

# What Can I Do With A Degree In Social Work?

## *Career Opportunities in Social Work include:*

Elementary, Middle and High Schools  
Public Health Agencies  
Family Service Agencies  
Community Action Agencies  
Child and Adult Care Centers  
Private Clinical Practices  
Foundations  
Armed Forces  
Policy Making Organizations  
Vocational Rehabilitation Services  
Corporate Employee Assistance Programs  
Disaster Relief Organizations  
Veterans Services  
Local, State and National Government  
Hospitals  
Domestic Violence Shelters  
Child Welfare Agencies  
Psychiatric Facilities  
Rehabilitation Facilities  
Emergency Assistance Organizations  
Drug Treatment Clinics  
Home Care Agencies  
Community Mental Health Centers  
Senior Citizen Centers  
Developmental Disabilities Centers  
Youth Development Programs  
Jails and Prisons  
Colleges and Universities  
Career Centers  
Legal Service Agencies  
Homeless Shelters  
Hospices and Nursing Homes

### ***CASE CONSULTANT***

Counsels other less experienced social workers, as well as other people involved in some aspect of social work without previous training.

### ***CHILD LIFE SPECIALIST***

Alleviates the stress that hospitalization causes for young children and their families through play therapy and other forms of counseling. Acts as an advocate for the child in dealings with the health care team.

### ***CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER***

Offers psychotherapy or counseling services in public agencies, clinics, and private practice. Requires a master's degree.

### ***COMMUNITY ORGANIZER***

Identifies needs in the community, writes proposals to address them and evaluates whether these needs were met. Community organizers are usually supported by state, federal and private funding grants.

***COURT-APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE***

CASA workers are appointed by juvenile or family court judges to advocate on behalf of the children who are brought before the court. Meets with those involved in the child's life, gathers information to determine the child's best interests, and recommends a course of action to the court. Most often CASA workers are assigned to cases in which a child has been removed from the care of parents.

***DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES (DCFS)***

Works to address problems caused by child abuse, neglect and juvenile delinquency. Supervises home detention programs, provides therapy, teaches family and parenting skills, and conducts court-ordered custody studies. Licenses and works with foster care providers, places children in appropriate "alternative care" settings, and manages all cases under their watch.

***EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SOCIAL WORKER***

Helps employees of a company or organization with personal problems that are causing the employee trouble on the job. EAP social workers work with employees on job-related issues, such as problems with coworkers, and also personal issues, such as marital problems or substance abuse. EAP social workers sometimes act as consultants to supervisors. Usually requires a master's degree.

***GERONTOLOGY SOCIAL WORKER***

Leads support groups for family caregivers, provides services and advises elderly persons in such areas as housing, transportation, and long-term care. Coordinates and monitors client services.

***MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKER***

Provides support for patients and their families related to chronic, acute and terminal illnesses. Organizes or refers them to support groups, helps them plan for their needs after discharge, and with barriers that may stand in the way of recovery. Some medical social workers work in interdisciplinary teams that evaluate certain kinds of patients.

***PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER***

Specializes in helping psychiatric patients overcome their problems and reenter the community. Serves as a link between patient and his/her family and between the family and medical professionals. Requires a master's degree in social work.

***SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER***

Specializes in helping students with problems related to school, and also personal problems. Serves as a link to resources in the community. Most school districts require a master's degree.

***SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR***

Plans and directs the overall program and service delivery. Employs trains, and supervises the staff, deals with financial affairs, networks with other agencies.

***SOCIAL WORK RESEARCHER***

Studies and interprets special data to determine the various social services needed in a community, the needs of special populations, effectiveness of programs, and better ways that services can be provided.

***SOCIAL WORKER IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE***

Does pre-sentence assessments, makes recommendations to courts, and provides services to inmates and their families. Probation and parole officers provide similar services to individuals after release.

***SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELOR***

Works with people who have chemical dependency problems and/or their families. Often conducts both individual and group psychotherapy with this population.

For more information on careers in Social Work, visit the following web sites:

[http://www-math.cc.utexas.edu/student/careercenter/careers/social\\_work.pdf](http://www-math.cc.utexas.edu/student/careercenter/careers/social_work.pdf)

<http://www.socialworkers.org>

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos060.htm>

<http://www.bls.gov/k12/help05.htm#jobs>

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ssw/careers/socialwrk/>