What is Military Social Work?
Military social work is an inclusive term that refers to direct practice, policy, advocacy, or administration on behalf of service members, veterans, their families, and their communities. (Council on Social Work Education, 2010)

Why is this area of social work practice important?
Today’s U.S. military population is comprised of 3.6 million service members (Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, 2012) more than 21 million veterans (United States Census Bureau, 2011) and their families. Support needs for service members, veterans, their families, and their communities have become increasingly complex to articulate, assess, and treat. These needs create demand for social workers who are educated, trained, and skilled in working with these populations.

The School of Social Work has developed opportunities for MSW students to explore their interest in working with military service members, veterans, their families, and their communities. These include the Area of Emphasis in Military Practice (AEMP) Scholars program and elective courses specific to practice with these populations.

Components of the AEMP experience:

Networking and Collaboration: AEMP involves community members, alumni/ae, students, and faculty members in a dialogue about practice with military service members, veterans, their families, and their communities.

Building Knowledge: Scholars develop their skills and deepen their understanding of the context and unique needs of military populations with courses, course assignments, and campus and community events.

Required electives:
- GRSW 534: Practice with Service Members, Veterans and their Families
- GRSW 634: Clinical Practice in Military Social Work

Practice: Scholars gain hands-on experiential learning and apply social work values, knowledge and skills in a social work context during field practica.

Research: AEMP scholars will contribute to the body of knowledge in this area of social work practice by focusing their clinical research paper (GRSW 682, Applied Research Seminar) on a topic related to military service members, veterans, their families, and their communities.

Leadership: AEMP scholars assume leadership roles on the AEMP advisory council, guide the development of group service and academic projects, and represent this unique area of social work practice in the School of Social Work, on campus and in the professional community.

Stipend: AEMP scholars receive a tuition stipend of $1,000 in their last semester of the program.
Frequently Asked Questions

Why consider an Area of Emphasis (AE) Scholars program?
The AE Scholars programs focus on emerging practice areas and provide additional networking, collaboration and leadership opportunities for those interested in these critical areas.

Who can apply to AE Scholars programs?
AE Scholars programs are designed as two-year experiences. All newly admitted Advanced Standing (AS) 2-year and Regular Standing MSW students are eligible to apply. Other students who have at least two years remaining in their MSW program and who meet the requirements of the program may also apply during the spring application period. Students apply to the AEMP program after acceptance to the MSW program.

How competitive is it to be accepted to the AE Scholars programs?
Applicants need to articulate and demonstrate relevant qualifications and professional goals, and a limited number of students are accepted each year.

What if I don’t want to apply, or don’t qualify for, an AE Scholars program?
There are many ways to explore your areas of interest. All enrolled MSW students have the opportunity to further concentrate their studies through their choice of:

- Electives, including those required of AE Scholars
- Fieldwork placements
- Clinical research projects

Can I apply to more than one AE Scholars program?
You may apply to more than one AE Scholars program, however, you may only be selected for one.

Learn more about Military Social Work Practice

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