# HUMAN SERVICES
What can I do with this major?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SOCIAL SERVICES</strong>&lt;br&gt;Administration and Planning&lt;br&gt;Case Management&lt;br&gt;Advocacy&lt;br&gt;Program Evaluation&lt;br&gt;Policy Development&lt;br&gt;Volunteer Coordination&lt;br&gt;Prevention</td>
<td>Public welfare agencies&lt;br&gt;Federal, state, and local government including:&lt;br&gt;Administrative agencies&lt;br&gt;Department of Human Services&lt;br&gt;Department of Education&lt;br&gt;Department of Veterans Affairs&lt;br&gt;Department of Justice&lt;br&gt;Job Corps&lt;br&gt;Head Start&lt;br&gt;Indian Health Services&lt;br&gt;State legislatures&lt;br&gt;Private social service agencies Group homes and halfway houses Religiously affiliated organizations Drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers</td>
<td>Social services are designed to provide support for poor, disabled, ill, elderly, or juvenile clients.&lt;br&gt;Volunteer at homeless shelters, soup kitchens, battered women homes, literacy programs, or other social service agencies to gain relevant experience and demonstrate interest.&lt;br&gt;Learn to work well with different types of people.&lt;br&gt;Cultivate multicultural competence.&lt;br&gt;Become familiar with government and community resources available for those in need.&lt;br&gt;Learn about government application procedures and apply early as the process can take at least four to six months.&lt;br&gt;Complete an internship with the federal government.</td>
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<td><strong>CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS</strong>&lt;br&gt;Counseling/Therapy&lt;br&gt;Rehabilitation&lt;br&gt;Probation&lt;br&gt;Parole&lt;br&gt;Youth Services&lt;br&gt;Victim Assistance&lt;br&gt;Case Management</td>
<td>Prisons and correctional facilities&lt;br&gt;Courts&lt;br&gt;Police departments&lt;br&gt;Probation and parole offices&lt;br&gt;Victim services organizations&lt;br&gt;Private treatment facilities&lt;br&gt;Group homes and halfway houses</td>
<td>Human services workers in corrections focus on rehabilitating clients and assisting victims.&lt;br&gt;Obtain experience by volunteering at a corrections facility or a victim services organization such as a rape crisis center.&lt;br&gt;Gain experience as a juvenile probation officer; many states allow reputable citizens to serve as volunteer officers.</td>
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<td><strong>CHILD WELFARE</strong>&lt;br&gt;Case Management&lt;br&gt;Advocacy&lt;br&gt;Service Coordination</td>
<td>Public or private child welfare agencies&lt;br&gt;Local, state, and federal government including:&lt;br&gt;Department of Children's Services&lt;br&gt;Department of Human Services&lt;br&gt;Child Protective Services&lt;br&gt;Adoption agencies&lt;br&gt;Foster care organizations&lt;br&gt;Day care centers and Head Start programs&lt;br&gt;Recreational facilities (i.e., YMCA or YWCA)</td>
<td>Child welfare workers strive to ensure the safety and well-being of children through interventions and programming.&lt;br&gt;Volunteer at day care centers, children's shelters, camps, YMCA/YWCA, Scouts, CASA, or other agencies that aid youth and children.&lt;br&gt;Take additional courses in child development or early childhood education.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES</td>
<td>Community residential homes</td>
<td>Human services workers specializing in this area help people with disabilities to adjust to and lead productive lives.</td>
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<td>Case Management</td>
<td>State and local agencies including:</td>
<td>Volunteer at special needs camps, child care centers, schools, or hospitals to gain experience.</td>
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<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>Vocational Rehabilitation &amp; Employment programs</td>
<td>Learn about a variety of disabilities and accommodations.</td>
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<td>Program Planning and Evaluation</td>
<td>One-stop career centers</td>
<td>Obtain specialized training in areas such as sign language or assistive technology for additional opportunities.</td>
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<td>Policy Development</td>
<td>Medical facilities</td>
<td>Earn a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling for opportunities in vocational rehabilitation.</td>
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<td>Rehabilitation</td>
<td>Mental health organizations</td>
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<td>Research</td>
<td>Schools</td>
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<td>Colleges and universities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Employment agencies</td>
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<td>GERONTOLOGY</td>
<td>Hospitals</td>
<td>Gerontology involves working with older adults, healthy or ill, and their families.</td>
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<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>Nursing and retirement homes</td>
<td>Become involved with programs or organizations designed for senior citizens.</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
<td>Senior centers</td>
<td>Join the American Society on Aging.</td>
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<td>Counseling</td>
<td>Assisted living facilities</td>
<td>Supplement curriculum with course work in life span development and aging.</td>
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<td>Case Management</td>
<td>Hospice</td>
<td>Obtain specialized training and credentials oriented toward gerontology.</td>
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<td>Programming</td>
<td>Home healthcare agencies</td>
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<td>Public Policy</td>
<td>Community agencies serving the elderly</td>
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<tr>
<td>HEALTH CARE</td>
<td>Hospitals</td>
<td>Human services workers in healthcare facilitate the medical and emotional treatment of patients.</td>
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<td>Case Management</td>
<td>Health maintenance organizations (HMOs)</td>
<td>Volunteer in health related settings such as hospitals or the American Red Cross to gain experience.</td>
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<td>Counseling</td>
<td>Nursing homes</td>
<td>Supplement curriculum with course work in public health or community health education.</td>
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<td>Program Development</td>
<td>Hospice programs</td>
<td>Gain membership in relevant professional associations.</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
<td>Home healthcare agencies</td>
<td>Become familiar with community resources.</td>
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<td>Rehabilitation</td>
<td>Community health centers</td>
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<td>Prevention</td>
<td>Public health programs</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>Social service organizations</td>
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<td>Research</td>
<td>Outpatient clinics</td>
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<td>Hospice Care</td>
<td>Group homes</td>
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<td>Specialized camps/schools</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Federal, state, and local government including:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Department of Health and Human Services</td>
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<td>Department of Veterans Affairs</td>
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### ADMINISTRATION
- Management
- Policy Development
- Planning
- Supervision
- Fundraising
- Budgeting
- Grant Writing

