# HUMAN SERVICES

What can I do with this major?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOCIAL SERVICES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Social services are designed to provide support and promote well-being for disadvantaged populations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration and planning</td>
<td>Public welfare agencies</td>
<td>Volunteer at homeless shelters, soup kitchens, domestic violence support centers, literacy programs, and/or other social service agencies to gain relevant experience and demonstrate interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case management</td>
<td>Federal, state, and local government:</td>
<td>Learn to work well with different types of people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>- Administrative agencies</td>
<td>Cultivate multicultural competence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program evaluation</td>
<td>- Department of Human Services</td>
<td>Become familiar with government and community resources available for those in need.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy development</td>
<td>- Department of Education</td>
<td>Learn about government application procedures and apply early as the process can take at least four to six months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer coordination</td>
<td>- Department of Veterans Affairs</td>
<td>Complete an internship with the federal government or nonprofit agency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention</td>
<td>- Department of Justice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS</strong></td>
<td>Prisons and correctional facilities</td>
<td>Correctional workers focus on rehabilitating clients and assisting victims.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling/Therapy</td>
<td>Courts</td>
<td>Obtain experience by volunteering at a corrections facility or a victim services organization such as a sexual assault crisis center or family justice center.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation</td>
<td>Police departments</td>
<td>Gain experience as a juvenile probation officer; many states allow reputable citizens to serve as volunteer officers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probation</td>
<td>Probation and parole offices</td>
<td>Supplement curriculum with criminal justice classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parole</td>
<td>Victim services organizations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth services</td>
<td>Private treatment facilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victim assistance</td>
<td>Transitional housing facilities and halfway houses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child Welfare</th>
<th>Employers</th>
<th>Descriptions/Strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case management</td>
<td>Public or private child welfare agencies</td>
<td>Child welfare workers strive to ensure the safety and well-being of children through interventions and programming. Volunteer at day care centers, children's shelters, camps, YMCA/YWCA, Scouts, CASA, or other agencies that aid youth and children. Take additional courses in child development or early childhood education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>Local, state, and federal government including: Department of Children's Services, Department of Human Services, Child Protective Services, Head Start, Adoption agencies, Foster care organizations, Day care centers, Recreational facilities (e.g., YMCA or YWCA)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service coordination</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth programming and mentoring</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapeutic recreation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alcohol and Substance Abuse</th>
<th>Employers</th>
<th>Descriptions/Strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Counseling</td>
<td>Alcohol and drug treatment and rehabilitation centers, Residential treatment facilities, Outpatient facilities, Employee Assistance Programs (EAP), Private treatment facilities, Transitional living facilities and halfway houses, Hospitals, Community mental health centers, Local, state, and federal government including: Department of Social Services, Department of Veterans Affairs, Correctional facilities, Juvenile detention facilities, Probation services,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program development and evaluation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual advising</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapeutic recreation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Developmental Services</th>
<th>Employers</th>
<th>Descriptions/Strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case management</td>
<td>Community residential homes, State and local agencies including: Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Programs (VR &amp; E), One-Stop Career Centers, Medical facilities, Mental health organizations, Schools, Colleges and universities, Employment agencies,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program planning and evaluation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy development</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Human services workers specializing in this area help people with disabilities lead productive lives. Volunteer at special needs camps, child care centers, schools, or hospitals to gain experience. Learn about a variety of disabilities and accommodations. Obtain specialized training in areas such as sign language or assistive technology for additional opportunities. Earn a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling to qualify for more positions.
### Gerontology
- Advocacy
- Administration
- Counseling
- Case management
- Programming
- Public policy

#### Employers
- Hospitals
- Nursing and retirement homes
- Senior centers
- Assisted and independent living facilities
- Hospice
- Home healthcare agencies
- Community agencies serving the elderly

#### Descriptions/Strategies
Gerontology involves promoting the well-being of older adults and supporting them and their families.  
- Become involved with programs or organizations designed for senior citizens.  
- Join the American Society on Aging.  
- Supplement curriculum with course work in life span development and aging.  
- Obtain specialized training and credentials oriented toward gerontology.

### Health Care
- Case management
- Counseling
- Program development
- Administration
- Rehabilitation
- Prevention
- Education
- Research
- Hospice care

#### Employers
- Hospitals
- Health maintenance organizations (HMOs)
- Nursing homes
- Hospice programs
- Home healthcare agencies
- Community health centers
- Public health programs
- Social service organizations
- Outpatient clinics
- Transitional housing facilities
- Specialized camps/schools
- Federal, state, and local government:
  - Department of Health and Human Services
  - Department of Veterans Affairs

#### Descriptions/Strategies
Human services workers in healthcare facilitate the medical and emotional treatment of patients.  
- Volunteer in health related settings such as hospitals or the American Red Cross to gain experience.  
- Supplement curriculum with course work in public health or community health education.  
- Gain membership in relevant professional associations.  
- Become familiar with community resources.

### Administration
- Management
- Policy development
- Event planning
- Supervision
- Development
- Budgeting
- Grant writing
- Public relations
- Marketing

#### Employers
- Social service agencies
- Employee Assistance Programs (EAP)
- Probation departments
- Public interest groups
- Local, state, and federal government including:
  - Department of Human Services
  - Department of Children’s Services
  - Department of Education
  - Department of Justice
  - Department of Veterans Affairs
  - State mental health departments
  - One-stop Career Centers
  - Job Corps

#### Descriptions/Strategies
Administrators are involved with planning, budgeting, public relations, management, and other crucial operating responsibilities that keep an organization functioning.  
- Supplement curriculum with course work in areas such as public relations, advertising, accounting, or management.  
- Consider earning a business minor.  
- Obtain a master’s degree in social work or related field for additional opportunities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ADMINISTRATION CONTINUED | Head Start  
Public welfare agencies  
Residential or outpatient hospitals/treatment centers | Gain management experience through internships, part-time employment, and/or leadership in relevant student organizations.  
Research government application procedures.  
Network with local politicians and government agencies. Administrators often have to lobby officials to maintain or increase project funding. |
| BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY | Business firms in various industries  
Developers of educational products  
National foundations and associations  
Consumer protection agencies  
Social service organizations with business components (e.g., tax assistance, financial planning)  
Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) | Graduates of human services programs may apply their skills and knowledge in the private sector of business and industry.  
Earn a minor in business or related field.  
Develop computer skills particularly with spreadsheets, databases, and desktop publishing.  
Learn to communicate effectively with a wide range of people.  
Take courses to enhance writing skills.  
Gain experience through part-time jobs, summer jobs, and internships in business environments.  
Get involved in student organizations and seek leadership roles. |
GENERAL INFORMATION

- A bachelor's degree in human services prepares individuals for entry-level positions in the helping professions.
- A master's degree in counseling, social work, occupational therapy, or related field, in addition to appropriate professional licensure, is usually necessary to provide therapy and for advancement to supervisory or administrative positions.
- Complete practicum experiences and internships to gain necessary experience, test your interests in the helping professions, and gain exposure to various practice settings and clients. Human Services is a broad field so it will be important to explore which area/population is the best fit for you.
- Candidates should possess empathy for others, an appreciation for diversity, and an interest in social change.
- Gain experience with a wide range of clients and client systems including individuals, families, groups, communities, and minorities.
- Join a human service organization while in school and seek leadership positions.
- Look for ways to impact your community and get involved with local organizations and issues.
- Become familiar with local social service agencies and resources available for those in need.
- Learn a second language to better communicate with diverse client populations.
- Develop the ability to work well under pressure and manage stress.
- Update your resume as you acquire new accomplishments, skills, knowledge, and interests.