# SOCIAL WORK
What can I do with this degree?

## AREAS

### PUBLIC WELFARE
- Administration and Planning
- Case Management
- Program Evaluation
- Policy Setting
- Research

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS
- Counseling/Therapy
- Rehabilitation
- Probation
- Parole
- Youth Services
- Victim Assistance

### SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK
- Clinical Social Work
- Pupil Personnel Services
- Student Advocacy
- Instruction

### CHILD WELFARE
- Case Management
- Advocacy
- Intervention

### GERONTOLOGY
- Advocacy/Intervention
- Counseling
- Case Management
- Programming
- Public Policy

## EMPLOYERS

### PUBLIC WELFARE
- Public welfare agencies
- Private social service agencies

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS
- Prisons and correctional facilities
- Courts
- Police departments
- Probation offices
- Victim services organizations

### SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK
- Elementary and secondary schools
- School districts
- Head start centers
- Early intervention programs

### CHILD WELFARE
- Public and private child welfare agencies
- Adoption agencies
- Foster care organizations
- Child daycare

### GERONTOLOGY
- Hospitals
- Nursing homes
- Senior centers
- Assisted living
- Hospice

## DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES

### PUBLIC WELFARE
- Public welfare is designed to provide services and 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 get experience.

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS
- Social workers in corrections focus on rehabilitation of clients.
- Obtain experience by volunteering at a corrections facility or victims program such as a rape crisis center.

### SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK
- School systems may employ social workers to help students cope with and resolve emotional, developmental, or educational difficulties.
- Gain experience with children at daycare centers, camps, or Scouts.

### CHILD WELFARE
- 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.

### GERONTOLOGY
- Gerontology involves working with older adults, healthy or ill, and their families.
- Get involved with programs or organizations designed for senior citizens.
### AREAS

#### CLINICAL
- Counseling
- Therapy
- Community mental health centers
- Psychiatric hospitals
- Residential and day treatment hospitals
- Employment assistance programs
- Schools
- Family service agencies
- Private practice

#### ADMINISTRATION
- Management
- Policy Development
- Planning
- 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

#### RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
- Research
- Teaching
- Colleges and universities
- Research institutes
- Local, state and federal government
- Advocacy organizations

#### OCCUPATIONAL
- Counseling
- Education
- Wellness Promotion
- Employee Assistance
- Organizational Development
- Human Resources
- Businesses
- Corporations
- Employee assistance programs
- Labor unions

#### DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
- Case Management
- Program Planning and Evaluation
- Research
- Policy Development
- Community residential homes
- State and local agencies
- Medical facilities
- Schools

### EMPLOYERS

#### CLINICAL
- Community mental health centers
- Psychiatric hospitals
- Residential and day treatment hospitals
- Employment assistance programs
- Schools
- Family service agencies
- Private practice

#### ADMINISTRATION
- Family service agencies
- Child welfare departments
- Social service agencies
- State mental health departments
- Employee assistance programs
- Probation departments
- Public welfare agencies
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#### RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
- Colleges and universities
- Research institutes
- Local, state and federal government
- Advocacy organizations

#### OCCUPATIONAL
- Businesses
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- Employee assistance programs
- Labor unions

#### DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
- Community residential homes
- State and local agencies
- Medical facilities
- Schools

### DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES

**Clinical social workers** are found in a variety of settings that provide therapeutic counseling to clients. Master of Social Work (MSW) is required.

**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.

**Occupational social workers** help employees to be more productive and satisfied.

**Social workers in this area** help people with disabilities to adjust and to lead productive lives. Volunteer at special needs camps, daycares, schools, or hospitals to gain experience.
### AREAS

**HEALTH CARE**
- Case Management
- Counseling
- Program Development
- Administration
- Research

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

**DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES**

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.

**COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION**
- Program and Community Development
- Advocacy
- Politics
- Education
- Planning

**EMPLOYERS**
- Advocacy organizations
- Development corporations
- Community centers
- Local, state, and federal government associations

**DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES**

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.

### 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. 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.
- 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.