

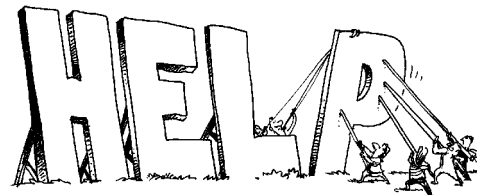
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL WORK MAJORS

If there is one question that career counselors and faculty advisors are asked more often than all others by students seeking assistance with career planning, it is this: *"What can I do with this major?"* An undergraduate student in the liberal arts and sciences is actually developing a broad array of skills that might be applied to any number of careers, rather than developing an in-depth expertise in just one area. Therefore, a better question to pose might be: *"What skills am I developing in my major, and how might I explore careers that would require these skills?"*

Social work encompasses a large variety of services and fields of practice. It is generally a well-defined profession, but the roles of social work are wholly defined by their work setting. If you're involved with social work you'll be working to meet the needs that society defines as problems or concerns, and your responsibilities will be determined by your work settings and qualifications.

SKILLS/ABILITIES

- ❖Genuine concern for others
- ❖Sense of humor
- ❖Ability to develop rapport
- ❖Nurturing
- ❖Flexible
- ❖Recruiting skills
- ❖Visualizing possibilities
- ❖Acknowledging others
- ❖Coordinating
- ❖Teaching skills
- ❖Committed to service and helping
- ❖Work well with people who have serious problems
- ❖Familiar with computers and word processing
- ❖Skills in influencing and helping others
- ❖Excellent listening skills
- ❖Supportive of others
- ❖Able to express feelings appropriately
- ❖Leadership skills
- ❖Inspiring others
- ❖Possess skills in building self-esteem
- ❖Skills in facilitating groups
- ❖Good communication skills
- ❖Good writing skills
- ❖Resourceful
- ❖Mentoring skills
- ❖Ability to train others
- ❖Work as a team
- ❖Consulting



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OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL WORK MAJORS

This list is just a sampling of occupations for Social Work Majors.

- ❖ Agency Director
- ❖ Aging/Gerontology Specialist
- ❖ Assistant Director of Agency
- ❖ Case Aide
- ❖ Casework Supervisor
- ❖ Caseworker
- ❖ Child Welfare Caseworker
- ❖ Clinical Social Worker
- ❖ Community Organization Director
- ❖ Community Organization Worker
- ❖ Consultant
- ❖ Correction Worker Aide
- ❖ Counseling Coordinator
- ❖ Counselor
- ❖ Criminal Justice/Corrections Specialist
- ❖ Deputy Director
- ❖ Developmental Disabilities Specialist
- ❖ Director of General Services
- ❖ Eligibility Specialist
- ❖ Employment/Occupational Social Worker
- ❖ Executive Director
- ❖ Family Caseworker
- ❖ Family Counselor
- ❖ Food Stamp Administrator
- ❖ Health Care Specialist
- ❖ Industrial Social Worker
- ❖ Intake Counselor
- ❖ International Social Worker
- ❖ Juvenile Corrections Worker
- ❖ Manager/Administrator
- ❖ Media Specialist
- ❖ Medical/Hospital Social Worker
- ❖ Mental/Clinical Social Worker
- ❖ Nursing Home Supervisor
- ❖ Parole Officer
- ❖ Policy & Planning Specialist
- ❖ Policy Advocate
- ❖ Policy Analyst
- ❖ Probation Officer
- ❖ Program Aide in Group Work
- ❖ Program Manager
- ❖ Psychiatric Social Worker
- ❖ Research Analyst
- ❖ School Counselor
- ❖ School Social Worker
- ❖ Social Group Worker
- ❖ Social Service Worker
- ❖ Social Welfare Administrator/Director
- ❖ Substance Abuse Counselor
- ❖ Supervisor
- ❖ Teacher
- ❖ Tenant Relations Coordinator

