



## What can I do with a SOCIAL WORK degree?

AREA	EMPLOYERS	DESCRIPTION/STRATEGIES
<p><b><u>PUBLIC WELFARE</u></b>            Administration and Planning            Case Management            Program Evaluation            Policy Development            Research</p>	<p>Public welfare agencies            Private social service agencies            Local, state, and federal government including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Department of Human Services</li> <li>○ Department of Education</li> <li>○ Housing Services</li> <li>○ Veterans Administration</li> <li>○ Indian Health Services</li> <li>○ Administrative agencies</li> <li>○ Job Corps</li> <li>○ Head Start</li> <li>○ State legislatures</li> </ul>	<p><b>Public welfare is designed to provide services and support for poor, disabled, ill, elderly, or juvenile clients.</b></p> <p>Volunteer at homeless shelters, soup kitchens, battered women homes, literacy programs, or other social service agencies to get experience.</p> <p>Gain management experience through internships, part-time employment, or leadership in relevant student organizations.</p>
<p><b><u>CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS</u></b>            Counseling/Therapy            Rehabilitation            Probation            Parole            Youth Services            Victim Assistance            Drug Prevention</p>	<p>Prisons and correctional facilities            Courts            Police departments            Probation and parole offices            Victim services organizations            Private Treatment Facilities            Youth Services Organizations</p>	<p><b>Social workers in corrections focus on rehabilitation of clients.</b></p> <p>Obtain experience by volunteering at a correction facility or victims' program such as a rape crisis center.</p>
<p><b><u>SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK</u></b>            Case Management            Pupil Personnel Services            Student Advocacy            Instruction            Assessment            Referral</p>	<p>Elementary and secondary schools            School districts            Head start centers            Early intervention programs</p>	<p><b>School systems may employ social workers to help students cope with and resolve emotional, developmental, or educational difficulties.</b></p> <p>Gain experience with children at daycare centers, camps, Boys and Girls Clubs, and the like.</p>



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<p><b><u>CLINICAL</u></b>            Counseling/Therapy: Individual, Group, Family            Assessment            Case Management            Crisis Intervention            Program Planning</p>	<p>Community mental health centers            Psychiatric hospitals            Behavioral health systems            Drug/alcohol rehabilitation centers            Residential and day treatment hospitals            Employment assistance programs (EAP)            Schools            Family service agencies            Private or group practice</p>	<p><b>Clinical social workers are found in a variety of settings that provide therapeutic counseling to clients.</b></p> <p>Master of Social Work (MSW) is required.</p> <p>Obtain licensure as an LCSW since many employers require licensure to practice.</p> <p>Develop strong communication, listening, and organizational skills, along with a sense of empathy.</p>
<p><b><u>ADMINISTRATION</u></b>            Management            Policy Development            Planning            Supervision            Fundraising            Budgeting            Grant Writing            Advocacy            Evaluation</p>	<p>Family service agencies            Child welfare departments            Social service agencies            State mental health departments            Employee assistance programs (EAP)            Probation and parole departments            Public welfare agencies            Public interest groups            Local, state, and federal government            Residential and outpatient hospitals/treatment centers</p>	<p><b>Administrators are involved with planning, budgeting, public relations, marketing, supervising, operations management, fund raising, and other crucial responsibilities that keeps an organization functioning.</b></p> <p>Obtain an MSW and gain management experience.</p> <p>Consider a minor in business during undergraduate education.</p>
<p><b><u>RESEARCH AND EDUCATION</u></b>            Research            Teaching            Grant Writing            Supervision</p>	<p>Colleges and universities            Research institutes            Research hospitals            Local, state, and federal government            Advocacy organizations</p>	<p><b>Research provides data and statistics important in program implementations and policy development.</b></p> <p>Doctor of Social Work (DSW) or Ph.D usually required.</p> <p>Gain research experience as an undergraduate by assisting professors with their work.</p> <p>Acquire a solid background in statistics and research for higher education program development and evaluation.</p>



