# Human Services

## What can I do with this major?

### Areas

**Social Services**
- Administration and Planning
- Case Management
- Advocacy
- Program Evaluation
- Policy Development
- Volunteer Coordination
- Prevention

**Criminal Justice/Corrections**
- Counseling/Therapy
- Rehabilitation
- Probation
- Parole
- Youth Services
- Victim Assistance
- Case Management

**Child Welfare**
- Case Management
- Advocacy
- Service Coordination

### Employers

**Public welfare agencies**
- Federal, state, and local government including:
  - Administrative agencies
  - Department of Human Services
  - Department of Education
  - Department of Veterans Affairs
  - Department of Justice
  - Job Corps
  - Head Start
  - Indian Health Services
  - State legislatures
  - Private social service agencies
  - Group homes and halfway houses
  - Religiously affiliated organizations
  - Drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers

**Prisons and correctional facilities**
- Courts
- Police departments
- Probation and parole offices
- Victim services organizations
- Private treatment facilities
- Group homes and halfway houses

**Public or private child welfare agencies**
- Local, state, and federal government including:
  - Department of Children's Services
  - Department of Human Services
  - Child Protective Services
  - Adoption agencies
  - Foster care organizations
  - Day care centers and Head Start programs
  - Recreational facilities (i.e., YMCA or YWCA)

### Descriptions/Strategies

**Social services are designed to provide 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 gain relevant experience and demonstrate interest.
- Learn to work well with different types of people.
- Cultivate multicultural competence.
- Become familiar with government and community resources available for those in need.
- Learn about government application procedures and apply early as the process can take at least four to six months.
- Complete an internship with the federal government.

**Human services workers in corrections focus on rehabilitating clients and assisting victims.**
- Obtain experience by volunteering at a corrections facility or a victim services organization such as a rape crisis center.
- Gain experience as a juvenile probation officer; many states allow reputable citizens to serve as volunteer officers.

