

AFSC 42S4, Staff
AFSC 42S3, Qualified
AFSC 42S1, Entry

★CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER
(Changed 31 Oct 23)

1. Specialty Summary. Clinical social work is a specialty practice area of social work which focuses on the assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of mental illness, emotional, and other behavioral disturbances. Applies principles, knowledge, and practice of professional social work to provide mental health diagnosis, treatment, research, consultation, and preventive programs for individuals, families, groups, and organizations in military community. Teaches, supervises, and directs clinical social work and related mental health programs. Related DoD Occupational Group: 260807.

2. Duties and Responsibilities:

2.1. Administers clinical social work programs. Plans, organizes, and directs mental health service or department. Provides social work services in mental health, substance abuse, Family Advocacy, medical, Exceptional Family Member Program, and other professional military settings. Supervises mental health personnel and recommends policies pertaining to their training and management. Assesses and plans for the social and psychological needs of individuals, families, groups, and organizations in the military community. Performs mental health evaluations and therapy. Applies and supervises application of social work procedures and techniques in evaluating, diagnosing, and treating psychological disorders. Provides individual and group therapy, behavior modification, and other evidence-based treatment procedures in treating psychological disorders, and in assisting individuals to achieve more effective personal and interpersonal adjustment. During deployments, uses social work skills to prevent and treat psychological problems in order to support and enhance the Air Force mission.

2.2. Provides consultation and support to leadership and other agencies on such problems as individual and group effectiveness, interpersonal relations, psychopathology, and maladaptive behavior. Coordinates social work services and maintains liaison with military and civilian resources. Provides consultation on policies, procedures, and services to medical staff, commanders, base agencies, volunteers, major commands, and other installations of assignment.

2.3. Conducts and participates in research appropriate to professional training and expertise. Develops social work staff training programs to ensure uniformly high standards of social work personnel. Trains social work students in affiliation with a university graduate social work program and engages in education and training of other professional medical personnel. Develops and conducts internship programs for newly accessed social work graduates and ensures understanding of Air Force social work functions prior to assignment to initial duty station.

3. Specialty Qualifications:

3.1. Knowledge. Knowledge of social work theories, principles, techniques, and resources is mandatory.

3.2. Education. For entry into this specialty, a Master's in Social Work from a graduate school of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) is mandatory.

3.3. Training. For retention in this specialty, completion of the Air Force Clinical Social Work Fellowship is mandatory within 15 months of accession.

3.4. Experience.

3.5. Other. The following are mandatory:

3.5.1. For entry into this specialty, an entry level state license is mandatory.

3.5.2. For award and retention of AFSC 42S3, officers must possess a valid, active, current and unrestricted license issued by a U.S. jurisdiction at a level allowing independent clinical social work practice. Social Workers accessed without an independent clinical practice level license must obtain such license within 3 years of accession.

3.5.3. ★Must obtain and maintain clinical privileges IAW AFI DHA-PM 6025.13 Vol 4 and/or 44-119, *Medical Quality Operations* (or be immediately eligible for said privileges if assigned to a non-clinical position).