AIR FORCE
CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Scholarship:
- Pays up to two years of academic study in your MSW program
- Pays for all tuition, fees, supplies, books, and any special equipment that is required
- Pays you a stipend of over $2100 per month

Duties and Opportunities
Upon completion of their MSW graduates will attend a yearlong internship program at one of our four social work training sites. As social work residents move from training to their first assignment, duties will vary depending on the needs of the clinic, community characteristics, and individual interests or skills. Our graduates often move directly into positions of leadership as a small clinic or as a specialty service chief at a larger facility. Responsibilities generally exceed those typically encountered in entry-level civilian employment. Opportunities for continued education are available, including competitive selection for Air Force-funded Ph.D. programs at civilian institutions once social workers have completed requirements and been licensed for independent practice.

Eligibility Requirements
To be eligible for commissioning and consideration for resident selection, applicants must:

- Be of good moral character and meet initial physical/mental standards.
- Be accepted to and/or enrolled in a Masters of Social Work (MSW) degree program from a CSWE accredited university.
- Enrolled in or planning to enroll in a clinical track.

To find out more information or about how to apply for this position, please contact:

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AIR FORCE CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER

HELPING THOSE IN NEED

Deployments and the 24/7 mission of national defense can often lead to high-stress situations for Airmen and their families. If left untreated, these challenges can adversely affect a person’s job, relationships and the Air Force mission. As an Air Force Clinical Social Worker, you help those in need by providing invaluable mental health support.

As an Air Force clinical social worker you are a valued member of the mental health team. Working in a multidisciplinary setting, you will be provided leadership opportunities that are unrivaled in civilian practice.

What kind of work will I do as an Air Force clinical social worker?
You’ll use your knowledge and expertise to assist Airmen and their families in meeting the unique challenges of the Air Force mission and military way of life. You may conduct clinical interviews, evaluate patients, diagnose mental disorders and formulate treatment plans. Along with recommending administrative and medical dispositions, you may:

- Provide individual, couple, family and group therapy
- Admit, treat and discharge patients, with physician oversight to/from inpatient substance abuse treatment programs
- Perform risk assessments and determine degree of danger posed by the patient
- Screen records and personnel for security clearances and make administrative recommendations
- Serve as a behavioral health consultant to commanders, first sergeants and medical personnel
- Manage Air Force mental health programs to include Family Advocacy Program, Alcohol Drug Abuse and Treatment Prevention Program and the Exceptional Family Member Program
- Serve as an element chief and/or flight commander
What benefits does the Air Force offer?
As an Air Force officer, you’ll enjoy these great benefits and more:

- Earn 30 days of vacation with pay each year — beginning the very first year
- No loss of seniority when moving to other hospitals or clinics
- Pay increases with your rank and time in service
- Comprehensive medical and dental care for you and your family
- Low-cost life insurance
- Thrift Savings Program similar to a 401(k)
- Tax-free housing and food allowances
- Opportunity to live, work and travel overseas

What qualifications does it take to become an Air Force clinical social worker?
You must have a Master’s of Social Work degree from a graduate school accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and the highest level of clinical license your state offers (such as LCSW, LISW, etc.) to practice as an independent clinical social worker.

It’s desirable to obtain board certification through the American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work or the National Association of Social Workers. Clinical social workers with Board Certified Diplomat status qualify for additional board certification pay each month.

Will I need to attend an Air Force orientation when I join?
Yes, you’ll attend commissioned officer training, or COT, conducted at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. The four-and-a-half-week program provides initial officership training for Air Force health professions officers (doctors, nurses, dentists, biomedical science corps officers and hospital administrators), medical scholarship recipients, judge advocates and chaplains.

COT students receive direct commissions before training. Their military rank is awarded based on their professional/educational credentials and experience in their respective fields, typically ranging from second lieutenant to lieutenant colonel.

You’ll study communication skills, leadership, management, Air Force customs and courtesies, military history and world affairs. You’ll also participate in organized sports and physical conditioning. While in training you live in a base
dormitory with your fellow students. You’ll receive a monthly paycheck, plus a one-time clothing allowance to help cover the cost of uniforms.

Upon completion of this training, most health professions officers report directly to their operational units throughout the world.

**What kind of assignments can I expect?**
The majority of Air Force Clinical Social Workers serve in mental health clinics located in Military Treatment Facilities around the world. As an AF Clinical Social Worker you’ll primary work in one of three areas within the clinic. These areas include mental health prevention and treatment, substance abuse prevention and treatment, and domestic violence/child abuse prevention and treatment.

**Will I deploy overseas?**
As an Air Force Officer, you’ll be expected to support forces in the deployed environment. Deployments are typically 6 months in length. Most Air Force Clinical Social workers deploy once every 3-4 years. Those who have deployed say it is one of the most rewarding experiences of their career.

**What kind of quality of life can I expect as an Air Force officer?**
The Air Force offers an excellent quality of life. Air Force bases have a variety of morale, welfare and recreation programs to enjoy all year long. Our fitness centers have top-of-the-line exercise equipment, weight rooms and classes for the entire family, plus there are swimming pools, tennis courts, golf courses and camping areas.

Most bases also have bowling alleys, movie theaters, youth centers and even discount ticket offices where you’ll pay reduced prices for amusement parks, live theater and movies.

Childcare centers are available for young children, along with youth activities for older children. You and your family will have shopping privileges in base grocery and department stores.

**Does the Air Force have a residency program for its clinical social workers?**
Yes, the Air Force offers a 12-month Clinical Social Work Residency Program at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland; Travis AFB, California; Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio; and Eglin AFB, Florida.
The Clinical Social Work Residency Program offers an intensive, in-depth experience and supervision in assessment and treatment of a highly diverse patient population. The program includes core rotations in outpatient Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Domestic Violence. It includes didactics, professional seminars and workshops presented by multidisciplinary professionals.

During the internship you'll receive the rank, pay and benefits of an Air Force Officer. Internship graduates are guaranteed post-residency employment with high levels of professional autonomy and responsibility while serving one’s country. In addition, you receive top quality preparation to assume challenging leadership roles in the Air Force.

To be considered for an Air Force residency, you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen between ages 18-40 (age waivers may be available)
- Meet Air Force requirements for commissioning including a physical exam
- Have a Master’s of Social Work degree from an accredited university
- Hold an entry-level state license
- One year of post graduate clinical mental health experience is preferred

**Will the Air Force pay for my continuing education?**
The Air Force is committed to continuing education. We’ll pay up to 100 percent of your costs to pursue an advanced degree or other college courses through our tuition assistance program. And, you may even apply for an Air Force-funded Ph.D. program at civilian institutions.

To help keep you current in your career field, we encourage you to attend professional seminars and workshops. We’ll even help cover those costs, too.

Visit us online at AIRFORCE.COM/HEALTHCARE or call 1-800-588-5260.

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