



What can I do with a Major in...

Social Work

What is Social Work at U of L?

The Kent School of Social Work seeks to prepare competently trained social workers who practice from a strong professional value base to serve the metropolitan mission of the university. These social workers are educated to practice with individuals, families, and communities and to promote social justice. In the context of a research institution, the Kent School is committed to knowledge development that informs the practice of social work, recognizing the importance of collaboration among differing disciplines to solve complex social problems.

Degrees in Social Work at U of L:

Bachelor of Social Work

Master of Science in Social Work (M.S.S.W.)
(Specialized Curriculum)

Marriage and Family Therapy

School Social Work

Alcohol and Drug Counselor Specialization

Gerontology Specialization

International Social Work

MSSW and Women's and Gender Studies Dual Degree

MSSW and Pan-African Studies Dual Degree

MSSW and Law Dual Degree

MSSW and Divinity Dual Degree

Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work (Ph. D.)

Post Master's Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy

Occupational Overview

Social work is the profession that promotes or restores the relationships between people and their environment in order to improve the quality of life for individuals, families, communities, or organizations. Social work traces its historical roots to the end of the 1800s and social work activities then and now work toward the improvement of social conditions and the alleviation of social problems. Working with individuals, families, small groups, communities, or organizations social workers are viewed as caring individuals who strive to enhance personal competencies, facilitate linkages between people and their access to necessary social supports, advocate on behalf of society's disenfranchised minorities, and create social service organizations that are responsive to human needs.



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Employment Requirements

Social workers are typically required to have a bachelor's degree in social work (BSW) or higher. A Master's degree in social work (MSW) can provide opportunities for advancement into clinical social work or social services management. Social workers must be licensed by the state in which they work. State licensure requirements vary, but most require a BSW and successful completion of a competency examination.

Career Opportunities in Social Work:

Agency Director
Deputy Director
International Social Worker
Aging/Gerontology
Developmental Child Welfare/Children's Services
Manager/Administrator Disabilities
Eligibility Specialist Mental /Clinical Social Worker
Case Worker
Executive Director
Policy & Planning
Specialist Community
Org. Dir. Social Worker
Policy Advocate Consultant
Food Stamp Administrator
Policy Analyst School
Social Worker
Health Care Specialist
Program Manager
Teacher
Supervisor
Research Analyst
Criminal Justice/Corrections Specialist
Substance Abuse Counselor
Employment/ Occupational Social Worker
Intake Counselor

Employers/Industries and Success Strategies:

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. Social 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.



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School systems may employ social workers to help students cope with and resolve emotional, developmental, or educational difficulties. Gain experience with children at daycare centers, camps, or Scouts. Gerontology involves working with older adults, healthy or ill, and their families. Get involved with programs or organizations designed for senior citizens.

Related Links in the Social Work Discipline:

Professional Association Links

National Association of Social Workers
Clinical Social Work Federation
American Network of Home Health Care Social Workers
American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy
American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work, <http://www.abecsw.org>
KY Board of Social Work
NASW - KY Chapter NASW National Chapter
UK Continuing Education

Career Planning Links

<http://www.abacon.com/socwk/quiz/>
<http://www.socialworker.com/career.html>
<http://www.idealists.org>
<http://www.saludos.com/cguide/cswguide.html>
<http://www.fedworld.gov/jobs/jobsearch.html>
Social Work Access Network, <http://cosw.sc.edu/swan>
Social Work Café, http://www.geocities.com/swcafe_2000/swcafe.html
Social Work Exam Prep, <http://www.socialworkexam.com>
Social Work Organizations, <http://cosw.sc.edu/swan/organizations>

Salary/Outlook Info

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment opportunities in social work are expected to increase faster than average. A growing older population will create a larger need for social services, particularly in the field of gerontology. Substance abuse programs, nursing homes, hospice, and long-term care facilities are expected to have the most opportunities for employment.

The salary of social workers varies significantly depending on their educational level, their amount of responsibility, and the setting in which they work. In 2002, child, family, and school social workers earned a median annual income of \$33,150. The highest salary in this group went to those in elementary and secondary schools. Social workers in hospitals earned the highest of medical and public health social workers, with a median annual income of \$37,380. Mental health and substance abuse social workers earned a median annual income of \$32,850.

Social work administrators and managers are often more highly paid than other social work



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employees because of their greater educational requirements and responsibilities. The median annual income of social work administrators and managers is \$43,080.



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