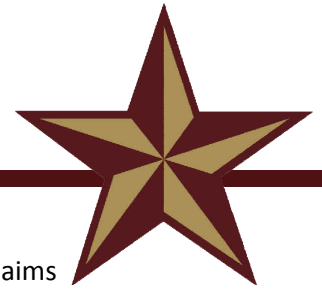


Social Work

What can I do with this degree?



Social work is a broad career field that helps people improve their lives and help communities and organizations operate in humane ways. Social work ultimately aims to help improve the human condition, whether that means working with individuals, families, groups, organizations, communities, or society at-large. Social workers develop skills in a wide variety of intervention technologies, from providing therapy for an individual to helping craft legislation to address social problems. Social work students learn these skills both in traditional class settings and in supervised field placements in community agencies. All states license social workers.

Social Work Skills

- Communicating with people and groups
- Assessing human situations and solutions
- Helping people solve their problems
- Planning services and managing cases
- Intervening in crisis situations
- Evaluating human service programs
- Helping communities organize to make life better
- Advocating for services and laws to improve life
- Researching human problems and solutions
- Treating all people with respect

CAREER PATHS

...In Agencies that Serve Children in Troubled Families

Sample Job Areas

- Planning, administering, and evaluating programs for abused or neglected children
- Investigating and intervening in abuse and neglect cases
- Helping parents learn improved child-rearing techniques
- Working with cases of disputed custody
- Helping courts make cases of disputed custody
- Supervising employees who provide direct services

Possible Work Settings

- Public child-rearing agencies like child welfare
- Private family service agencies
- Residential, foster care, and adoption agencies
- Agencies that serve emotionally-disturbed children
- Child daycare

Professional Organizations

- Child Welfare League of America <http://www.cwla.org/>

...in Criminal Justice and Corrections

Sample Job Areas

- Providing counseling and therapy for offenders and their families
- Developing and delivering behavioral rehabilitation services
- Overseeing probation and parole of offenders
- Working with juvenile offenders in custody or on probation
- Providing services to crime victims
- Developing and delivering services to prevent drug abuse

Possible Work Settings

- Prisons and Correctional Facilities
- Courts
- Police Departments
- Probation Offices
- Victim Services Organizations
- District Attorney's Office
- Private Treatment Facilities

Professional Organizations

- National Organization of forensic Social Work <http://www.nofsw.org/>

...in School

Sample Job Areas

- Assessing how students' situations affect school work
- Counseling children and families
- Helping children and families find resources
- Working with Pupil Personnel Services
- Advocating for students and families
- Providing instruction on mental health issues

Possible Work Settings

- Elementary and Secondary Schools
- Head Start Centers
- Early Intervention Programs

Professional Organizations

- School Social Work Association of America (SSWWAA) <http://www.swaa.org/>



...in Clinical Therapeutic Services (Many of these positions require the MSW degree)

Sample Job Areas

- Providing counseling and therapy to resolve psycho-social and emotional problems

Possible Work Settings

- Community Mental Health Centers
- Residential and Day Treatments Hospitals
- Psychiatric Hospitals
- Employee Assistance Programs
- Behavioral Health Systems
- Schools
- Drug/Alcohol Rehabilitation Centers
- Family Service Agencies

Professional Organizations

- Clinical Social Work Association www.clinicalsocialworkassociation.org/
- National Membership Committee on Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work www.nmcop.org/
- Clinical Social Work Federation www.cswf.org/

...in Administration

Sample Job Areas

- Managing and evaluating programs and agencies
- Developing policies
- Planning programs and outreach
- Supervising staff and managing agency functions
- Raising funds and writing grants
- Working with governing boards

Possible Work Settings

- Public and Private Human Services Agencies
- Hospitals and Treatment Centers
- Local, State, and Federal Government
- Residential and Outpatient
- Public Interest Groups

Professional Organizations

- Association for Community Practice & Social Administration www.acosa.org/



...in Research and Education

Sample Job Areas

- Teaching
- Grant writing
- Conducting research

Possible Work Settings

- Colleges and Universities
- Research Institutes and Hospitals
- Local, State, and Federal Government
- Advocacy Organizations

Professional Organizations

- Society for Social Work & Research www.sswr.org/
- Council on Social Work Education www.cswe.org/CSWE/

...in Healthcare

Sample Job Areas

- Counseling people who face disease
- Educating people about healthy living
- Developing and implementing disease prevention programs
- Researching health issues
- Helping people with health issues find resources
- Working with people who are dying

Possible Work Settings

- Hospitals and Specialized Clinics, such as Oncology or Dialysis
- Health Centers and Programs
- Health Maintenance Organizations
- Genetic Screening and Counseling Agencies
- Nursing Homes
- Hospice
- Veterans Affairs Hospitals
- Home Healthcare Agencies

Professional Organizations

- Society of Social Work Leadership in Health Care www.sswlhlc.org



....in Community Development

Sample Job Areas

- Creating and delivering programs in community organizations
- Advocating for community resources
- Being involved in politics and political action

Possible Work Settings

- Advocacy Organizations
- Development Corporations
- Community Centers and Associations
- Local, State, and Federal Government

Professional Organizations

- American Public Human Services Association <http://www.aphsa.org/>

....in Gerontology

Sample Job Areas

- Helping elderly persons and their families secure needed resources
- Counseling older people and their families
- Developing programs and laws to benefit the elderly

Possible Work Settings

- Hospitals and Clinics
- Assisted Living and Nursing Homes
- Senior Activity Centers
- Hospice
- Home Healthcare

Professional Organizations

- Age Works <http://www.ageworks.com/>
- Aging parents & Elder care <http://www.aging-parentsand-elder-care.com/>



Resources

Texas State University-Student Organizations

- Organization of Student Social Workers (OSSW)
- Texas State's Alpha Chi Chapter of Phi Alpha, National Social Work Honor Society

Professional Associations

- National Association of Social Workers, <http://www.naswdc.org/>
- Association of Social Work Boards, <http://www.aswb.org/>
- Social Work Access Network, <http://www.cosw.sc.edu/swan>
- Social Work Café, http://www.geocities.com/swcafe_2000/swcafe.html
- Social Work Organizations, <http://cosw.sc.edu/swan/organizations.html>

Job and Internship Search

- Human Services Career Network, <http://www.hscareers.com/>
- Social Work Job Bank, <http://www.socialworkjobbank.com/site/>
- Idealist, <http://www.idealists.org>
- Opportunity Knocks, <http://www.opportunityknocks.org/>
- Allied Health Careers, <http://www.alliedhealthcareers.com>
- AmeriCorps, <http://www.americorps.org>
- International Federation of Social Workers, <http://www.ifsw.org>
- Nonprofit Career Network, <http://www.nonprofitcareer.com/>
- PeaceCorps, <http://www.peacecorps.gov>
- Social Service, <http://www.socialservice.com>
- Social Work Search, <http://www.socialworksearch.com>
- Social Work, <http://www.socialwork.com>

Information for this handout compiled from: Texas State University School of Social Work

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