

# HUMAN SERVICES

What can I do with this major?

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES
<p><b><u>SOCIAL SERVICES</u></b>            Administration and Planning            Case Management            Advocacy            Program Evaluation            Policy Development            Volunteer Coordination            Prevention</p>	<p>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</p>	<p><b>Social services are designed to provide support for poor, disabled, ill, elderly, or juvenile clients.</b>            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.</p>
<p><b><u>CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS</u></b>            Counseling/Therapy            Rehabilitation            Probation            Parole            Youth Services            Victim Assistance            Case Management</p>	<p>Prisons and correctional facilities            Courts            Police departments            Probation and parole offices            Victim services organizations            Private treatment facilities            Group homes and halfway houses</p>	<p><b>Human services workers in corrections focus on rehabilitating clients and assisting victims.</b>            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.</p>
<p><b><u>CHILD WELFARE</u></b>            Case Management            Advocacy            Service Coordination</p>	<p>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)</p>	<p><b>Child welfare workers strive to ensure the safety and well-being of children through interventions and programming.</b>            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.</p>

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>HEALTH CARE</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
<p><b><u>ADMINISTRATION</u></b> Management Policy Development Planning Supervision Fundraising Budgeting Grant Writing</p>	<p>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</p>	<p><b>Administrators are involved with planning, budgeting, public relations, management, fund raising, and other crucial operating responsibilities that keep an organization functioning.</b> 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.</p>

---

**BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**

<p>Human Resources Management Market Research Customer Service Sales Public Relations Corporate Giving Development Employee Assistance Programs Financial Counseling</p>	<p>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</p>	<p><b>Graduates of human services programs may apply their skills and knowledge in the private sector of business and industry.</b> 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.</p>
--	--	---

**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.