SOCIAL WORK CAREER SUMMARY

CAREER RESPONSIBILITIES
Trained in the generalist perspective, graduates subscribe to the common base of the Social Work profession in the areas of knowledge, values, and skills. They understand the need to promote, restore, maintain, and facilitate the functioning of individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities by helping them accomplish tasks, prevent and alleviate distress, and use and create resources. They also understand the impact of major societal institutions upon client systems. Students are capable of initiating and participating in social change process with the ultimate goal of eliminating various forms of institutionalized oppression based on race, gender, and socioeconomic class.

Skills Associated with Social Work Majors:
- Sensitivity, empathy, patience
- Good communication skills
- Ability to make sound judgments and decisions
  - Human relations skills
  - Works well under pressure
- Desire to help people and make a difference in making a better life for others
  - Conflict management
- Critical Thinking and the ability to assess people’s needs

Sample Career Titles:

Agency Director
Aging/Gerontology Specialist
Case Worker
Child Welfare Worker
Church Worker
Community Organization Director
Director
Community Service Agency Director
Consultant
Cooperative Extension Worker
County Farm Agent
Criminal Justice/ Corrections Specialist
Educator
Eligibility Specialist
Employee Assistance Administrator
Employment Social Worker

Family Services Social Worker
Food Stamp Administrator
Geriatric Care Worker
Group Home Director
Health Care Worker
Historian
Home Health Aide
Human Services Worker
Intake Counselor
International Social Worker
Market Research Analyst
Marriage Counselor
Medical Social Worker
Mental Health Worker
Mental /Clinical Social Worker
Peace Corps/VISTA Volunteer
Police Officer
Policy & Planning Specialist
Policy Advocate
Policy Analyst

Probation Officer
Program Manager
Psychiatric Social Worker
Research Analyst
Residential Counselor
School Counselor
School Social Worker
Services Specialist
Social Service Aide
Social Worker
Substance Abuse Counselor
Supervisor
Survey Worker
Teacher
Technical Writer
Therapeutic Staff
Service Worker (TSS)
Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

** Some careers may require additional training and/or education

To find out more about the daily work of these professions, skills needed, and salary ranges, go to Occupational Outlook Handbook and type a career title into the search field.

Visit Career Education & Development, 124 Bailey Library, to discuss these occupations and career opportunities with a Career Counselor.