

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE

SOCIAL WORK





A LIFE-CHANGING CAREER — A GROWING FIELD

If helping to make life better for others sounds appealing, social work may be the career for you. Social workers provide valuable help to people facing life's problems and challenges, whether related to stress, addiction, poverty, mental illness, disability, physical illness, divorce, abuse, discrimination, death, unemployment, military deployment or other issues. Social workers provide about 80 percent of all mental health services in the United States.

According to the United States Department of Labor's U.S. Bureau of Statistics, social work is one of the fastest-growing professions in the country. In fact, projections call for a 19 percent increase in social work jobs for the decade ending in 2022.

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

There's nothing quite like learning by doing, so all of our social work students complete an internship during their final semester. We partner with about 140 agencies, including the Department of Children and Family Services, private child welfare agencies, legal services, hospitals, hospice, adoption centers, substance abuse treatment programs, mental health centers, nursing homes, prisons, counseling centers and many others. This gives our students the chance to put their skills to use as they gain practical experience completing 420 hours of supervised professional work. There also is an integrative weekly seminar on campus where students share their experiences and learn from one another.

GET INVOLVED FROM DAY 1

Social work students have the opportunity to get involved in campus social work organizations as soon as they arrive at SIU, getting firsthand practical experience, developing leadership skills and building knowledge as they network with their peers. The Social Work Student Alliance, the National Association of Black Social Workers Student Chapter and the National Association of Social Workers are campus groups that offer a wide variety of opportunities, including guest speakers, job-placement workshops and visits to area agencies. They also forge connections among members, and with mentors and professionals in the field of social work.

EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES

You can also choose to expand your area of knowledge through our Study Abroad program options. Learn about social work in Germany.

And if you want to enhance your education after completing your bachelor's degree, you can do so right here at SIU. We offer one-year and two-year Master's in Social Work programs, designed to fit your schedule and needs.



ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

Professional social workers can find employment in more than 50 different fields. Social work graduates have many career paths open to them.

WE'RE TOP-NOTCH

U.S. News and World Report ranks our social work program among the top 100 of all programs in the United States. Both our bachelor's degree and master's degree programs are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, the national social work accrediting agency. This accreditation gives our graduates an advantage in the job market or if they decide to pursue graduate education.

Many positions require an undergraduate or graduate degree from an accredited program. To receive an Illinois license, you must earn an undergraduate social work degree from an accredited program, have at least three years of supervised professional experience and pass the Department of Professional Regulation exam.

PICK YOUR PASSION

At SIU, you can focus on the area of social work that most interests YOU. We offer concentrations in children, youth and families, and in health and mental health. We also have a program leading to Illinois licensure as a school social worker and our master's program offers a certificate in gerontology.

LEARN FROM OUR EXPERTS

Our students learn from highly qualified faculty members who all hold doctoral or master's degrees in social work or related fields. They have extensive experience in the field and give students a learning experience that melds classroom activities, practical learning and the opportunities to work alongside them in relevant research.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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