liberal arts background that includes coursework in human biology, English, the humanities and a minimum of six courses in basic social and behavioral sciences.
- d. Provide official test scores for the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) with a score of 850 or greater that is no more than five years old at the time of program's scheduled start date.
- e. Submit an FSU application for admission, three original letters of recommendation and three original FSU Recommendation for Graduate Studies forms with original signatures from persons qualified to evaluate the applicant's abilities to pursue graduate studies in social work.
- f. Submit a signed personal statement (with original signature) of no more than five typed, double-spaced pages that addresses the applicant's:
  - interest in pursuing the profession of social work;

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- volunteer and paid work experiences related to the social work profession;
- future career plans as a military social worker;
- community involvement in social work related activities;
- personal qualities that will make you appropriate for the social work profession.

g. Applicants are also expected to be reasonably proficient in managerial communication, which is defined as baccalaureate level writing and oral presentation skills, as well as familiarity with Microsoft Office products to include Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

### **5) Provide a description of your Program timeline (i.e. start and end dates).**

Each academic cohort consists of a regular and advanced standing track. The regular track routinely begins in September in graduates 14 months later. The advanced standing track usually has a report on or about March and graduate 9 months later with the regular track students.

The program is divided into two phases: academic and internship experience. Academic phase 1 is 9 to 14 months. The internship phase is 24 months. The program is fourteen (14) months for students without a BSW degree and nine (9) months for BSW graduates.

### **6) Provide a description of your application process and LTHET requirements.**

Active duty Officers interested in the Army MSW Program **should read and comply with the Medical Service Corps' Long Term Health Education and Training announcement** and contact the MSW program education technician for information, deadlines, and admissions requirements. The active duty service obligation is 5 yrs and 2 months.

Enlisted members and civilians interested in becoming active duty Army Social Workers by attending the Army MSW Program **must contact their local AMEDD recruiter** to begin the application process. The AMEDD recruiter must forward a complete application packet for FSU and submit it to the AMEDDC&S. All applicants for this program are screened at AMEDDC&S and FSU prior to the applicant receiving notification of their academic eligibility. Once an applicant's academic eligibility has been determined, the applicant must apply to become an active duty Medical Service Corps officer via a selection board at USAREC. The active duty service obligation is 5 yrs and 2 months.

MEDCOM DA civilians interested in attending the Army MSW Program **apply via resumix job announcement bulletin**. **AMEDDC&S will select from a list of qualified applicants provided by CPOC.** All applicants for this program are screened at AMEDDC&S and FSU prior to the applicant receiving notification of their academic eligibility. All DA civilian selectees must sign a mobility agreement and continued

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service agreement. The service obligation for DACs completing this program is 38 months.

**7) Provide point of contact information for those personnel who may be interested in your program.**

Program Education Technician: Ms. Wilma Ambrose

Email address: [wilma.ambrose@amedd.army.mil](mailto:wilma.ambrose@amedd.army.mil); Phone: (210) 221-6887

Program NCOIC: SFC Serena Branch,

Email address: [serena.branch@amedd.army.mil](mailto:serena.branch@amedd.army.mil); Phone: (210) 221-6060

U.S. Army MSW website: <http://www.uncfsu.edu/sw/fortssam/fortsam.htm>

The application packet should be mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army MSW Program

ATTN: Wilma Ambrose, Education Technician

U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School (AMEDDC&S)

2250 Stanley Road, Suite 011-1

Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-6100

**Note:** Above information is subject to change at any time so please verify information by contacting the Program NCOIC or Education Technician.