

What can I do with a major in **SOCIAL WORK** from Valparaiso University?

Description of major:

Social work is the profession that serves individuals, families, and communities who seek preventative and rehabilitative interventions for an improved quality of life. Focused on social and emotional development within the social environment, the scope of social work is national and international. The profession is social justice and action oriented. All states have licensing or certification requirements.

Relevant skills for a SOCIAL WORK major:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Apply non-intrusive methods ◆ Assess social conditions ◆ Conduct & explain social research ◆ Conduct field studies ◆ Develop project designs ◆ Evaluate ◆ Examine data ◆ Gather & organize data ◆ Have interpersonal communication skills ◆ Have proficiency on the computer ◆ Identify value systems ◆ Interact with people of differing backgrounds in various situations ◆ Interview ◆ Know community services ◆ Maintain records ◆ Make appropriate decisions & sound judgments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Observe human interactions ◆ Observe, evaluate & solve problems ◆ Plan long-term projects ◆ Reach new conclusions through comparative study ◆ Recognize cultural differences/similarities ◆ Recruit/coordinate research subjects ◆ Respond spontaneously and maintain composure in stressful situations ◆ Survey and sample ◆ Understand group dynamics ◆ Understand human behavior ◆ Use theory to develop an effective plan of intervention ◆ Utilize statistical applications ◆ Write grant proposals ◆ and others! |
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Sample work activities for Graduates in SOCIAL WORK (some may require an advanced degree)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency Director • Aging/Gerontology Specialist • Anthropologist • Assistant Director of Agency • Case Worker • Child Welfare/Children's Services Worker • Community Organization Director • Consultant • Cooperative Extension Worker • Criminal Justice/Corrections Specialist • Deputy Director • Developmental Disabilities Specialist • Drug Rehabilitation Counselor • Educator • Eligibility Specialist • Employment/Occupational Social Worker • Employee Assistance Administrator • Executive Director | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Services Social Worker • Food Stamp Administrator • Health Care Specialist • Historian • Human Services Worker • Intake Counselor • International Social Worker • Manager/Administrator • Market Research Analyst • Marriage & Family Therapist • Medical Social Worker • Mental /Clinical Social Worker • Minister • Peace Corps Volunteer • Police Officer • Policy & Planning Specialist • Policy Advocate • Policy Analyst |
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- Probation Officer
- Program Manager
- Psychiatric Social Worker
- Psychologist
- Research Analyst
- School Counselor
- School Psychologist
- School Social Worker
- Social Worker
- Sociologist
- Substance Abuse Counselor
- Supervisor
- Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
- Youth Minister
- and others!

Potential hiring institutions for SOCIAL WORK majors:

- ◆ Adoption agencies
- ◆ Advocacy groups
- ◆ Child care facilities
- ◆ Child welfare organizations
- ◆ Churches
- ◆ Corporations/businesses
- ◆ County Health Departments
- ◆ Local & state courts
- ◆ Department of Social Services
- ◆ Elementary & secondary schools
- ◆ Employee Assistance programs
- ◆ Government agencies – local, state & federal (other than listed)
- ◆ Head Start programs/pre-schools
- ◆ Homeless shelters
- ◆ Hospitals & medical centers
- ◆ Human rights organizations
- ◆ International aid organizations

Area of further education for SOCIAL WORK majors:

- Art Therapy
- Business Administration
- Child & Family Studies
- Clinical Psychology
- Dance Therapy
- Drama Therapy
- Education
- Gerontology
- Higher Education
- Law
- Marriage & Family Therapy
- Music Therapy
- Psychology
- Rehabilitation Counseling
- School Psychology
- Social Work
- Student Personnel
- and others!

Sources of additional information for SOCIAL WORK majors:

- ◆ VU Department of Social Work: <http://www.valpo.edu/socwork/>
- ◆ VU Majors & Areas of Study: <http://www.valpo.edu/cas/departments/socialwork.html>
- ◆ Occupational Outlook Handbook: the US Bureau of Labor Statistics compiles information about various occupations, including the nature of the work, the job outlook, the earnings, and other relevant information. <http://www.bls.gov/oco/oco1002.htm>
- ◆ American Association of Marriage & Family Therapy: is the professional association for the field of marriage and family therapy. <http://www.aamft.org>
- ◆ American Mental Health Counselor's Association: enhances the profession of mental health counseling through licensing, advocacy, education and professional development. <http://www.amhca.org>
- ◆ Amnesty International: Online information about the international human rights organization. <http://www.amnesty.org/>
- ◆ Association for Community Organization and Social Administration: a membership organization for community organizers, planners, activists, administrators, policy practice specialists, students, and professors. <http://www.acosa.org>
- ◆ Careers in Government: Job opportunities with local, state & federal agencies. <http://www.careersingovernment.com>
- ◆ Ministry Search: - Christian ministry job positions. <http://www.ministrysearch.com/>
- ◆ North American Association of Christian Social Workers: NACSW supports the integration of Christian faith and professional social work practice in the lives of its members, the profession and the church, promoting love and justice in social service and social reform. <http://www.nacsw.org/index.shtml>

