

# HUMAN SERVICES

## What can I do with this major?

### AREAS

### EMPLOYERS

### DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES

#### **SOCIAL SERVICES**

Administration and Planning  
Case Management  
Advocacy  
Program Evaluation  
Policy Development  
Volunteer Coordination  
Prevention

Public welfare agencies  
Federal, state, and local government including:  
Administrative agencies  
Department of Human Services  
Department of Education  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Department of Justice  
Job Corps  
Head Start  
Indian Health Services  
State legislatures  
Private social service agencies  
Group homes and halfway houses  
Religiously affiliated organizations  
Drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers

**Social services are designed to provide support for poor, disabled, ill, elderly, or juvenile clients.**

Volunteer at homeless shelters, soup kitchens, battered women homes, literacy programs, or other social service agencies to gain relevant experience and demonstrate interest.  
Learn to work well with different types of people.  
Cultivate multicultural competence.  
Become familiar with government and community resources available for those in need.  
Learn about government application procedures and apply early as the process can take at least four to six months.  
Complete an internship with the federal government.

#### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS**

Counseling/Therapy  
Rehabilitation  
Probation  
Parole  
Youth Services  
Victim Assistance  
Case Management

Prisons and correctional facilities  
Courts  
Police departments  
Probation and parole offices  
Victim services organizations  
Private treatment facilities  
Group homes and halfway houses

**Human services workers in corrections focus on rehabilitating clients and assisting victims.**

Obtain experience by volunteering at a corrections facility or a victim services organization such as a rape crisis center.  
Gain experience as a juvenile probation officer; many states allow reputable citizens to serve as volunteer officers.

#### **CHILDWELFARE**

Case Management  
Advocacy  
Service Coordination

Public or private child welfare agencies  
Local, state, and federal government including:  
Department of Children's Services  
Department of Human Services  
Child Protective Services  
Adoption agencies  
Foster care organizations  
Day care centers and Head Start programs  
Recreational facilities (i.e., YMCA or YWCA)

**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.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES
<p><b><u>DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES</u></b> Case Management Advocacy Program Planning and Evaluation Policy Development Rehabilitation Research</p>	<p>Community residential homes State and local agencies including:     Vocational Rehabilitation &amp; Employment programs     One-stop career centers Medical facilities Mental health organizations Schools Colleges and universities Employment agencies</p>	<p><b>Human services workers specializing in this area help people with disabilities to adjust to and lead productive lives.</b> 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 for opportunities in vocational rehabilitation.</p>
<p><b><u>GERONTOLOGY</u></b> Advocacy Administration Counseling Case Management Programming Public Policy</p>	<p>Hospitals Nursing and retirement homes Senior centers Assisted living facilities Hospice Home healthcare agencies Community agencies serving the elderly</p>	<p><b>Gerontology involves working with older adults, healthy or ill, and their families.</b> 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.</p>
<p><b><u>HEALTHCARE</u></b> Case Management Counseling Program Development Administration Rehabilitation Prevention Education Research Hospice Care</p>	<p>Hospitals Health maintenance organizations (HMOs) Nursing homes Hospice programs Home healthcare agencies Community health centers Public health programs Social service organizations Outpatient clinics Group homes Specialized camps/schools Federal, state, and local government including:     Department of Health and Human Services     Department of Veterans Affairs</p>	<p><b>Human services workers in healthcare facilitate the medical and emotional treatment of patients.</b> 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.</p>

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES

### ADMINISTRATION

Management  
Policy Development  
Planning  
Supervision  
Fundraising  
Budgeting  
Grant Writing

Social service agencies  
Employee assistance programs  
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  
    Job Corps  
    Head Start  
Public welfare agencies  
Residential or outpatient hospitals/treatment centers

**Administrators are involved with planning, budgeting, public relations, management, fund raising, 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.  
Gain management experience through internships, part-time employment, or leadership in relevant student organizations.  
Research government application procedures.

### BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Human Resources  
Management  
Market Research  
Customer Service  
Sales  
Public Relations  
Corporate Giving  
Development  
Employee Assistance Programs  
Financial Counseling

Business firms in various industries  
Developers of educational products  
National foundations and associations  
Consumer protection agencies  
Social service organizations with business components, i.e. tax assistance, financial planning

**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, word processing, and desk top 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 determine suitability for the helping professions and to gain exposure to various practice settings and clients.
- 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 ability to work well under pressure and manage stress.
- Update your resume as you acquire new accomplishments, skills, knowledge, and interests.