# SOCIAL WORK

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>CLINICAL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Counseling/Therapy:</td>
<td>Community mental health centers</td>
<td>Clinical social workers are found in a variety of settings that provide therapeutic counseling to clients.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual, group, couples, family</td>
<td>Psychiatric hospitals</td>
<td>Master of Social Work (MSW) is required.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>Behavioral health systems</td>
<td>Obtain licensure as an LCSW since many employers require licensure to practice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case management</td>
<td>Drug/Alcohol rehabilitation centers</td>
<td>Develop strong communication, listening, and organizational skills, along with a sense of empathy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crisis intervention</td>
<td>Residential and day treatment hospitals</td>
<td>Volunteer with a local social service or non-profit organization to test interest in working with different populations or presenting problems.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program planning</td>
<td>Employee assistance programs (EAP)</td>
<td>Cultivate cultural knowledge and humility.</td>
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<td>Schools</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Family service agencies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Private or group practice</td>
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| SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK | | |
| Counseling | Elementary and secondary schools | School systems may employ social workers to help students cope with and resolve emotional, developmental, or educational difficulties. |
| Case management | School districts | |
| Pupil personnel services | Head Start centers | Gain experience with children at daycare centers, camps, Boys and Girls Clubs, and the like. |
| Student advocacy | Early intervention programs | Volunteer with organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters. |
| Instruction | | |
| Assessment | | Obtain state certification for work in a school. |
| Referral | | Research requirements in your state. |

Gain experience working with juvenile justice courts to address truancy and other student concerns. Plan to collaborate with multidisciplinary teams including teachers, school counselor(s), school administrators, therapists, and others.
### AREAS

**PUBLIC WELFARE**
- Administration and planning
- Case management
- Program evaluation
- Policy development
- Research
- Supervision

**EMPLOYERS**
- Public welfare agencies
- Private social service agencies
- Local, state, and federal government:
  - Department of Human Services
  - Department of Education
  - Housing Services
  - Adult Protective Services
  - Veterans Administration
  - Indian Health Services
  - Administrative agencies
  - Job Corps
  - Head Start
  - State legislatures

**DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES**

Public welfare is designed to provide services and support for clients who are apart of marginalized groups including those who are poor, differently abled, ill, elderly, or juvenile. Volunteer at homeless shelters, soup kitchens, domestic violence shelters, literacy programs, or other social service agencies to get experience. Supplement curriculum with course work in areas such as public relations, advertising, accounting, economics, or management. Consider earning a business minor.

Gain management experience through internships, part-time employment, or leadership in relevant student organizations. Complete an internship with a government agency. Learn about the government application process and apply early as the process can take at least four to six months.

**HEALTHCARE**
- Case management
- Counseling
- Prevention and education
- Program development
- Administration
- Research
- Child life specialists
- Hospice care
- Rehabilitation
- Wellness promotion
- Veterinary social work

**EMPLOYERS**
- Hospitals
- Community health centers
- Outpatient clinics
- Public health programs
- Health maintenance organizations (HMOs)
- Nursing homes
- Group homes
- Hospice
- Veterans Administration hospitals
- Home health care agencies
- Substance use treatment agencies

**DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES**

Social workers in healthcare facilitate medical and emotional treatment of patients. They may focus on helping clients and their families cope with acute or terminal illnesses by providing psychosocial support. Choose volunteer settings such as hospitals, the American Red Cross, or AIDS agencies to get experience. Be prepared to work with multidisciplinary teams including doctors, nurses, health, and other mental health providers.

Attend local support groups to begin to understand the impact of illness on the person, family, and other support systems.
### AREAS

#### ADMINISTRATION
- Management
- Policy development
- Planning
- Supervision
- Fundraising
- Budgeting
- Grant writing
- Advocacy
- Program evaluation

#### EMPLOYERS
- Local, state, and federal government:
  - Family service agencies
  - Child welfare departments
  - Social service agencies
  - State mental health departments
  - Employee assistance programs (EAP)
  - Probation and parole departments
  - Probation and parole offices
  - Public and private child welfare agencies
  - Adoption agencies
  - Foster care organizations
  - Child daycare centers

#### DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES

**Child welfare social workers strive to ensure the safety and well-being of children through treatment of the whole family.**
- Volunteer at daycares, child shelters, camps, YMCA, Scouts, or other agencies that aid youth.
- Gain licensure as a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) after graduating from a master’s program in Social Work.
- Acquire knowledge about local/national government procedures in reunification procedures.
- Plan to collaborate with multidisciplinary teams including lawyers, parents, foster care representatives, and other various government employees.
- Become familiar with community resources such as child care, job training, and parenting classes.

**Social workers in corrections focus on rehabilitation of clients.**
- Obtain experience by volunteering at a corrections facility, court, or victims’ program.
- Gain experience as a juvenile probation officer; many states allow reputable citizens to serve as volunteer officers.
- Become familiar with community services that include housing, remediation, job training, addiction treatment, child care, and transportation resources.

