

Statement of Purpose – Masters Degree in Military Social Work

Name:

Institution:

Date of Submission:

Statement of Purpose

Mental health disorders in the military are a common occurrence. A report compiled by the Pentagon indicates that these disorders account for the highest number of men military personnel being sent to the hospital and the second top reason, after pregnancy-related conditions for the hospitalization of women in the military. This situation has made the Defense Department to make an investigation on the rise and spread of mental health complications among military personnel in the US. Consequent to these disorders, the lives of numerous individuals including the service men and their family members have been extremely adversely affected. My desire to help solve these cases is the motivation in seeking enrolment for a Masters Degree in Military Social Work with Military Social Work University of Southern California.

Since my childhood, I have been severally involved in the improvement of the welfare of other people. Growing in family where caring for others was a core value, I developed a deep sense collective responsibility and the need to help others solve their problems. This was reflected in extensive participation in societal activities like community service. At the family level, I was perceived as a 'second mother' by my siblings who highly depended on me in executing their domestic duties and attending to their home assignments and other school-related work. This interest continued to develop in high school and further in my military career, where the state of service men facing mental health problems influenced my decision to pursue a course in Social Work.

The pursuit of this course was heavily influenced by the emergence of complications among military personnel. Notably, the effects of post-traumatic stress that was associated with experiences on battle fronts in countries like Vietnam intensified my desire to acquire a better understanding of how such incidences affected individual mental health, and the appropriate

remedies. The need to understand and find solution to anxiety and depression that is often associated with deviant behaviors such as substance abuse, child abuse, domestic violence, and suicide has fueled my desire to pursue a counseling-related course.

My overall and long-term goal is to work in a military installation, where I will help service men and their family members cope with the challenges of a military life. The plan towards achievement of this goal will be through completion of a Masters Degree in Military Social Work, where I intend to specialize in working with spouses and other military dependants to help solve problems that may arise concerning their family members in the military. This will specifically focus towards working in the deploying unit, where I will be extensively engaged in addressing stress related to pending deployment.

Motivated by the achievement of this goal, I went ahead to pursue a Bachelors Degree in Social Work, where my academic performances were quite exemplary. After many years of service in the military, I decided to further my education in this field, where my ability to combine military duties, family life, and study was remarkable considering the lengthy absence from academic work. Performance in the other previous academic levels has also been remarkable. My academic records in primary and high school were also quite impressive, which depicts my academic ability and potential. I am certain that this quite impressive performance will be reflected in my academic pursuits at the Masters level.

My experiences will indeed be extremely instrumental in the realization of my academic and career goals. In my high school years, I attended various counseling forums organized by the school and by my local church. From these forums, I managed to acquire such basic skills in counseling as attentive listening, adopting a non-judgmental attitude towards the patient, asking the right questions to acquire the relevant information, and acceptance of the patient's feelings.

Since then, these skills have harnessed my ability to relate the counseling theoretical framework with real practice. These skills will be essential in successful pursuit of my Masters Degree.

Additionally, having served in the army for more than twenty six years, I have acquired an extensive experience on military life and the problems that affect the military personnel. This has increased my understanding of problems associated with military life and the respective symptoms. Particularly, I have been actively involved in voluntary counseling of military personnel, especially women, who have in the past faced job-related marital conflicts. This includes helping solve disputes among couples in the military, helping women soldiers adapt to the army life, as well as resolving disputes between children and their parents in the military.

As well, with an education background in Social Work, I am well equipped in successfully pursuing a Masters Degree in Military Social Work. From the undergraduate studies, I was exposed to various theoretical approaches in counseling and data collection and analysis methods. I believe that these approaches and data collection and analysis methods will be instrumental in conducting research in my Masters studies. With this in mind, I intend to work closely with the teaching staff and students at your institution to conduct research that will produce reliable and publishable results.

In the past, I have interacted with various academic and professional personnel in the field of counseling. This experience has been a platform for better understanding of the counseling profession work environment, where I have learnt the various challenges associated with the practice and study of the counseling profession. All these will be handy in the psychological preparation for the possible associated burn-out and the expected commitment. Therefore, with this experience, it will be easier to relate the practical application of knowledge acquired in the academic field to the helping profession.

My personal attributes will be equally fundamental in my Masters Degree studies. First, I possess a very positive attitude towards learning new subjects. Regarding this, my willingness and ability to learn new things will be important in my academic achievements at the Masters level. This will help secure excellent grades even in quiet challenging subjects. My creativity will also immensely feature in my studies, where the ability to apply my acquired knowledge in the achievement of set academic goals will help in practical application of theoretical concepts to practice.

Equally, my capabilities in acquiring academic skills will be important in learning new methods of attaining academic competency. In this, I can read comprehensively, speak fluently, write effectively, and communicate clearly. With these proficiencies, I believe I am better positioned to achieve academic excellence even at advanced levels. I am also exceptionally perceptive, with a superior ability to perceive and interpret meanings and ideas from conversations, either recorded, live, or written dialogues. This highlights my skills in acquiring knowledge from different sources and forms.

Remarkably, my learning process is characterized by the understanding of the underlying concepts rather than memorizing them. This has helped in retaining the meaning of concepts learnt in previous levels, and creating a solid basis for advancing knowledge at higher levels. Self-discipline as a core attribute has played a primary role in proper time management, which will ensure that all my assignments will be delivered within the set deadlines. As well, I am goal-oriented, resilient to challenging tasks, and much determined towards the achievement of the set goals. A desire for success is also one of my other prominent attributes that is important in harnessing my success in the pursuit of Masters Degree at the Military Social Work University of Southern California.

Though my academic journey especially at the undergraduate level has been marked by the challenges of being a wife, a parent, and student at the same time, I have managed to secure exemplary grades. In this regard, I possess immense academic potential that I plan to fully exploit at the Masters level. Per se, I believe that based on my academic ground and past experiences in Social Work, when granted the opportunity to advance my studies by pursuing Masters Degree in Military Social Work, I would add much value to the Social Work and Counseling academic discipline, the American Armed Forces, and the American economy.

In conclusion, my desires to contribute and attain academic excellence in this field are reasons to place confidence in my academic pursuit. When successful, later, my academic quests will extend to the pursuit of a Doctoral Degree at your institution. Based on this information, I urge the university acceptance team to consider my petition for admission to the Military Social Work University of Southern California Masters Degree in the Military Social Work Program.