**Child welfare workers strive to ensure the safety and well-being of children through interventions and programming.**
- Volunteer at day care centers, children's shelters, camps, YMCA/YWCA, Scouts, CASA, or other agencies that aid youth and children.
- Take additional courses in child development or early childhood education.
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<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>Community residential homes</strong>&lt;br&gt;State and local agencies including:&lt;br&gt;  - Vocational Rehabilitation &amp; Employment programs&lt;br&gt;  - One-stop career centers&lt;br&gt;  - Medical facilities&lt;br&gt;  - Mental health organizations&lt;br&gt;  - Schools&lt;br&gt;  - Colleges and universities&lt;br&gt;  - Employment agencies</td>
<td>Human services workers specializing in this area help people with disabilities to adjust to and lead productive lives.&lt;br&gt;Volunteer at special needs camps, child care centers, schools, or hospitals to gain experience.&lt;br&gt;Learn about a variety of disabilities and accommodations.&lt;br&gt;Obtain specialized training in areas such as sign language or assistive technology for additional opportunities.&lt;br&gt;Earn a master’s degree in rehabilitation counseling for opportunities in vocational rehabilitation.</td>
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<td><strong>GERONTOLOGY</strong></td>
<td><strong>Hospitals</strong>&lt;br&gt;  - Nursing and retirement homes&lt;br&gt;  - Senior centers&lt;br&gt;  - Assisted living facilities&lt;br&gt;  - Hospice&lt;br&gt;  - Home healthcare agencies&lt;br&gt;  - Community agencies serving the elderly</td>
<td>Gerontology involves working with older adults, healthy or ill, and their families.&lt;br&gt;Become involved with programs or organizations designed for senior citizens.&lt;br&gt;Join the American Society on Aging.&lt;br&gt;Supplement curriculum with course work in life span development and aging.&lt;br&gt;Obtain specialized training and credentials oriented toward gerontology.</td>
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<td><strong>HEALTH CARE</strong></td>
<td><strong>Hospitals</strong>&lt;br&gt;  - Health maintenance organizations (HMOs)&lt;br&gt;  - Nursing homes&lt;br&gt;  - Hospice programs&lt;br&gt;  - Home healthcare agencies&lt;br&gt;  - Community health centers&lt;br&gt;  - Public health programs&lt;br&gt;  - Social service organizations&lt;br&gt;  - Outpatient clinics&lt;br&gt;  - Group homes&lt;br&gt;  - Specialized camps/schools&lt;br&gt;  - Federal, state, and local government including:&lt;br&gt;    - Department of Health and Human Services&lt;br&gt;    - Department of Veterans Affairs</td>
<td>Human services workers in healthcare facilitate the medical and emotional treatment of patients.&lt;br&gt;Volunteer in health related settings such as hospitals or the American Red Cross to gain experience.&lt;br&gt;Supplement curriculum with course work in public health or community health education.&lt;br&gt;Gain membership in relevant professional associations.&lt;br&gt;Become familiar with community resources.</td>
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<td>Management</td>
<td>Social service agencies</td>
<td>Administrators are involved with planning, budgeting, public relations, management, fund raising, and other crucial operating responsibilities that keep an organization functioning.</td>
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<td>Policy Development</td>
<td>Employee assistance programs</td>
<td>Supplement curriculum with course work in areas such as public relations, advertising, accounting, or management.</td>
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<td>Planning</td>
<td>Probation departments</td>
<td>Consider earning a business minor.</td>
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<td>Supervision</td>
<td>Public interest groups</td>
<td>Obtain a master’s degree in social work or related field for additional opportunities.</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>Local, state, and federal government including:</td>
<td>Gain management experience through internships, part-time employment, or leadership in relevant student organizations.</td>
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<td>Budgeting</td>
<td>Department of Human Services</td>
<td>Research government application procedures.</td>
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<td>Grant Writing</td>
<td>Department of Children’s Services</td>
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<td>Department of Education</td>
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<td>State mental health departments</td>
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<td>Head Start</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Public welfare agencies</td>
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<td>Residential or outpatient hospitals/treatment centers</td>
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### BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

| Human Resources         | Business firms in various industries                                     | Graduates of human services programs may apply their skills and knowledge in the private sector of business and industry. |
| Management              | Developers of educational products                                       | Earn a minor in business or related field. |
| Market Research         | National foundations and associations                                     | Develop computer skills particularly with spreadsheets, databases, word processing, and desk top publishing. |
| Customer Service        | Consumer protection agencies                                             | Learn to communicate effectively with a wide range of people. |
| Sales                   | Social service organizations with business components, i.e. tax assistance, financial planning | Take courses to enhance writing skills. |
| Public Relations        |                                                                          | Gain experience through part-time jobs, summer jobs, and internships in business environments. |
| Corporate Giving        |                                                                          | Get involved in student organizations and seek leadership roles. |
| Development             |                                                                          |                        |
| Employee Assistance Programs |                                                              |                        |
| Financial Counseling    |                                                                          |                        |
GENERAL INFORMATION
- A bachelor's degree in human services prepares individuals for entry-level positions in the helping professions.
- A master's degree in counseling, social work, occupational therapy, or related field, in addition to appropriate professional licensure, is usually necessary to provide therapy and for advancement to supervisory or administrative positions.
- Complete practicum experiences and internships to determine suitability for the helping professions and to gain exposure to various practice settings and clients.
- Candidates should possess empathy for others, an appreciation for diversity, and an interest in social change.
- Gain experience with a wide range of clients and client systems including individuals, families, groups, communities, and minorities.
- Join a human service organization while in school and seek leadership positions.
- Look for ways to impact your community and get involved with local organizations and issues.
- Become familiar with local social service agencies and resources available for those in need.
- Learn a second language to better communicate with diverse client populations.
- Develop ability to work well under pressure and manage stress.
- Update your resume as you acquire new accomplishments, skills, knowledge, and interests.