

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

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

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<p><u>CLINICAL</u> 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>Clinical social workers are found in a variety of settings that provide therapeutic counseling to clients.</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><u>ADMINISTRATION</u> 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>Administrators are involved with planning, budgeting, public relations, marketing, supervising, operations management, fund raising, and other crucial responsibilities that keeps an organization functioning.</p> <p>Obtain an MSW and gain management experience.</p> <p>Consider a minor in business during undergraduate education.</p>
<p><u>RESEARCH AND EDUCATION</u> Research Teaching Grant Writing Supervision</p>	<p>Colleges and universities Research institutes Research hospitals Local, state, and federal government Advocacy organizations</p>	<p>Research provides data and statistics important in program implementations and policy development.</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><u>OCCUPATIONAL</u> 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>Occupational social workers help employees to be more productive and satisfied.</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><u>HEALTHCARE</u> 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>Social workers in healthcare facilitate medical and emotional treatment of patients.</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><u>COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION</u> 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>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.</p> <p>Get involved with grassroots causes and community agencies.</p>

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<p><u>GERONTOLOGY</u> 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>Gerontology involves working with older adults, healthy or ill, and their families.</p> <p>Get involved with programs or organizations designed for senior citizens.</p>
<p><u>CHILD WELFARE</u> 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>Child welfare social workers strive to ensure the safety and well-being of children through treatment of the whole family.</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><u>DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES</u> 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>Social workers in this area help people with disabilities to adjust and lead productive lives.</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><u>INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humanitarian Services Advocacy Education Wellness Promotion Development: Economic & Community Disaster/Disease Relief Volunteer Coordination Program Administration Clinical Practice Policy Development Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs) such as United Nations Economic and Social Council and the World Health Organization International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Federal government agencies with an international focus, e.g. Peace Corps and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Country-based service agencies International aid and relief organizations Foundation programs Nonprofit and not-for-profit organizations, e.g. Vital Voices or Habitat for Humanity Private voluntary organizations Humanitarian organizations, e.g. International Red Cross and CARE Religious organizations, e.g. World Vision Multi-national corporations 	<p>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.</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.