

# HUMAN SERVICES

## What can I do with this degree?

### AREAS

### EMPLOYERS

### DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES

#### PUBLIC WELFARE

Administration and Planning  
Case Management  
Advocacy  
Program Evaluation  
Policy Setting  
Volunteer Coordination

Public welfare agencies  
Federal, state and local government  
Private social service agencies  
Group homes  
Religiously affiliated organizations  
Drug and alcohol abuse centers

**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.

#### CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

Counseling/Therapy  
Rehabilitation  
Probation  
Parole  
Youth Services  
Victim Assistance

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

**Human services 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.

#### GERONTOLOGY

Advocacy/Intervention  
Counseling  
Case Management  
Programming  
Public Policy

Hospitals  
Nursing and retirement homes  
Senior centers  
Hospice

**Gerontology involves working with older adults, healthy or ill, and their families.**  
Get involved with programs/organizations designed for senior citizens.

#### CHILD WELFARE

Case Management  
Advocacy  
Service Coordination

Public/private child welfare agencies  
Adoption agencies  
Foster care organizations  
Daycare centers and nursery schools  
YMCA, YWCA  
Head Start programs

**Child welfare 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**

**EMPLOYERS**

**DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES**

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Case Management  
Advocacy  
Program Planning and Evaluation  
Policy Development  
Habilitation

Community residential homes  
State and local agencies  
Medical facilities  
Mental health organizations  
Schools  
Employment agencies, e.g. Goodwill

**Human services workers in this area help people with disabilities to adjust to and lead productive lives.**  
Volunteer at special needs camps, daycares, schools or hospitals to gain experience.  
Gain experience working with people with disabilities.

**HEALTHCARE**

Case Management  
Counseling  
Program Development  
Administration

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

**Human services workers in healthcare facilitate medical and emotional treatment of patients.**  
Choose volunteer settings such as hospitals, the American Red Cross, or AIDS agencies to get experience.

**ADMINISTRATION**

Management  
Policy Development  
Planning

Family service agencies  
Child welfare departments  
Social service agencies  
State mental health departments  
Employee assistance programs  
Probation departments  
Public welfare agencies  
Public interest groups  
Local, state and federal government

**Administrators are involved with planning, budgeting, public relations, operations management, fund raising and other crucial responsibilities that keep an organization functioning.**  
Obtain a master's degree in social work or related field and gain management experience.

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES

### **EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETING**

School (K-12) Interpreting  
College Interpreting  
Community Interpreting

Universities and colleges  
Public school systems  
Human service agencies  
Self-employed, freelance  
Vocational Rehabilitation

**The educational interpreting concentration prepares graduates to work with individuals who are deaf and facilitate their communication with non-signing members of the community.**

Master American Sign Language and manually coded forms of English.

Learn as much as possible about deafness and the deaf community.

Volunteer in schools or programs that serve deaf children.

### **BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**

Human Resources  
Management  
Public Relations  
Corporate Giving  
Development  
Employee Assistance Programs  
Financial Counseling

Business firms in various industries  
Developers of educational products  
National foundations and associations

**Graduates of Human Services may want to take their skills and knowledge into 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.

Gain experience through part-time and summer jobs and internships in a business environment.

### **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, or related field is necessary to provide therapy and for advancement to supervisory/administrative positions.
- Practicums and internships frequently are used to determine suitability for this profession and to provide exposure to various practice settings/clients.
- Candidates should possess empathy for others, an appreciation for diversity and an interest in social change.
- Human services workers serve a range of client systems (individuals, families, groups, communities) as they attempt to enhance social functioning.