



**Looking for a career with meaning, action, diversity, satisfaction, and an abundance of options?
Social work may be the best major!**

Social workers are professionals who care about people, want to assist in improving their wellbeing and want their work to make a difference through services provided to individuals, families, groups, communities and society.

According to the International Federation of Social Workers, social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility, and respect for diversities are central to social work. Social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing. (July 2014)



For sheer diversity, few occupations can match social work, which offers the broadest range of opportunities and settings. Social workers are found in public agencies, private business, hospitals, clinics, schools, nursing homes, private practices, police departments, courts, and countless other interesting workplaces. Professional social workers can serve as managers, supervisors, administrators, educators, therapists, and researchers. Many times, they are also elected political leaders and legislators, often serving in governmental positions.

Social workers included Labor Secretary Frances Perkins, who pushed for a minimum wage and Social Security; Nobel Peace Prize winner Jane Addams, who is considered the mother of social work; Civil Rights leaders Dorothy Height and Whitney Young Jr.; and Ambassador Wendy Sherman, who helped broker the Iran Nuclear Agreement.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, social work is one of the fastest-growing professions in the United States, with 110,000 more social workers expected to enter the profession in just seven years. The prediction is a 16% national growth rate for social workers from 2016-2026.

For more information on social work and salaries, see the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Outlook Handbook at <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2018/article/social-workers.htm>



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Related Career Titles for Social Work Majors

Social Workers help individuals and families cope with mental illness, inadequate housing, and 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 USA. Nearly 40 percent of those jobs are in state, country or governmental agencies, primarily in departments of human resources, social services, child welfare, mental health, housing, education, health services, and corrections. Most in the private sector are voluntary social service agencies, community and religious organizations, hospitals, nursing homes, or home health agencies.

The following list contains a representative sample of job titles of former Social Work graduates. This is an idea list that represents some, but certainly not all, of the positions in Social Work.

Adult & Juvenile Probation Counselor	Immigration Services Staff
AIDS Counselor & Case Manager	Industrial Social Worker
Agency Director	Intake Counselor
Aging/Gerontology Specialist	International Social Worker
Aging & Senior Centers Staff	Labor Union Staff
Assistant Director of Agency	Legal Services Advocate
Case Manager/Worker	Manager/Administrator
Child Day Care Staff	Mental/Clinical Social Worker
Child/Play Therapist	Nonprofit Organization Director
Child Welfare/Children's Services Specialist	Nursing Home Therapist & Social Worker
Community Advocacy & Outreach	Police Department Liaison
Community Organization Events Coordinator	Policy Advocate
Community Relations & Development	Policy Analyst
Consultant	Policy Development
Corrections Specialist	Policy & Planning Specialist
Crisis Intervention Counselor	Professor
Counselor	Program Manager
Court Advocate	Psychiatric Social Worker
Developmental Disabilities Specialist	Public Health Social Worker
Disease Prevention Services	Public/Private School Social Worker
Domestic Violence Counselor	Rehabilitative Schools Staff
Economic Development	Research Analyst
Employee Assistance Program Coordinator	Residential Counselor
Employment/Occupation Social Worker	School Counseling Staff
Executive/Deputy Director	Social Worker
Food Stamp Administrator	Special Education Services Staff
Foster Care/Adoption Worker	Substance Abuse Counselor
Grief Therapy Counselor	Supervisor
Group Home Therapist & Social Worker	Teacher
Geriatric Social Worker	Therapeutic School & Camp Counselors
Head Start Center Staff	Upward Bound Coordinators
Health Care Specialist	Veteran Administration Staff
Health & Wellness Advocate	Victim Assistance Services Staff
Hospice Coordinator	Vocational Counselor
HMO Staff	Volunteer Coordinator
Human Resources Staff	

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