What Can I Do With A Major In: Social Work

Western Carolina University Center for Career and Professional Development
828.227.7133, careers.wcu.edu

DESCRIPTION
The undergraduate program offers a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree with a major in Social Work as preparation for a number of careers from public service to work in the private sector. Social workers help people solve and cope with problems in their everyday lives. Clinical social workers diagnose and treat mental, behavioral, and emotional issues.

WHAT JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?

| School-Based Social Worker | Child Protection Services | Youth Services |
| Health and Wellness Education | Mental Health Counseling | Refugee Services |
| Community Development | Social Planning | Nursing Homes |
| Foster Care | Clinical Social Worker | Corrections |
| Parole Departments | Probation Departments | Health Education |
| Community Health Worker | Marriage Therapist | Family Therapist |
| Correctional Treatment Specialist | Rehabilitation Counselors | School Counselor |
| Career Counselor | Human Service Assistant | Social Worker |
| Substance Abuse Counselor | Behavioral Disorder Counselor | Social Activist |
| General Therapist | Teacher | |

WHO EMPLOYS STUDENTS WITH THIS MAJOR?
Hospitals | Medical Centers | HMOs | Nursing Homes & Senior Centers | Social Service Agencies | Child Welfare Agencies | Adoption Agencies | Private & Public Schools | Head Start and Day Care Centers | Group Homes | Counseling Centers | International Aid Agencies | Federal, State, & Local Governments | Prison/Courts/Police/Victim Services | Corporation/Business/Labor Unions

INTERNERSHIP INFORMATION
At Western Carolina University there are numerous internship opportunities for students. In some cases internships are established through a faculty member in the student's major. Oftentimes students find part-time jobs in an area related to their field of study. When this happens, students should discuss with their academic advisor the possibility of receiving college credit. Generally, three hours of general elective credit can be earned for a minimum of 200 hours of experience.

Want to know more about the classes you will be taking as a Social Work Major, read about the eight semester plan:
WHAT SKILLS ARE LEARNED IN THE CLASSROOM?
Independent Worker | Information Handling & Organization | Curiosity and Creativity |
Statistical Awareness | Oral & Written Communication | Innovative Talents | Problem Solving |
Technical Skills | Teamwork

KNOWLEDGE
- Knowledge of social work ethical principles to guide professional practice
- Ability to critically think to inform and communicate professional judgements
- Engage in diversity and difference in practice
- Advance human rights and social and economic justice
- Engage in research-informed practice and practice-informed research
- Apply theories and knowledge of human behavior and the social environment
- Engage in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services
- Recognize and respond to the changing contexts that shape all levels of practice
- Engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate with individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES
- National Association of Social Workers: http://www.naswdc.org
- Tip: Join LinkedIn groups that are related to your career interest. Need help finding groups? Check out the “Groups You May Like” link under the Interests/Groups tab. Review the groups that professionals in your field of interest have joined and consider joining them as well.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOURCES

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Department of Social Work
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