

Social Work - Social and Behavioral Health with Military Members, Veterans, and Military Families

Group 1: Cycle 1 - Fall 2017 - Summer 2019

Currently status is: Report Accepted

ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR Group 1: Cycle 1 - Fall 2017 - Summer 2019

Mission Statement

The mission of the Military Certificate program is prepare students by providing the knowledge necessary to work successfully with military and their families.

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have resulted in the the longest sustained combat operations in U.S. history. By 2010, more than two million military members had served one or more combat deployments and more than one million of these veterans had already left the military and become eligible for VA services. The current conflicts have also resulted in unprecedented deployment of National Guard and reserve personnel. There is a growing need for social workers to have up-to-date information about the problems and concerns of military service members, veterans, their families and their communities.

In response to the physical and psychological wounds associated with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, a behavioral health workforce trained in the unique stressors and problems associated with military life and combat deployments will be needed. Whether in military, VA, or community practice, social workers will encounter individuals who served in these wars and their significant others. The signature wounds of these wars, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance use disorders, and traumatic brain injury have negative implications for military health and readiness as well as associations with suicidal ideation and psychosocial problems impacting military families. Social workers and other behavioral health professionals are poised to assist with psychological and psychosocial interventions needed to assist military personnel, veterans, and military families to resolve problems associated with military and combat stressors.

Goal 1.

To provide knowledge necessary to work successfully with military and thier familes.

Curriculum

The program consists of three specific military courses: Overview of Military Social Work, Military Mental Health and the Impact of Trauma, and Intervention Strategies in Military Mental Health and Combat Related Issues. Dynamics of Substance Abuse is also required. In addition, students will be required to take two electives to complete their program.

Learning Outcome 1.

Students will have knowledge about military culture, values of duty, courage, and selflessness associated with military service.

Measures and Criteria

Students will demonstrate an understanding of military culture through the completion of a culturally competent training project as described in the course syllabus (SOWK 738)

A score of B or higher will be obtained by at least 85% of students.

Methods

In the Culturally Competent Training project students are expected to identify a unique medium that would be impactful in training social works to be culturally competent in working with a military population. They are to describe how they would use this as a training intervention.

Instructor(s) for this class will grade the assignment based on criteria outlined in the course syllabus for SOWK 738.

The instructor will provide to the Program Director the data on the findings from this course each semester that it is taught. The instructor will be asked to provide this information to the Program Director who will maintain the data. Only those involved in the assessment have access to the data. The Program Director then analyzes the data to evaluate achievement of the learning outcome.

Results

This outcome was met. A total of 37 students demonstrated an understanding of military culture by completing the competency training project in SOWK 738. A score of B or higher was obtained for 100% of the student assessed. Student performance on this assessment demonstrates an understanding of the unique aspects of military culture for generalist social work practice.

Use of Results

Currently, I am chairing a subcommittee to update curricular content and syllabi for the miltiary certificate. Results from this assessment will be used in this subcommittee to inform future assignments in this course. These results will also be used to inform curricular updates and modifications to the certificate program.

Learning Outcome 2.

Students will understand the impact of resilience on soldiers and families. Students will be demonstrate their understanding of the connection between resilience and prevention of combat related problems such as PTSD.

Measures and Criteria

This learning outcome will be assessed by the student grades on a final quiz for course SOWK 739 At least 85% of students will score at a B or higher.

Methods

Resilience is an essential component of military success, particularly for those in combat, and for their families. This objective is met through a Discussion Board Item in SOWK 738 where Risk and Resilience is covered in depth. Students will engage in a forum where they will critically evaluate their personal clinical reactions to the lecture, and an interview contained within the lecture. In addition, they will respond to an item that explores their personal reactions to a marine who describes his own emotional response to his combat experience. They will be directed to explore their own emotional reactions, and to critically evaluate them, and respond to others.

Results

This outcome was met. A total of 37 students were assessed on the impact of resilience on the prevention of mental health problems in military personnel and their families. On this assessment, 85% of students scored a B or higher, which demonstrates beginning knowledge in understanding the roles of resilience in preventing combat-related psychological problems such as PTSD.

Use of Results

Currently, I am chairing a subcommittee to update curricular content and syllabi for the military certificate. The results of this assessment will be shared with this subcommittee and serve as the foundation to inform curricular content that assesses students' ability to identify the behavioral and emotional manifestations of combat-related psychological problems to enhance clinical practice in military social work.

Learning Outcome 3.

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the differential impacts of military service for unique military populations.

Measures and Criteria

This learning outcome will be assessed using student grades on the Special Populations Paper and Presentation for class 738. At least 85% of students should score a B or higher on this assignment.

Methods

In this assignment, each student group will pick a military population they are interested in. The topic will be approved by the professor. The paper will examine the unique issues that impact the chosen population. The paper will describe the military population in detail and will thoroughly explore the typical issues that impact the population covered in the paper.

Instructor(s) for this class will grade the assignment based on criteria outlined in the course syllabus for SOWK 738 (attached). The instructor will provide to the Program Director the data on the findings from this course each semester that it is taught. The instructor will be asked to provide this information to the Program Director who will maintain the data. Only those involved in the assessment have access to the data. The Program Director then analyzes the data to evaluate achievement of the learning outcome.

Results

This outcome was met. A total of 37 students were assessed on their knowledge to identify the differential impact of military service on unique military populations. Approximately 90% of students received a score of B or higher. These findings suggest that students demonstrated knowledge of the diversity among military and veteran populations.

Use of Results

Currently, I am chairing a subcommittee to update curricular content and syllabi for the military certificate. These results will be shared with this subcommittee and used to inform the development of case-based curricular in which students are able to apply this knowledge to case scenarios.