# SOCIAL WORK
What can I do with this degree?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PUBLIC WELFARE</strong></td>
<td>Administration and Planning</td>
<td>Public welfare agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Case Management</td>
<td>Private social service agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Program Evaluation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Policy Setting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS</strong></td>
<td>Counseling/Therapy</td>
<td>Prisons and correctional facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rehabilitation</td>
<td>Courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Probation</td>
<td>Police departments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parole</td>
<td>Probation offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youth Services</td>
<td>Victim services organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Victim Assistance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK</strong></td>
<td>Clinical Social Work</td>
<td>Elementary and secondary schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pupil Personnel Services</td>
<td>School districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student Advocacy</td>
<td>Head start centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Instruction</td>
<td>Early intervention programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHILD WELFARE</strong></td>
<td>Case Management</td>
<td>Public and private child welfare agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>Adoption agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Intervention</td>
<td>Foster care organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Child daycare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GERONTOLOGY</strong></td>
<td>Advocacy/Intervention</td>
<td>Hospitals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Counseling</td>
<td>Nursing homes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Case Management</td>
<td>Senior centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Programming</td>
<td>Assisted living</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public Policy</td>
<td>Hospice</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CLINICAL</strong></td>
<td>Community mental health centers</td>
<td>Clinical social workers are found in a variety of settings that provide therapeutic counseling to clients. Master of Social Work (MSW) is required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling</td>
<td>Psychiatric hospitals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Therapy</td>
<td>Residential and day treatment hospitals</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Employment assistance programs</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Schools</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Family service agencies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Private practice</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ADMINISTRATION</strong></td>
<td>Family service agencies</td>
<td>Administrators are involved with planning, budgeting, public relations, marketing, supervising, operations management, fund raising, and other crucial responsibilities that keep an organization functioning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>Child welfare departments</td>
<td>Obtain an MSW and gain management experience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy Development</td>
<td>Social service agencies</td>
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<td>Planning</td>
<td>State mental health departments</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Employee assistance programs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Probation departments</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Public welfare agencies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Public interest groups</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Local, state, and federal government</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RESEARCH AND EDUCATION</strong></td>
<td>Colleges and universities</td>
<td>Research provides data and statistics important in program implementation and policy development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Research institutes</td>
<td>Doctor of Social Work (DSW) or Ph.D. usually required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
<td>Local, state and federal government</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Advocacy organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OCCUPATIONAL</strong></td>
<td>Businesses</td>
<td>Occupational social workers help employees to be more productive and satisfied.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counseling</td>
<td>Corporations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Employee assistance programs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wellness Promotion</td>
<td>Labor unions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employee Assistance</td>
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<td>Organizational Development</td>
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<td>Human Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>Community residential homes</td>
<td>Social workers in this area help people with disabilities to adjust and to lead productive lives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Management</td>
<td>State and local agencies</td>
<td>Volunteer at special needs camps, daycares, schools, or hospitals to gain experience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Planning and Evaluation</td>
<td>Medical facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### AREAS

**HEALTH CARE**
- Case Management
- Counseling
- Program Development
- Administration
- Research

**EMPLOYERS**
- Hospitals
- Community health centers
- Outpatient clinics
- Public health programs
- Health maintenance organizations (HMOs)
- Nursing homes
- Group homes
- Hospice
- Veterans Administration hospitals

**COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION**
- Program and Community Development
- Advocacy
- Politics
- Education
- Planning

**EMPLOYERS**
- Advocacy organizations
- Development corporations
- Community centers
- Local, state, and federal government associations

Social workers in health care facilitate medical and emotional treatment of patients. Choose volunteer settings such as hospitals, the American Red Cross, or AIDS agencies to get experience.

Social workers in this area work with existing organizations to improve conditions for specific groups, enhance quality of living, and involve community members in the political process. Get involved with grassroots causes and community agencies.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- 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. 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.
- 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.
- Note: Much of this information was adapted from *Choices: Careers in Social Work* by the National Association of Social Workers.
What can I do with this degree?
SOCIAL WORK

Social Work Links:

- Human Services Career Network
- National Association of Social Workers
- Social Workers Online Career Center
- Council on Social Work Education
- The Chronicle of Philanthropy
- American Counseling Association
- National Board for Certified Counselors
- American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
- Idealist
- Social Workers from the Occupational Outlook Handbook
- Speech-Language Pathologists from the Occupational Outlook Handbook

AREAS
PUBLIC WELFARE
Administration and Planning
Case Management
Program Evaluation
Policy Setting
Research

EMPLOYERS
Public welfare agencies
Private social service agencies

DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES
Public welfare is designed to provide services and support for poor, disabled, ill, elderly, or juvenile clients.

Volunteer at homeless shelters, soup kitchens, battered women homes, literacy programs, or other social service agencies to get experience.

AREAS
CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS
Counseling/Therapy
Rehabilitation
Probation
Parole
Youth Services
Victim Assistance

EMPLOYERS
Prisons and correctional facilities
Courts
Police departments
Probation offices
Victim services organizations

DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES
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.

AREAS
SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK
Clinical Social Work
Pupil Personnel Services
Student Advocacy
Instruction

EMPLOYERS
Elementary and secondary schools
School districts
Head start centers
Early intervention programs

DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES
School systems may employ social workers to help students cope with and resolve emotional, developmental, or educational difficulties.

Gain experience with children at daycare centers, camps, or Scouts.

AREAS
CHILD WELFARE
Case Management
Advocacy
Intervention

EMPLOYERS
Public and private child welfare agencies
Adoption agencies
Foster care organizations
Child daycare
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.

AREAS
GERONTOLOGY
Advocacy/Intervention
Counseling
Case Management
Programming
Public Policy

EMPLOYERS
Hospitals
Nursing homes
Senior centers
Assisted living
Hospice

DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES
Gerontology involves working with older adults, healthy or ill, and their families.

Get involved with programs or organizations designed for senior citizens.

AREAS
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Therapy

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Family service agencies
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Social service agencies
State mental health departments
Employee assistance programs
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Public welfare agencies
Public interest groups
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Employee Assistance
Organizational Development
Human Resources

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Labor unions

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Veterans Administration hospitals

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Community centers
Local, state, and federal government
Associations

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