# SOCIAL WORK
What can I do with this major?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PUBLIC WELFARE</strong></td>
<td>Public welfare agencies</td>
<td><strong>Public welfare is designed to provide services and support for poor, disabled, ill, elderly, or juvenile clients.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration and Planning</td>
<td>Private social service agencies</td>
<td>Volunteer at homeless shelters, soup kitchens, battered women homes, literacy programs, or other social service agencies to get experience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Management</td>
<td>Local, state, and federal government including:</td>
<td>Supplement curriculum with course work in areas such as public relations, advertising, accounting, or management. Consider earning a business minor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Evaluation</td>
<td>Department of Human Services</td>
<td>Gain management experience through internships, part-time employment, or leadership in relevant student organizations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy Development</td>
<td>Department of Education</td>
<td>Complete an internship with a government agency.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Housing Services</td>
<td>Learn about the government application process and apply early as the process can take at least four to six months.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervision</td>
<td>Adult Protective Services</td>
<td>Four out of ten social workers work for the government.</td>
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<td>Veterans Administration</td>
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<td>Indian Health Services</td>
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<td>Administrative agencies</td>
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<td>Job Corps</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Head Start</td>
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<td>State legislatures</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK</strong></td>
<td>Elementary and secondary schools</td>
<td><strong>School systems may employ social workers to help students cope with and resolve emotional, developmental, or educational difficulties.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling</td>
<td>School districts</td>
<td>Gain experience with children at daycare centers, camps, Boys and Girls Clubs, and the like.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Management</td>
<td>Head Start centers</td>
<td>Volunteer with organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pupil Personnel Services</td>
<td>Early intervention programs</td>
<td>Obtain state certification for work in a school.</td>
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<td>Student Advocacy</td>
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<td>Research requirements in your state.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instruction</td>
<td></td>
<td>Plan to collaborate with multidisciplinary teams including teachers, school counselor(s), school administrators, therapists, and others.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
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### AREAS

#### CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS
- Counseling/Therapy
- Rehabilitation
- Probation
- Parole
- Youth Services
- Victim Assistance
- Drug Prevention

#### CLINICAL
- Counseling/Therapy:
  - Individual, Group, Couples, Family
- Assessment
- Case Management
- Crisis Intervention
- Program Planning

#### ADMINISTRATION
- Management
- Policy Development
- Planning
- Supervision
- Fundraising
- Budgeting
- Grant Writing
- Advocacy
- Evaluation

### EMPLOYERS

- Prisons and correctional facilities
- Courts
- Police departments
- Probation and parole offices
- Victim services organizations
- Private treatment facilities
- Youth services organizations
- Community mental health centers
- Psychiatric hospitals
- Behavioral health systems
- Drug/alcohol rehabilitation centers
- Residential and day treatment hospitals
- Employee assistance programs (EAP)
- Schools
- Family service agencies
- Private or group practice

- 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

### DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES

#### EMPLOYERS

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS**

Social workers in corrections focus on rehabilitation of clients.

- Obtain experience by volunteering at a corrections facility or victims' program such as a rape crisis center.
- Gain experience as a juvenile probation officer; many states allow reputable citizens to serve as volunteer officers.
- Become familiar with community services that include housing, remediation, job training, addiction treatment, child care, and transportation resources.

**CLINICAL**

Clinical social workers are found in a variety of settings that provide therapeutic counseling to clients.

- Master of Social Work (MSW) is required.
- Obtain licensure as an LCSW since many employers require licensure to practice.
- Develop strong communication, listening, and organizational skills, along with a sense of empathy.
- Volunteer with a local social service or non-profit organization to test interest in working with different populations or presenting problems.
- Cultivate multicultural competence.

**ADMINISTRATION**

Administrators are involved with planning, budgeting, public relations, marketing, supervising, operations management, fundraising, and other crucial responsibilities that keep an organization functioning.

- Obtain an MSW and gain management experience.
- Consider a minor in business during undergraduate education.
- Participate in student organizations and pursue leadership roles to cultivate an understanding of motivational strategies and creative thinking skills.
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<tr>
<td><strong>OCCUPATIONAL</strong></td>
<td>Counseling</td>
<td>Larger corporations</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>Employee assistance programs (EAP)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wellness Promotion</td>
<td>Local, state, and federal government:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Organizational Development</td>
<td>Department of Labor</td>
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<td>Assessment</td>
<td>Community agencies</td>
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<td>Human Resources</td>
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<td>Intervention</td>
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<td><strong>HEALTHCARE</strong></td>
<td>Case Management</td>
<td>Hospitals</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Counseling</td>
<td>Community health centers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Prevention and Education</td>
<td>Outpatient clinics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Program Development</td>
<td>Public health programs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>Health maintenance organizations (HMOs)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Nursing homes</td>
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<td>Child Life Specialists</td>
<td>Group homes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hospice Care</td>
<td>Hospice</td>
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<td>Rehabilitation</td>
<td>Veterans Administration hospitals</td>
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<td>Wellness Promotion</td>
<td>Home healthcare agencies</td>
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<td><strong>COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION</strong></td>
<td>Program and Community Development</td>
<td>Advocacy organizations</td>
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<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>Development corporations</td>
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<td>Politics</td>
<td>Community centers</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>Local, state, and federal government</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>Political associations</td>
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<td><strong>DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES</strong></td>
<td>These social workers help employees and employers to be productive and satisfied.</td>
<td>Get involved with grassroots causes and community agencies.</td>
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<td>Participate in local government and gain knowledge about city planning.</td>
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<td>Volunteer with local organizations that work with specific groups such as homeless people, immigrants, or refugees to learn more about advocacy work.</td>
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### Developmental Disabilities
- **Case Management**
- **Program Planning and Evaluation**
- **Research**
- **Policy Development**
- **Advocacy**