### EMPLOYERS
- Social service agencies
- Employee assistance programs
- Probation departments
- Public interest groups
- Local, state, and federal government including:
  - Department of Human Services
  - Department of Children's Services
  - Department of Education
  - Department of Justice
  - Department of Veterans Affairs
  - State mental health departments
  - Job Corps
  - Head Start
- Public welfare agencies
- Residential or outpatient hospitals/treatment centers

### DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES
Administrators are involved with planning, budgeting, public relations, management, fund raising, and other crucial operating responsibilities that keep an organization functioning.

Supplement curriculum with course work in areas such as public relations, advertising, accounting, or management.

Consider earning a business minor.

Obtain a master's degree in social work or related field for additional opportunities.

Gain management experience through internships, part-time employment, or leadership in relevant student organizations.

Research government application procedures.

### BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
- Human Resources
- Management
- Market Research
- Customer Service
- Sales
- Public Relations
- Corporate Giving
- Development
- Employee Assistance Programs
- Financial Counseling

### EMPLOYERS
- Business firms in various industries
- Developers of educational products
- National foundations and associations
- Consumer protection agencies
- Social service organizations with business components, i.e. tax assistance, financial planning

### DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES
Graduates of human services programs may apply their skills and knowledge in the private sector of business and industry.

Earn a minor in business or related field.

Develop computer skills particularly with spreadsheets, databases, word processing, and desktop publishing.

Learn to communicate effectively with a wide range of people.

Take courses to enhance writing skills.

Gain experience through part-time jobs, summer jobs, and internships in business environments.

Get involved in student organizations and seek leadership roles.
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.
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- American Counseling Association
- National Board for Certified Counselors
- Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs
- American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
- American School Counselors Association
- American Mental Health Counselors Association
- National Career Development Association
- National Rehabilitation Counseling Association
- American College Counseling Association
- Chi Sigma Iota – National Counseling Honor Society
- Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues in Counseling
- Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development
- American Psychological Association
- National Employment Counseling Association
- National Human Services Assembly

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK INFORMATION

- Counselors
- Social and Human Service Assistants
- Social Workers
- Social Assistance Industry Guide

MISCELLANEOUS CAREER INFORMATION

- Idealist
Choosing a Graduate Program
Explore Health Careers

JOB POSTINGS
- Social Service Jobs
- Counseling Jobs
- Human Services Career Network

* = Recommended Sites