- ◆ National Association of Social Workers: the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world. Site includes a Jobs page and a page on "Choices: Careers in Social Work"
<http://www.socialworkers.org/>
- ◆ Opportunity NOCs: connects you with a full range of employment and human-resources-related information and services. <http://www.opportunitynocs.org/>
- ◆ Philanthropy News Network: the voice of the nonprofit world and the marketplace for products and services nonprofits need. Site includes nonprofit jobs. <http://pnnonline.org/>
- ◆ SocialService.Com: is a great place for social workers and other social service professionals to start looking for a social service or social work job, whether in mental health, substance abuse, children and youth, medical social work, criminal justice, domestic violence, counseling, community organizing and outreach, homelessness or a variety of other areas. <http://www.socialservice.com>
- ◆ The Chronicle of Philanthropy: is the newspaper of the nonprofit world. Site includes jobs. <http://philanthropy.com>
- ◆ The New Social Worker Online: information and resources for social workers. www.socialworker.com

VU Career Center Resource Library Materials:

- *100 Best Nonprofits To Work For*
- *Alternatives To The Peace Corps: A Directory Of Third World And Us Volunteer Opportunities*
- *Book Of U.S. Government Jobs: Where They Are, What's Available, And How To Get One*
- *Career Opportunities In Education*
- *Career Opportunities In Law And The Legal Industry*
- *Career Opportunities In Politics, Government & Activism*
- *Career Paths In Psychology: Where Your Degree Can Take You*
- *Careers For Caring People & Other Sensitive Types*
- *Careers For Good Samaritans & Other Humanitarian Types*
- *Careers For Kids At Heart & Others Who Adore Children*
- *Careers For Talkative Types & Others With The Gift Of Gab*
- *Careers For Women As Clergy*
- *Careers In Sociology*
- *Civil Service Career Starter*
- *Days In The Lives Of Social Workers: 41 Professionals Tell "Real-Life" Stories From Social Work Practice*
- *Education For Action: Undergraduate And Graduate Programs That Focus On Social Change*
- *Electronic Federal Resume Guidebook & Cd-Rom*
- *Essays That Worked For Law Schools: 35 Essays From Successful Applications To The Nation's Top Law Schools*
- *Federal Personnel Guide 2003*
- *Field Placement Directory*
- *For The Common Good: Internships With Social & Community Service Agencies 2003*
- *Government Job Finder*
- *Graduate Programs In Education*
- *GRE Exam 2003*
- *Great Jobs For Liberal Arts Majors*
- *Guide To America's Federal Jobs: A Complete Directory Of Federal Career Opportunities*
- *Guide To Selecting And Applying To Master Of Social Work Programs*
- *Harvard Business School Guide To Careers In The Nonprofit Sector*
- *Human Care Services Directory Of Metropolitan Chicago*
- *Human Rights Internship Book*
- *Jobs And Careers With Nonprofit Organizations: Profitable Opportunities With Nonprofits*
- *Law Schools*
- *Liberal Arts Jobs: The Guide That Turns Learning Into Earning*
- *LSAT 2003*
- *Non-Profits Job Finder*
- *One L*
- *Opportunities In Counseling And Development Careers*
- *Opportunities In Educational Support Careers*
- *Opportunities In Federal Government Careers*
- *Opportunities In Gerontology And Aging Services Careers*
- *Opportunities In Government Careers*
- *Opportunities In Homecare Services Careers*
- *Opportunities In Law Careers*
- *Opportunities In Mental Health Careers*
- *Opportunities In Nonprofit Organization Careers*
- *Opportunities In Psychology Careers*
- *Opportunities In Social Science Careers*
- *Opportunities In Social Work Careers*
- *Opportunities In Your Own Service Business*
- *Peterson's Game Plan For Getting Into Law School*
- *Peterson's Graduate Programs In Business, Education, Health, Information Studies, Law & Social Work*
- *Peterson's Graduate Programs In The Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences*

- *Porter County Resource Directory*
- *Project Book*
- *Real Resumes For Social Work & Counseling Jobs*
- *Response ... Directory Of Volunteer Opportunities*
- *Resumes For Government Careers*
- *Resumes For Social Service Careers*
- *So You Want To Be A Lawyer: A Practical Guide To Law As A Career*
- *Social Work Career Development: A Handbook For Job Hunting And Career Planning*
- *Student's Guide To Legal Internships*
- *and others!*

For more information about majoring in SOCIAL WORK, contact:

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For more questions about your career decisions, please make an appointment with a VU Career Counselor by calling 464-5005, stopping by the Career Center in Alumni Hall or e-mailing us at Career.Center@valpo.edu
