Specialization in Veterans Services

This specialization will prepare students to provide quality, evidence-based clinical and public health services to veterans who have previously served in the U.S. Armed Forces. This specialization will also help to prepare MSW students for federal employment within the national healthcare system of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Students in the MSW, MPH, CCJ or ABA graduate programs are eligible.

Students will select from a menu of courses pre-approved by the Chair via course planning and advising meetings (i.e., some courses are taught by VA staff with direct experience in working with Veterans, others on relevant topics taught at other local universities), complete course assignments, and a 2 semester practica that focuses on clinical, community or public health issues related to the veteran population and services specifically designed for veterans, their families and their communities.

The student will also develop a portfolio of all of their veteran services-related projects, papers, assignments, and practica evaluations to demonstrate completion of this specialization. Students are required to have one major paper or presentation in their courses centering on veterans.

The specialization program is designed to meet the competencies for Advanced Social Work Practice with Military Social Work as adopted by the Council on Social Work Education

http://www.cswe.org/File.aspx?id=42466

**Required courses: 6 credit hours**

- SWRK 5756 - Clinical and Public Health Approaches to Working With Veterans (3 credit hours, offered only on 5 Saturdays in Spring)

**Practicum Requirements: 6 credits hours**

An internship (e.g., two semester, one-site, practica for MSW students) at a site providing direct, community, or public health services specifically targeting veterans, their families, and their communities or illnesses, exposures, or other conditions impacting veterans who have previously served in the US Armed Forces.

*Students must also earn a "B" or better in the designated courses and successfully pass the 2 semester practica.*

**Application and Verification Process:**

Students should register in the Specialization as soon as possible upon beginning the MSW degree to ensure the Chair of the Specialization is assigned as their Faculty Mentor. Students interested in pursuing this specialization should notify the Chairperson of the Specialization of their intent to specialize prior to taking the required coursework. Students are required to meet with the Chair of the Veterans’ Services Specialization annually for course selection and advising and to submit a portfolio near the time of graduation. Students will be acknowledged upon completion of Specialization requirements.

For more information, please contact: Dr. Monica Matthieu at mmatthie@slu.edu 314-977-7139.

Revised 2/2016 ACB
VETERANS SERVICES SPECIALIZATION

Legal Name: ________________________________
Banner ID: ________________________________

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<tr>
<th>COURSEWORK</th>
<th>SEMESTER/YEAR COMPLETED</th>
<th>GRADE EARNED</th>
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<tr>
<td>SWRK 5756: Clinical and Public Health Approaches to Working With Veterans</td>
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<tr>
<th>CONCENTRATION PRACTICA</th>
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<tr>
<td>SWRK 5832: Community Practicum II OR SWRK 5842: Clinical Practicum II</td>
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<td>SWRK 5833: Community Practicum III OR SWRK 5843: Clinical Practicum III</td>
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STUDENT AND SPECIALIZATION CHAIR MEET AND SIGN BELOW TO VERIFY COMPLETION OF MSW SPECIALIZATION REQUIREMENTS, THEN SEND TO MSW PROGRAM OFFICE FOR FURTHER REVIEW

Signature of MSW Student attesting to completion of specialization requirements
Date

Signature of Veterans Specialization Chair
Date

Signature of Director of Field Education
Date

Signature of Director of MSW Degree Program
Date

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