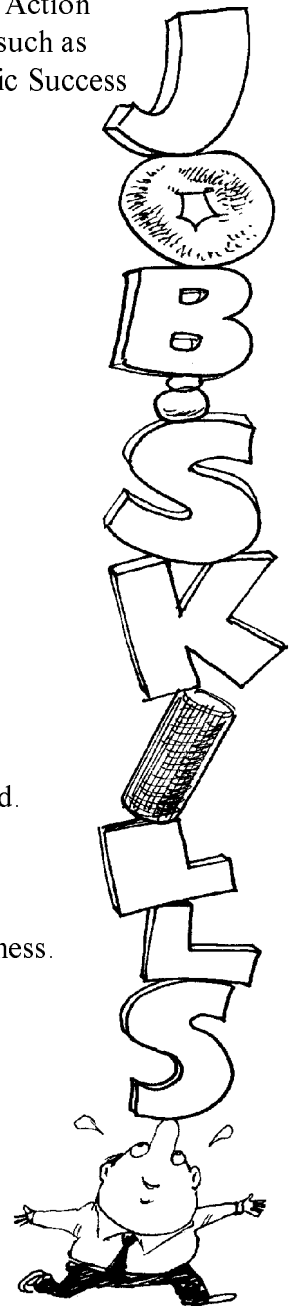


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Suggestions to Enhance Your Skills

- ❖ Join the Social Work Club
- ❖ Volunteer at non-profit organizations where you can gain skills
- ❖ Learn about diverse cultures by being involved in campus organizations like the Diversity Awareness Committee, African American Alliance, Community Action Theater Troupe, etc.; and become involved in on-campus cultural events such as Unity in the Community, Powwow, Cinco de Mayo, etc.(see the Academic Success Center for details about events and organizations).
- ❖ Volunteer at a nursing home, halfway house, rehabilitation center.
- ❖ Join a big brother/big sister mentoring program.
- ❖ Work at a summer camp or city recreation program.
- ❖ Become certified in CPR and first aid.
- ❖ Lead a group toward a goal or lead a study group.
- ❖ Expose yourself to meeting many new people.
- ❖ Take classes to improve your interpersonal communication skills.
- ❖ Make efforts to learn about computers and word processing.
- ❖ Be aware and/or learn about services and programs that aid people in need.
- ❖ Brush up on and practice your listening skills.
- ❖ Take a creative writing class to improve written communication effectiveness.
- ❖ Practice being an optimist.
- ❖ Become a member of a team and/or campus organization.
- ❖ Become involved with a support group.
- ❖ Research the field and gain experience by obtaining an internship.



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RESEARCHING YOUR CAREER IDEAS

How do you find out what's out there?

Researching careers is a time-consuming, but necessary process. Waiting until graduation to start thinking about your career plans is as absurd as studying after you've taken your final exams.

1. Written and On-line Resources:

- ❖ Visit Career & Counseling Services' Career Resource Center (located on the ground floor of East Hathorn Hall)
- ❖ Visit the Chalmer Davee Library
- ❖ Browse the Internet, such as Career & Counseling Services' Web Page (www.uwrf.edu/ccs)

2. People Resources:

- ❖ Talk with Faculty and Alumni
- ❖ Join Professional Organizations
- ❖ Conduct Occupational Interviews
- ❖ Use Career & Counseling Services' "*Career Information Network*"
- ❖ Consult Employer Directories and the Yellow Pages



3. Obtain Direct Experience:

- ❖ Job Shadowing
- ❖ Volunteer or part-time work
- ❖ Internships are essential! Talk with your departmental faculty coordinator for internship information

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CAREER RESOURCES FOR SOCIAL WORK

Career & Counseling Services' Career Resource Center (Ground Floor, East Hathorn Hall)

Career & Counseling Services' Career Resource Center is open every day from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM; we are also open until 7:00 PM Thursday evenings. The following books in our Resource Center may be of particular interest to students majoring in Social Work:

- ❖ Careers for Good Samaritans and Other Humanitarian Types
- ❖ Opportunities in Mental Health Careers
- ❖ Opportunities in Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Careers
- ❖ Opportunities in Social Work Careers
- ❖ Opportunities in Social Services Careers
- ❖ Opportunities in Counseling and Development Careers
- ❖ Careers for Caring People and Other Sensitive Types
- ❖ Career Paths in Psychology
- ❖ Great Jobs for Psychology Majors
- ❖ Career Choices for the 90's for Students of Psychology
- ❖ 100 Jobs in Social Change
- ❖ Majoring in Psych?
- ❖ Major Options
- ❖ Great Jobs for Liberal Arts Majors
- ❖ College Majors and Careers
- ❖ Liberal Arts Jobs
- ❖ Great Jobs for Sociology Majors
- ❖ Liberal Arts and Sciences Career Opportunities (binder)



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