

What Can I Do With a Major in Social Work?

Possible Career Options

(some career options could require advanced study)

Adoption Caseworker
 Adult Protective Services
 Children's Services Worker
 Congressional Aide
 Consumer Advocate
 Crisis Intervention
 Domestic Violence Social Worker
 Drug Rehabilitation Counselor
 Employee Assistance
 Family Services Social Worker
 Foster Care Caseworker
 Geriatric Case Worker
 Grassroots organizer
 Group Home Director
 Hospice Coordinator
 Human Services Worker
 International Social Work
 Juvenile Court Caseworker
 Lobbyist
 Hospital Social Worker
 Mental Health Case Manager
 Nursing Home Social Worker
 Peace Corps/VISTA Volunteer
 Prison Social Worker
 Probation/Parole Officer
 Public Health Social Worker
 School Social Worker
 Social Researcher

Transferable Skills

Possesses an understanding of human behavior and community services
 Interacts with people of different backgrounds
 Responds efficiently in stressful situations
 Possesses assessment, planning, and intervention skills

Community Skills

Advocates for clients
 Recruits/supervises volunteers
 Builds coalitions
 Uses referral sources
 Assesses community services
 Acts as a liaison within community

Organization Skills

Plans programs
 Interprets and organizes findings from research studies and professional literature

Communication Skills

Interviews clients
 Writes service plans, social histories, assessments, and reports
 Teaches others

Personal Interaction Skills

Manages conflicts
 Interprets verbal and nonverbal behavior
 Listens to and understands others
 Discusses sensitive issues in a non-threatening manner
 Mediates between conflicting parties

Other Miscellaneous Skills

Creates innovative solutions to people's needs
 Interprets complex psychosocial phenomena
 Leads group activities
 Analyzes social policies
 Evaluates social work practice/programs

Employment Sites

Past interns and graduates have worked at:

Alzheimer's Association
American Red Cross
Appleseed Community Mental Health Center
Ashland County Council on Aging
Ashland County Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse
Bellevue City School Board of Education
Catholic Charities
Center for Individuals & Families
Children Services of Wayne County
Christian Children's Home of Ohio
Counseling Center of Wayne County
District 5 Area Agency on Aging
Every Woman's House
Hospice of North Central Ohio
Jac-Lin Manor
Mansfield Correctional Institution
Massillon Community Hospital
Med-Central Health Systems
Ontario Substance Abuse Program
Richland County Children's Services Board
Richland County Correctional Camp
Richland County Juvenile Probation
Rosewood Manor Nursing Home
Samaritan Regional Health Systems
Stark County Children Services
Stein Hospice
St. Rita's Medical Center
Wooster Interfaith Housing

Experiential Education

A 10-hour volunteer experience or observation in a social service agency

A semester-long relationship with a nursing home resident

An Urban Experience weekend in Cleveland

A 500-hour block placement in the second semester of the senior year. The variety of agency placements include children's services, substance abuse programs, hospitals, nursing homes, schools, court and corrections settings, services to women, foster care supervision services, community referral services, and political settings.

Additional Resources

Brophy, Paul C. and Shabecoff, Alice, (2001), *A Guide to Careers in Community Development*, Island Press: Washington D.C.

Burger, William R., & Youkeles, Merrill, & et. al, (2000), *The Helping Professions*, Wadsworth: Belmont, CA.

Eberts, Marjorie and Gisler, Margaret, (1998), *Careers for Good Samaritans & Other Humanitarian Types*: GM Career Horizons, Chicago, IL.

Garner, Geraldine D., (2001), *Careers in Social and Rehabilitation Services*, VGM Career Books: Chicago, IL.

Ginsberg, Leon H., (2001), *Careers in Social Work (2nd ed.)*, Allyn & Bacon: Needham Hts., MA.

Jebens, Harley, (1998), *100 Jobs in Social Change*, Macmillan: New York, NY.

Occupational Outlook Handbook, (2002-3), US Department of Labor.

Paradis, Adian A., (1996), *Careers for Caring People & Other Sensitive Types*, VGM Career Horizons: Chicago, IL.

Real People Working in the Helping Professions, (1998), VGM Career Horizons: Chicago, IL.

Ron and Caryl Krannich, Ph. Ds, (1999), *Jobs and Careers with Non-Profit Organizations*, Impact Publications: Manassas Park, VA.