

social work

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

the future is in your

Hands

careers
in social work

master of social work



why
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★ Choice of Educational Tracks

Full Time On-Campus

Part Time On-Campus

Web-Hybrid

Advanced Standing

★ Highest Professional Standards

★ Community Based Practicums

★ Curriculum for 21st Century Practice

★ Beautiful Campus Setting in South Georgia

★ Highly Qualified, Caring Faculty

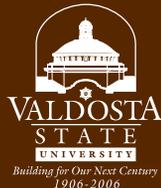
★ Individual Attention

★ Cutting-edge Instructional Technology

★ Financial Aid (Title IVE DFCS Grant)

★ CSWE Accredited

application deadline
march 15



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what is social work?

Professional social workers assist individuals, families, groups, and communities in restoring or enhancing their capacity for social functioning, while creating societal conditions that support positive change. The practice of social work requires expertise in human development and behavior; knowledge of social, economic and cultural institutions; and awareness of the interaction of all these factors.

Social workers help people to overcome some of life's most difficult challenges: poverty, discrimination, abuse, family violence, addiction, physical illness, divorce, loss, unemployment, educational problems, disability, and mental illness. They help to prevent crises and counsel individuals, families, and communities to cope more effectively with the stressors of everyday life.

Professional social workers are found in every facet of community life - schools, hospitals, mental health clinics, senior centers, elected office, private practice, forensic settings, military, corporations, and in numerous other public and private agencies that serve individuals and families in need. Social workers often specialize in one or more of the following practice areas:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Treatment of Mental Illness | Community Mental Health |
| Disaster Relief | Employee Assistance |
| Military Social Work | Private Practice |
| Rural Social Work | Veterans Services |
| Adoption & Foster Care | Child Abuse & Neglect |
| Child Welfare Services | Domestic Violence |
| Family Preservation Services | Political Development |
| Homeless Family Assistance | Parent Education |
| Eating Disorders | Family Planning |
| Genetics | HIV/AIDS |
| Hospital Social Work | School Alternative Programs |
| Crisis Intervention | Difficulties in School |
| School Violence | Gerontology Services |
| Hospice & Palliative Care | Community-Based Services |
| Depression | In-Home Services |
| Institutional Care | Senile Dementia & Alzheimer's |
| Chronic Pain | Addictions Prevention & Treatment |
| Outpatient Treatment | Criminal Justice |
| Development Disabilities | Housing Assistance |
| International Social Work | Public Welfare |
| Advocacy, Consulting & Planning | Employment Services |



Careers in social work

Aging and Gerontology

The U.S. population is aging. This translates into a tremendous need for social work with older persons and their families. Working with older adults can mean involvement with active, healthy clients as well as those who are ill, in settings that range from adult day care centers and nursing homes to hospitals, public agencies, and private corporations.

Child Welfare

Child welfare social workers help ensure the health and well-being of children by intervening when children are abused or neglected, when a family is in trouble, or when parents have problems. This field is both difficult and challenging, requiring training, skill, and sensitivity.

Community Organization

A social worker in community organizing usually works with an existing organization to address issues that concern people in a neighborhood, workplace, or community. Community organizers coordinate and facilitate activities to improve social conditions, enhance the quality of life, and bring people into the political process.

Developmental Disabilities

People with developmental disabilities, which can include mental retardation, cerebral palsy, autism, epilepsy, and other conditions, may at some time seek social services. The goal of the social worker is to assist such people in improving their functioning and social adjustment which can mean the difference between merely surviving or leading a productive and joyful life.

Health Care

Social workers are needed in hospitals, clinics, and other medical and health care settings to facilitate medical and emotional treatment. Social workers are vital members of the health care team, working in concert with doctors, nurses, and other health and mental health professionals.

Justice and Corrections

Social workers can be found in courts, rape crisis centers, police departments, and correctional facilities. Social workers can serve as probation and parole officers, they can help with victim assistance services, help police with domestic disputes or provide trauma and critical incident services to enforcement officers.

School Social Work

Many school systems employ social workers to help children with emotional, developmental, or educational needs. Working with teams of other school personnel, social workers help children with physical or learning disabilities or emotional problems or who face child abuse, neglect, domestic violence, poverty, or other problems that serve as barriers to learning.

Management and Administration

Social work administration includes many elements common to administration in other organizations, but it also entails knowledge of human behavior, social problems, social services, and values. Administrators chart the course of virtually all social services and can make a real difference by ensuring that agencies provide quality services equitably to those in need.

CAREERS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



why social work?

- * You will make a real difference in the lives of individuals, families and communities.
- * Social work is a top career for job satisfaction and autonomy.
- * The MSW degree prepares students for clinical practice and licensure in social work.
- * You will enjoy opportunities for professional growth and advancement throughout your career.
- * Master Social Workers are qualified to practice with diverse populations in multiple settings.
- * Social work is one of the fastest growing careers – expected to grow by 30 percent by 2010.

careers in social work

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Mental Health and Clinical Social Work

Clinical social workers supply more than half of the counseling and therapy services in the United States. Social work is designated as one of the four core mental health professions under federal legislation that established the National Institute of Mental Health.

Occupational Social Work

Occupational social workers may help corporations re-engineer their structure and methods to improve efficiency, creativity, productivity, and morale or they may be involved in job counseling or organizing.

Policy and Planning

Social workers in this field address problems such as child abuse, homelessness, substance abuse, poverty, mental illness, violence, unemployment, and racism. They work to improve systems by analyzing policies, programs, and regulations to see which are most effective in solving these social problems.

Politics

There is a natural progression in the careers of many social workers from activism to leadership. Increasingly, social workers are seeking elective offices from school boards to city and county governments, from state legislature all the way to the U.S. Congress.

Public Welfare

For more than four decades, public welfare has provided income and support services to society's most vulnerable people - children, the ill, the elderly, the disabled. Social workers are primarily the administrators, managers, and program evaluators of the public welfare system.

International Social Work

International social work can involve direct services in refugee programs, relief efforts, intercountry adoptions and development, health care, and education. The United Nations employs social workers in both urban and rural projects.

Research

Social work researchers investigate the effectiveness of approaches, methods, or programs in assisting clients. Social work researchers also help agencies provide services more effectively and contribute to efforts to support and promote social change.