**Administrators are involved with planning, budgeting, public relations, marketing, supervising, operations management, fund raising, and other crucial responsibilities that keep an organization functioning.**
- Obtain an MSW and gain management experience.
- Consider a minor in business during undergraduate education.
- Participate in student organizations and pursue leadership roles to cultivate an understanding of motivational strategies and creative thinking skills.
## AREAS

### OCCUPATIONAL
- Counseling
- Education
- Wellness promotion
- Organizational development
- Assessment
- Human resources
- Intervention

### COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
- Program and community development
- Advocacy
- Politics
- Education
- Planning

### GERONTOLOGY
- Advocacy/Intervention
- Counseling
- Case management
- Programming
- Public policy
- Administration

## EMPLOYERS

### OCCUPATIONAL
- Larger corporations
- Employee assistance programs (EAP)
- Labor unions
- Local, state, and federal government:
  - Department of Labor
  - Community agencies

### COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
- Advocacy organizations
- Development corporations
- Community centers
- Local, state, and federal government
- Political associations
- Environmental organizations

### GERONTOLOGY
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Senior centers
- Assisted/Independent living centers
- Hospice and palliative care
- Home healthcare agencies
- Mental health centers
- Employee assistance programs (EAP)
- Larger corporations (e.g., banks, investment firms, insurance companies)

## DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES

### OCCUPATIONAL
Occupational social workers help employees and employers to be productive and satisfied.

- Gain experience in a university or community career center while in school.
- Earn a relevant certification such as Certified Employee Assistance Professional or Global Career Development Facilitator.
- Supplement curriculum with course work in areas such as business that focus on efficient, creative, productive business models, and management.

### COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION
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.

- Get involved with grassroots causes and community agencies.
- Participate in local government and gain knowledge about city planning.
- Volunteer with local organizations that work with specific groups such as homeless people, immigrants, or refugees to learn more about advocacy work.

### GERONTOLOGY
Gerontology involves working with older adults, healthy or ill, and their families.

- Get involved with programs or organizations designed for senior citizens.
- Supplement curriculum with coursework in lifespan development and aging.
- Complete a gerontology certificate program.
- Become familiar with community resources ranging from medical to transportation.
### AREAS

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**
- Case management
- Program planning and evaluation
- Research
- Policy development
- Advocacy

**RESEARCH AND EDUCATION**
- Research
- Teaching
- Grant writing
- Supervision
- Program and community development
- Politics
- Advocacy

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<tr>
<td>Community residential homes</td>
<td>State and local agencies</td>
<td>Social workers in this area help people with disabilities lead productive lives.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical facilities</td>
<td>Colleges and universities</td>
<td>Volunteer at camps for people with disabilities, daycares, schools, or hospitals to gain experience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td></td>
<td>Become familiar with human development and issues specific to disabilities and accommodations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colleges and universities</td>
<td></td>
<td>Obtain specialized training in areas such as sign language or assistive technology for additional opportunities.</td>
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<td>Seek knowledge of assessment procedures and therapeutic recreational activities.</td>
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**Research and education**
- Research
- Teaching
- Grant writing
- Supervision
- Program and community development
- Politics
- Advocacy

**Employers**
- Colleges and universities
- Research institutes
- Research hospitals
- 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. Some teaching and administration positions may be available to MSWs.
- Gain research experience as an undergraduate by assisting professors with their work.
- Complete an internship or graduate assistantship in a college setting to be competitive for jobs.
- Develop strong communication and writing skills.
- Acquire a solid background in statistics and research for higher education program development and evaluation.
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<td>INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK</td>
<td>International Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs) such as United Nations Economic and Social Council and the World Health Organization</td>
<td>Social workers in the international arena identify social problems, make recommendations for social programs and implement change. They work on solutions to problems including educational, environmental, health, human rights injustices, business, and agricultural.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanitarian services</td>
<td>International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)</td>
<td>Learn one or more foreign languages.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>Federal government agencies with an international focus (e.g. Peace Corps and United States Agency for International Development (USAID))</td>
<td>Plan to study, volunteer, or intern abroad more than one time if possible.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wellness promotion</td>
<td>Country-based service agencies</td>
<td>Seek cultural experiences on campus and get involved with the international student population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development: economic and community</td>
<td>International aid and relief organizations</td>
<td>Join relevant student organizations such as Amnesty International and gain leadership roles.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disaster/Disease relief</td>
<td>Foundation programs</td>
<td>Participate in an international service learning experience or go on a mission trip.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer coordination</td>
<td>Nonprofit and not-for-profit organizations (e.g., Vital Voices or Habitat for Humanity)</td>
<td>Learn about federal job hiring procedures, and apply for a government internship to increase chances of finding a full-time position.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program administration</td>
<td>Private voluntary organizations</td>
<td>Research the international organization's/agency’s structure and function.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical practice</td>
<td>Humanitarian organizations (e.g., International Red Cross and CARE)</td>
<td>Develop good working knowledge of international humanitarian law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy development</td>
<td>Religious organizations (e.g., World Vision)</td>
<td>Demonstrate your depth of dedication, willingness to adapt, and coping mechanisms to combat stress and difficult situations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Multi-national corporations</td>
<td>Develop skills in the areas of organizing groups, efficiency, and the ability to calm people.</td>
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Develop skills in the areas of organizing groups, efficiency, and the ability to calm people. Gain experience working with immigrant and refugee groups through field placements and volunteer work. Consider earning a graduate degree in social work or related area to open more advanced job opportunities.
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**GENERAL INFORMATION**
- 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.
- Doctorate in Social Work (DSW) or Ph.D. usually required for positions in teaching, research, and administration. Advanced degrees are desirable for some clinical positions and private practice.
- Complete a degree from a college or university program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Programs include practical field experience.
- Most states require licensure, certification, or registration. Contact the state board directly or the American Association of State Social Work Boards (ASWB) for information.
- The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) offers many specialized credentials that Social Workers can earn. Research these options after choosing a specialty area.
- 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 from birth through end of life) as they attempt to enhance social functioning.
- Social work is unique given its dual focus on the person and the environment.
- Join a social work organization while in school and seek leadership positions.
- Look for ways to impact your community and get involved with local organizations and issues.
- Update your resume as you acquire new accomplishments, skills, knowledge, and interests.
- Learn a second language to better communicate with immigrant or migrant populations (particularly helpful in certain areas of the United States).