

# Social Work

## What can I do with this major?

OCCUPATIONS	EMPLOYERS	SKILLS TO DEVELOP
<b><u>PUBLIC WELFARE</u></b>		
Administration and Planning Case Management Program Evaluation Policy Setting Research	Public welfare agencies Private social service agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public welfare is designed to provide services and support for poor, disabled, ill, elderly, or juvenile clients.</li> <li>Volunteer at homeless shelters, soup kitchens, battered women homes, literacy programs, or other social service agencies to get experience.</li> <li>Gain knowledge of government and community resources available for those in need.</li> <li>Become fluent in a foreign language spoken by multicultural clients.</li> </ul>
<b><u>CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS</u></b>		
Counseling/Therapy Rehabilitation Probation Parole Youth Services Victim Assistance	Prisons and correctional facilities Courts Police departments Probation offices Victim services organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social workers in corrections focus on rehabilitation of clients.</li> <li>Obtain experience by volunteering at a corrections facility or victims program such as a rape crisis center.</li> </ul>
<b><u>SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK</u></b>		
Clinical Social Work Pupil Personnel Services Student Advocacy Instruction	Elementary and secondary schools School districts Head start centers Early intervention programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School systems may employ social workers to help students cope with and resolve emotional, developmental, or educational difficulties.</li> <li>Gain experience with children at daycare centers, camps, or Scouts.</li> </ul>
<b><u>CHILD WELFARE</u></b>		
Case Management Advocacy Intervention	Public and private child welfare agencies Adoption agencies Foster care organizations Child daycare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child welfare social workers strive to ensure the safety and well being of children through treatment of the whole family.</li> <li>Volunteer at daycares, child shelters, camps, YMCA, Scouts, or other agencies that aid youth.</li> </ul>
<b><u>DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES</u></b>		
Case Management Program Planning and Evaluation Research Policy Development	Community residential homes State and local agencies Medical facilities Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social workers in this area help people with disabilities to adjust and to lead productive lives.</li> <li>Volunteer at special needs camps, daycares, schools, or hospitals to gain experience.</li> </ul>

OCCUPATIONS	EMPLOYERS	SKILLS TO DEVELOP
<p><b><u>GERONTOLOGY</u></b>            Advocacy/Intervention            Counseling            Case Management            Programming            Public Policy</p>	<p>Hospitals            Nursing homes            Senior centers            Assisted living            Hospice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gerontology involves working with older adults, healthy or ill, and their families.</li> <li>• Get involved with programs or organizations designed for senior citizens.</li> <li>• Volunteer at nursing homes, senior centers or hospitals.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>CLINICAL</u></b>            Counseling            Therapy</p>	<p>Community mental health centers            Psychiatric hospitals            Residential and day treatment hospitals            Employment assistance programs            Schools            Family service agencies            Private practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical social workers are found in a variety of settings that provide therapeutic counseling to clients.</li> <li>• Master of Social Work (MSW) is required.</li> <li>• Difficult to get 'hands on' experience without Masters or certification</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>ADMINISTRATION</u></b>            Management            Policy Development            Planning</p>	<p>Family service agencies            Child welfare departments            Social service agencies            State mental health departments            Employee assistance programs            Probation departments            Public welfare agencies            Public interest groups            Local, state, and federal government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrators are involved with planning, budgeting, public relations, marketing, supervising, operations management, fund raising, and other crucial responsibilities that keep an organization functioning.</li> <li>• Master of Social Work (MSW) is needed.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>OCCUPATIONAL</u></b>            Counseling            Education            Wellness Promotion            Employee Assistance            Organizational Development            Human Resources</p>	<p>Businesses            Corporations            Employee assistance programs            Labor unions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupational social workers help employees to be more productive and satisfied.</li> <li>• Take some courses in Human Resources</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION</u></b>            Program and Community Development            Advocacy            Politics            Education            Planning</p>	<p>Advocacy organizations            Development corporations            Community centers            Local, state, and federal government            Associations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social workers in this area work with existing organizations to improve conditions for specific groups, enhance quality of living, and involve community members in the political process.</li> <li>• Get involved with grassroots causes and community agencies.</li> </ul>

## OCCUPATIONS

## EMPLOYERS

## SKILLS TO DEVELOP

### **RESEARCH AND EDUCATION**

Research  
Teaching

Colleges and universities  
Research institutes  
Local, state and federal government  
Advocacy organizations

- Research provides data and statistics important in program implementation and policy development.
- Doctor of Social Work (DSW) or Ph.D. usually required.
- Volunteer to assist in research projects either with a professor or at a clinical setting.
- Develop strong quantitative and statistical skills.

### **HEALTH CARE**

Case Management  
Counseling  
Program Development  
Administration  
Research

Hospitals  
Community health centers  
Outpatient clinics  
Public health programs  
Health maintenance organizations (HMOs)  
Nursing homes  
Group homes  
Hospice  
Veterans Administration hospitals

- Social workers in health care facilitate medical and emotional treatment of patients.
- Choose volunteer settings such as hospitals, the American Red Cross, or AIDS agencies to get experience.

## **Strategies For Placement In Social Work**

- Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) prepares individuals for entry-level direct practice.
- Master of Social Work (MSW) is necessary to provide therapy and for advancement to supervisory or administrative positions.
- Complete a degree from a college or university program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Programs include practical field experience.
- The field practicum is used to determine suitability for this profession and to provide exposure to various practice settings and clients.
- Candidates should possess empathy for others, an appreciation for diversity, and an interest in social change.
- Social workers serve a range of client systems (individuals, families, groups, communities) as they attempt to enhance social functioning.
- Social work is unique given its dual focus on the person and the environment.
- Note: Much of this information was adapted from Choices: Careers in Social Work by the National Association of Social Workers.

## **Internet Resources:**

National Association of Social Workers

[www.socialworkers.org](http://www.socialworkers.org)

The New Social Worker's Online Career Center One of the primary goals of this web site is to give social workers information that will help them start their careers on the right foot and/or advance toward their career goals. [www.socialworker.com/career](http://www.socialworker.com/career)

Industry Profile –Counseling and Social Work: [www.wetfeet.com/asp/careerlist.asp](http://www.wetfeet.com/asp/careerlist.asp)

Covers Industry Trends & Overview, "Love-Hate" (pros and cons of this field), Major Players and Job Descriptions & Tips.