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<p><b><u>OCCUPATIONAL</u></b>            Counseling            Education            Wellness Promotion            Organizational Development            Assessment            Human Resources</p>	<p>Larger corporations            Employee assistance programs (EAP)            Labor unions            Local, state, and federal government: Department of Labor            Community agencies</p>	<p><b>Occupational social workers help employees to be more productive and satisfied.</b></p> <p>Gain experience in a university or community career center while in school.</p> <p>Earn a relevant certification such as Certified Employee Assistance Professional or Global Career Development Facilitator.</p>
<p><b><u>HEALTHCARE</u></b>            Case management            Counseling            Prevention and Education            Program development            Administration            Research            Child Life Specialists            Hospice Care            Rehabilitation            Wellness Promotion</p>	<p>Hospitals            Community health centers            Outpatient clinics            Public health programs            Health maintenance organizations (HMOs)            Nursing homes            Group homes            Hospice            Veterans Administration hospitals            Home healthcare agencies</p>	<p><b>Social workers in healthcare facilitate medical and emotional treatment of patients.</b></p> <p>Choose volunteer settings such as hospitals, the American Red Cross, or AIDS agencies to get experience.</p> <p>Attend local support groups to being to understand the impact of illness on the person, family, and other support systems.</p>
<p><b><u>COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION</u></b>            Program and Community Development            Advocacy            Politics            Education            Planning</p>	<p>Advocacy organizations            Development corporations            Community centers            Local, state, and federal government            Political associations</p>	<p><b>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.</b></p> <p>Get involved with grassroots causes and community agencies.</p>



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<p><b><u>GERONTOLOGY</u></b>            Advocacy/Intervention            Counseling            Case Management            Programming            Public Policy            Administration</p>	<p>Hospitals            Nursing homes            Senior centers            Assisted/independent living centers            Hospice            Home healthcare agencies            Mental health centers            Employee assistance programs (EAP)            Larger corporations, e.g. banks, investment firms, insurance companies</p>	<p><b>Gerontology involves working with older adults, healthy or ill, and their families.</b></p> <p>Get involved with programs or organizations designed for senior citizens.</p>
<p><b><u>CHILD WELFARE</u></b>            Case Management            Advocacy            Intervention            Supervision</p>	<p>Local, state, and federal government including:            Department of Children’s Services            Public and private child welfare agencies            Adoption agencies            Foster care organizations            Child daycare centers</p>	<p><b>Child welfare social workers strive to ensure the safety and well-being of children through treatment of the whole family.</b></p> <p>Volunteer at daycares, child shelters, camps, YMCA, Scouts, or other agencies that aid youth.</p> <p>Gain licensure as licensed clinical social workers (LCSW) after graduating from a master’s program in Social Work.</p>
<p><b><u>DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES</u></b>            Case Management            Program Planning and Evaluation            Research            Policy Development            Advocacy</p>	<p>Community residential homes            State and local agencies            Medical facilities            Schools            Colleges and universities</p>	<p><b>Social workers in this area help people with disabilities to adjust and lead productive lives.</b></p> <p>Volunteer at special needs camps, daycares, schools, or hospital to gain experience.</p> <p>Become familiar with human development and issues specific to disabilities and accommodations.</p>



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AREA	EMPLOYERS	DESCRIPTION/STRATEGIES
<p><b><u>INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK</u></b>            Humanitarian Services            Advocacy            Education            Wellness Promotion            Development: Economic &amp; Community            Disaster/Disease Relief            Volunteer Coordination            Program Administration            Clinical Practice            Policy Development            Research</p>	<p>International Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs) such as United Nations Economic and Social Council and the World Health Organization</p> <p>International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)</p> <p>Federal government agencies with an international focus, e.g. Peace Corps and United States Agency for International Development (USAID)</p> <p>Country-based service agencies</p> <p>International aid and relief organizations</p> <p>Foundation programs</p> <p>Nonprofit and not-for-profit organizations, e.g. Vital Voices or Habitat for Humanity</p> <p>Private voluntary organizations</p> <p>Humanitarian organizations, e.g. International Red Cross and CARE</p> <p>Religious organizations, e.g. World Vision</p> <p>Multi-national corporations</p>	<p><b>Social workers in the international arena identify social problems, make recommendations for social programs and implement change. They work on solutions to problems including educational, environmental, health, human rights injustices, business and agricultural.</b></p> <p>Learn one or more foreign languages.</p> <p>Plan to study, volunteer, or intern abroad more than one time if possible.</p> <p>Join professional organizations such as National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and the specialty practice section of Social and Economic Justice and Peace.</p> <p>Research the structure and function of the international organization/agency.</p> <p>Develop good working knowledge of international humanitarian law.</p>



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### General Information and Strategies

- 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. Advanced degrees are 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. Contact the state board directly or the American Association of State Social Work Boards (ASWB) for information.
- The National Association of Social Workers offers many specialized credentials that Social Workers can earn. Research these options after choosing a specialty area.
- 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.
- Join a social work organization while in school and seek leadership positions.
- Look for ways to impact your community and get involved with local organizations and issues.
- Update your resume as you acquire new accomplishments, skills, knowledge, and interests.
- Learn a second language to better communicate with immigrant or migrant populations (particularly helpful in certain areas of the United States).
- Note: Much of this information was adapted from Choices: Careers in Social Work by the National Association of Social Workers.