# HUMAN SERVICES
What can I do with this degree?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PUBLIC WELFARE</strong></td>
<td>Administration and Planning, Case Management, Advocacy, Program Evaluation, Policy Setting, Volunteer Coordination</td>
<td>Public welfare agencies, Federal, state and local government, Private social service agencies, Group homes, Religiously affiliated organizations, Drug and alcohol abuse centers</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS</strong></td>
<td>Counseling/Therapy, Rehabilitation, Probation, Parole, Youth Services, Victim Assistance</td>
<td>Prisons and correctional facilities, Courts, Police departments, Probation and parole offices, Victim services organizations</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td><strong>GERONTOLOGY</strong></td>
<td>Advocacy, Intervention, Counseling, Case Management, Programming, Public Policy</td>
<td>Hospitals, Nursing and retirement homes, Senior centers, Hospice</td>
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<td>Gerontology involves working with older adults, healthy or ill, and their families. Get involved with programs/organizations designed for senior citizens.</td>
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<td><strong>CHILD WELFARE</strong></td>
<td>Case Management, Advocacy, Service Coordination</td>
<td>Public/private child welfare agencies, Adoption agencies, Foster care organizations, Daycare centers and nursery schools, YMCA, YWCA, Head Start programs</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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| **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES** | 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**             | 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**         | 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**

**EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETING**
- School (K-12) Interpreting
- College Interpreting
- Community Interpreting

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

**DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES**

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.

**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.

**BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**

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

**DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES**

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.

Prepared by the Career Planning staff of Career Services at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. (2000)
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