

SOCIAL WORK

What can I do with this degree?

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES
PUBLIC WELFARE: Administration & Planning Case Management Program Evaluation Policy Setting Research	Public welfare agencies Private social service agencies	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: Counseling/Therapy Rehabilitation Probation Parole Youth Services Victim Assistance	Prisons & correctional facilities Courts Police departments Probation offices Victim services organizations	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: Clinical Social Work Pupil Personnel Services Student Advocacy Instruction	Elementary and secondary schools School districts Head Start centers Early Intervention programs	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: Case Management Advocacy Intervention	Public and private child welfare agencies Adoption agencies Foster care organizations Child Daycare	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: Advocacy/Intervention Counseling Case Management Programming Public Policy	Hospitals Nursing homes Senior centers Assisted Living Hospice	Gerontology involves working with older adults, healthy or ill, and their families. Get involved with programs or organizations designed for senior citizens.
CLINICAL: Counseling Therapy	Community mental health centers Psychiatric hospitals Residential & lay treatment hospitals Employment assistant programs Schools Family service agencies Private Practice	Clinical social workers are found in a variety of settings that provide therapeutic counseling to clients. Master of Social Work (MSW) is required.

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ADMINISTRATION: Management Policy Development Planning	Family services agencies Child welfare departments Social services agencies State mental health departments Employee assistance programs Probation departments Public welfare agencies Public interest groups Local, State, and federal government	Administrators are involved with planning, budgeting, public relations, marketing, supervising, operations management, fund raising, and other crucial responsibilities that keep an organization functioning. Obtain a Master of Social Work (MSW) and gain management experience.
RESEARCH & 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. is usually required.
OCCUPATIONAL: Counseling Education Wellness Promotion Employee Assistance Organizational Development Human Resources	Business Corporations Employee assistance programs Labor unions	Occupational social workers help employees to be more productive and satisfied.
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES: Case Management Program Planning & Evaluation Research Policy Development	Community residential homes State and local agencies Medical facilities Schools	Social workers in this area help people with disabilities to adjust and to lead productive lives. Volunteer at special needs camp, daycares, schools, or hospitals to gain experience.
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.

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COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION: Program and Community Development Advocacy Politics Education Planning	Advocacy organizations Development corporations Community centers Local, state and federal government Associations	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.

NOTE:

1. The above information was adapted from “Choices: Careers in Social Work”. Please visit the web site for more details at <http://www.naswdc.org/pubs/choices/choices.htm>
2. Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) prepares individuals for entry-level direct practice.
3. Master of Social Work (MSW) is necessary to provide therapy and for advancement to supervisory or administrative positions.
4. Doctorate in Social Work (DSW) or Ph.D. is usually required for positions in teaching, research, and administration. Desirable for some clinical positions and private practice.
5. Complete a degree from a college or university program accredited by the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE). Programs include practical field experience.
6. Most states require licensure, certification or registration.
7. The field practicum is used to determine suitability for this profession and to provide exposure to various practice settings and clients.
8. Social Work candidates should possess empathy for others, appreciation for diversity, and an interest in social change.
9. Social workers serve a range of client systems (individuals, families, groups, communities) as they attempt to enhance social functioning.
10. Social work is unique given its dual focus on the person and its environment.