**Employers:**
- Community residential homes
- State and local agencies
- Medical facilities
- Schools
- Colleges and universities

**Descriptions/Strategies:**
Social workers in this area help people with disabilities to adjust and to lead productive lives.
- Volunteer at camps for people with disabilities, daycares, schools, or hospitals to gain experience.
- Become familiar with human development and issues specific to disabilities and accommodations.
- Obtain specialized training in areas such as sign language or assistive technology for additional opportunities.
- Seek knowledge of assessment procedures and therapeutic recreational activities.

### Child Welfare
- **Case Management**
- **Advocacy**
- **Intervention**
- **Supervision**

**Employers:**
- 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

**Descriptions/Strategies:**
Child welfare social workers strive to ensure the safety and well-being of children through treatment of the whole family.
- Volunteer at daycares, child shelters, camps, YMCA, Scouts, or other agencies that aid youth.
- Gain licensure as a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) after graduating from a master's program in Social Work.
- Acquire knowledge about local/national government procedures in reunification procedures.
- Plan to collaborate with multidisciplinary teams including lawyers, parents, foster care representatives, and other various government employees.
- Become familiar with community resources such as child care, job training, and parenting classes.

### Gerontology
- **Advocacy/Intervention**
- **Counseling**
- **Case Management**
- **Programming**
- **Public Policy**
- **Administration**

**Employers:**
- 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

**Descriptions/Strategies:**
Gerontologists involves working with older adults, healthy or ill, and their families.
- Get involved with programs or organizations designed for senior citizens.
- Gain Social Work credentials oriented toward gerontology.
- Supplement curriculum with coursework in lifespan development and aging.
- Become familiar with community resources ranging from medical to transportation.

**Description of Gerontology:**
Gerontology involves working with older adults, healthy or ill, and their families.
- Get involved with programs or organizations designed for senior citizens.
- Gain Social Work credentials oriented toward gerontology.
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- Become familiar with community resources ranging from medical to transportation.

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<tr>
<td><strong>RESEARCH AND EDUCATION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Colleges and universities</td>
<td>Research provides data and statistics important in program implementation and policy development. Doctor of Social Work (DSW) or Ph.D. usually required. Some teaching and administration positions may be available to MSW's.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
<td>Research institutes</td>
<td>Gain research experience as an undergraduate by assisting professors with their work.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant Writing</td>
<td>Research hospitals</td>
<td>Complete an internship or graduate assistantship in a college setting to be competitive for jobs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervision</td>
<td>Local, state, and federal government</td>
<td>Develop strong communication and writing skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program and Community Development</td>
<td>Advocacy organizations</td>
<td>Acquire a solid background in statistics and research for higher education program development and evaluation.</td>
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<td>Politics</td>
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<td>Advocacy</td>
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<td><strong>INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanitarian Services</td>
<td>International Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs) such as United Nations Economic and Social Council and the World Health Organization</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)</td>
<td>Learn one or more foreign languages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Federal government agencies with an international focus, e.g. Peace Corps and United States Agency for International Development (USAID)</td>
<td>Plan to study, volunteer, or intern abroad more than one time if possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellness Promotion</td>
<td>Country-based service agencies</td>
<td>Seek cultural experiences on campus and get involved with the international student population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development: Economic and Community</td>
<td>International aid and relief organizations</td>
<td>Join relevant student organizations such as Amnesty International and gain leadership roles.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disaster/Disease Relief</td>
<td>Foundation programs</td>
<td>Participate in an international service learning experience or go on a mission trip.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Coordination</td>
<td>Nonprofit and not-for-profit organizations, e.g. Vital Voices or Habitat for Humanity</td>
<td>Learn about federal job hiring procedures, and apply for a government internship to increase chances of finding a full-time position.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Administration</td>
<td>Private voluntary organizations</td>
<td>Research the international organization's/agency's structure and function.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Practice</td>
<td>Humanitarian organizations, e.g. International Red Cross and CARE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy Development</td>
<td>Religious organizations, e.g. World Vision</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Multi-national corporations</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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 (NASW) 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.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK CONT.

Develop good working knowledge of international humanitarian law.

Demonstrate your depth of dedication, willingness to adapt, and coping mechanisms to combat stress and difficult situations.

Develop skills in the areas of organizing groups, efficiency, and the ability to calm people.

Consider earning a graduate degree in Social Work or related area to open more advanced job opportunities.