

EXPLORE SOCIAL WORK CAREERS

WHAT IS SOCIAL WORK?

Social work is an evidence-based profession that promotes human and community well-being. Guided by a person-in-environment framework, a global perspective, respect for human diversity, and knowledge based on scientific inquiry, the purpose of social work is actualized through its quest for social and economic justice, the prevention of conditions that limit human rights, the elimination of poverty, and the enhancement of the quality of life for all persons, locally and globally.

FREQUENT JOB TITLES

- Care Coordinator
- Human Services Specialist
- Behavioral Technician
- Community Support Specialist
- Case Manager
- Clinical/School/Child & Family Social Worker

KEY SKILLS

- Social Perceptiveness
- Active Listening
- Critical Thinking
- Service Orientation
- Judgement and Decision Making
- Monitoring
- Writing & Verbal Communication

RELATED STUDENT ORGS

- Radical Social Work
- Social Work Student Union
- National Alliance on Mental Illness

ASSOCIATIONS

- National Association for Social Workers
- Association of Social Work Boards
- National Organization for Human Services

COMMON EMPLOYERS

- Dept. of Corrections
- Dept. of Veterans Affairs Hospital
- Domestic Abuse Intervention Services
- Madison Metropolitan School District
- Mendota Mental Health
- UW Hospital & Clinics

LICENSURE

- State licensing requirements vary by jurisdiction/state. In WI:
- Certified Social Worker (CSW): BSW + certification
- Advanced Practice Social Worker (APSW): MSW + certification
 - E.g., for Medical Social Work
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW): MSW + two years direct clinical supervised social work experience
 - To provide mental health therapy
- Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) Certification + BSW/MSW

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree in Social Work (BSW)
- Master's degree in Social Work