

# HUMAN SERVICES

## What can I do with this degree?

### AREAS

### EMPLOYERS

### DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES

#### SOCIAL SERVICES/NONPROFIT

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

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

**Social services are designed to provide 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 gain relevant experience and demonstrate interest.

#### 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 rehabilitating clients and assisting victims.**

Obtain experience by volunteering at a corrections facility or a victim services organization such as a rape crisis center.

#### GERONTOLOGY

Advocacy  
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.**

Become involved with programs or organizations designed for senior citizens.

#### CHILD WELFARE

Case Management  
Advocacy  
Service Coordination

Public or private child welfare agencies  
Adoption agencies  
Foster care organizations  
Day care centers and nursery schools  
Recreational facilities (i.e., YMCA or YWCA)  
Head Start programs

**Child welfare workers strive to ensure the safety and well-being of children through interventions and programming.**

Volunteer at day care centers, children's shelters, camps, YMCA/YWCA, Scouts, or other agencies that aid youth and children.

Take additional courses in child development or early childhood education.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES
<p><b><u>DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES</u></b> Case Management Advocacy Program Planning and Evaluation Policy Development Rehabilitation</p>	<p>Community residential homes State and local agencies Medical facilities Mental health organizations Schools Employment agencies Vocational Rehabilitation</p>	<p><b>Human services workers specializing in this area help people with disabilities to adjust to and lead productive lives.</b> Volunteer at special needs camps, child care centers, schools, or hospitals to gain experience. Gain experience with and knowledge of a variety of disabilities. Obtain specialized training in areas such as sign language or assistive technology for additional opportunities. Earn a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling for opportunities in Vocational Rehabilitation.</p>
<p><b><u>HEALTHCARE</u></b> Case Management Counseling Program Development Administration Rehabilitation</p>	<p>Hospitals Community health centers Outpatient clinics Public health programs Health maintenance organizations (HMOs) Nursing homes Group homes Hospice</p>	<p><b>Human services workers in health care facilitate the medical and emotional treatment of patients.</b> Volunteer in health related settings such as hospitals or the American Red Cross to gain experience. Supplement curriculum with course work in nursing or health. Complete appropriate prerequisites for entrance into professional programs such as occupational therapy, physician's assistant, or physical therapy.</p>
<p><b><u>ADMINISTRATION</u></b> Management Policy Development Planning</p>	<p>Family service agencies Child welfare departments Social service agencies State mental health departments Employee assistance programs Probation departments Public interest groups Local, state, and federal government</p>	<p><b>Administrators are involved with planning, budgeting, public relations, management, fund raising, and other crucial operating responsibilities that keep an organization functioning.</b> 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. Supplement curriculum with course work in areas such as public relations, advertising, accounting, or management.</p>

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES

### EDUCATION

Teaching  
Interpreting  
Case Management  
Student Affairs

Universities and colleges  
Public (K-12) school systems  
Private (K-12) school systems  
Human service agencies  
Private learning centers  
Free-lance tutors or consultants

**Human services graduates working in education focus on providing instruction for a wide range of students including children with disabilities as well as adult community members.**  
Learn American Sign Language and manually coded forms of English for specialized opportunities.  
Volunteer in schools or programs that serve disabled children.  
Obtain appropriate teacher licensure for public school teaching opportunities.  
Earn a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling, mental health counseling, school counseling, social work, or college student personnel.  
Seek campus leadership positions such as peer mentor or resident assistant.  
Obtain a doctorate degree for teaching and research opportunities in colleges and universities.

### BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Human Resources  
Management  
Sales  
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 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 desk top publishing.  
Gain experience through part-time jobs, summer jobs, and internships in business environments.

### 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 diverse range of clients and client systems including individuals, families, groups, communities, and minorities.

# What can I do with this degree?

## HUMAN SERVICES

### Human Services Links:

[Human Services Career Network](#)

[Social Work and Social Services Jobs Online](#)

[The Chronicle of Philanthropy](#)

[American Counseling Association](#)

[National Board for Certified Counselors](#)

[National Association of the Deaf](#)

[Deaf Linx](#)

[Idealist](#)

[Social and Human Service Assistants from Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

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#### SOCIAL SERVICES/NONPROFIT

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Advocacy  
Program Evaluation  
Policy Development  
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### EMPLOYERS

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

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### AREAS

#### CRIMINAL JUSTICE/CORRECTIONS

Counseling/Therapy  
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Probation  
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Victim Assistance

### **EMPLOYERS**

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

### **DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES**

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Obtain experience by volunteering at a corrections facility or a victim services organization such as a rape crisis center.

### **AREAS**

#### **GERONTOLOGY**

Advocacy  
Counseling  
Case Management  
Programming  
Public Policy

### **EMPLOYERS**

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Senior centers  
Hospice

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Gerontology involves working with older adults, healthy or ill, and their families.

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#### **CHILD WELFARE**

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## **AREAS**

### **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Case Management  
Advocacy  
Program Planning and Evaluation  
Policy Development  
Rehabilitation

## **EMPLOYERS**

Community residential homes  
State and local agencies  
Medical facilities  
Mental health organizations  
Schools  
Employment agencies  
Vocational Rehabilitation

## **DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES**

Human services workers specializing in this area help people with disabilities to adjust to and lead productive lives.

Volunteer at special needs camps, child care centers, schools, or hospitals to gain experience.

Gain experience with and knowledge of a variety of disabilities.

Obtain specialized training in areas such as sign language or assistive technology for additional opportunities. Earn a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling for opportunities in Vocational Rehabilitation.

## **AREAS**

### **HEALTH CARE**

Case Management  
Counseling  
Program Development  
Administration  
Rehabilitation

## **EMPLOYERS**

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

## **DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES**

Human services workers in health care facilitate the medical and emotional treatment of patients.

Volunteer in health related settings such as hospitals or the American Red Cross to gain experience. Supplement curriculum with course work in nursing or health.

Complete appropriate prerequisites for entrance into professional programs such as occupational therapy, physician's assistant, or physical therapy.

## **AREAS**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Management

Policy Development

Planning

## **EMPLOYERS**

Family service agencies

Child welfare departments

Social service agencies

State mental health departments

Employee assistance programs

Probation departments

Public interest groups

Local, state, and federal government

## **DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES**

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### **EDUCATION**

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## **EMPLOYERS**

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licensure for public school teaching opportunities. Earn a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling, mental health counseling, school counseling, social work, or college student personnel. Seek campus leadership positions such as peer mentor or resident assistant. Obtain a doctorate degree for teaching and research opportunities in colleges and universities.

## **AREAS**

### **BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**

Human Resources

Management

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

## **DESCRIPTIONS/STRATEGIES**

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

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Prepared by the Career Planning staff of Career Services at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. (2005) UTK is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA Employer