

Social Work

Social Workers help individuals and families cope with mental illness and problems such as inadequate housing, unemployment, lack of job skills, financial mismanagement, serious illness, disability, substance abuse, unwanted pregnancy, or antisocial behavior. They also work with families who have serious conflicts, including those involving child or spousal abuse.

Approximately 600,000 Social Workers work in the U.S. Nearly 40 percent of those jobs are in State, county, or municipal government agencies, primarily in departments of human resources, social services, child welfare, mental health, health, housing, education, and corrections. Most in the private sector are in voluntary social service agencies, community and religious organizations, hospitals, nursing homes, or home health agencies.

The bachelor's degree is the minimum requirement for most positions. Besides the bachelor's in Social Work (BSW), undergraduate majors in psychology, sociology, and related fields satisfy hiring requirements in some agencies, especially small community agencies. A master's degree in Social Work (MSW) is generally necessary for positions in health and mental health settings. Jobs in some private agencies also require an MSW. Employment of Social Workers is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2005. Students obtaining employment immediately upon graduation are usually those with the best college records and a willingness to relocate to find a job. Some of these jobs also require education beyond a bachelors' degree.

Related Career Titles for Social Work Majors

*Agency Director	*Deputy Director	*International Social Worker
*School Social Worker	*Aging/Gerontology Specialist	*Developmental Disabilities Specialist
*Manager/Administrator	*Social Worker	*Assistant Director of Agency
*Eligibility Specialist	*Mental /Clinical Social Worker	*Substance Abuse Counselor
*Case Worker	*Employment/Occupational Social Worker	*Policy & Planning Specialist
*Supervisor	*Child Welfare/Children's Services	*Executive Director
*Policy Advocate	*Teacher	*Research Analyst
*Food Stamp Administrator	*Policy Analyst	*Program Manager
*Consultant	*Health Care Specialist	Community Organization Director
*Intake Counselor	*Criminal Justice/Corrections Specialist	

Related Major skills

Planning long-term projects	Recruiting/coordinating research subjects
Writing grant proposals	Evaluating
Maintaining records	Developing project designs
Interviewing	Understanding group dynamics
Observing human interactions	Recognizing cultural differences/similarities
Surveying and sampling	Identifying value systems
Gathering and organizing data	Examining data
Conducting field studies	Applying non-intrusive methods
Reaching new conclusions through comparative study	Utilizing statistical applications