

Psychology (B.A.) Social Services Track

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Potential Career Paths

- Social Worker (MSW)
- Substance Abuse Counselor (MA)
- Social and Human Services Assistants
- Probation Officers (BA)
- Correctional Treatment Specialists (BA)
- Clinical Psychologist (MA, PhD, PsyD)
- Counseling Psychologist (MA, PhD, PsyD)

Potential Graduate Programs

- Social Work (MSW)
- Clinical Psychology (PhD, PsyD)
- Counseling (PhD, MA)

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What are Social Services?

The goal of social services is to provide support to individuals and families by promoting personal responsibility and independence to the highest level possible, regardless of disability or disorder. Social services provide opportunities for individuals to achieve their fullest potential.

Some of the services offered by the social and human service agencies include adoption services, adult and aging, child support, victim services, mental health, vocational rehabilitation, financial assistance, and services to the blind and visually impaired, to name a few.

Social and human service workers are employed in a variety of settings, from hospitals, rehabilitation programs, outpatient clinics, to schools, prisons, and government agencies.

There are several career paths one may choose within social and human services with varying levels of education and training requirements. Some of the social service professions require licensure and/or certification as well as more advanced degrees or graduate training, such as

clinical and counseling psychologists, social workers, and substance abuse counselors.

The purpose of the social services track is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of psychology while preparing students to meet the requirements for entry-level positions as a social service worker. The social services track is also an excellent program for those who plan to seek advanced graduate degrees in the clinical, counseling, and social work fields.



Additional Resources

To learn more about social services, here is what you can do.

1 Visit the website of Division 37 (Society for Child and Family Policy and Practice), Division 9 (Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues), Division 12 (Society of Clinical Psychology), and Division 53 (Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology) of the American Psychological Association, www.apa.org. Also, visit the website of the National Association of Social Workers, www.socialworkers.org

2 Schedule a meeting with a social service worker, mental health provider, or faculty member in the mental health field to learn more about the profession.

If you are interested in pursuing a career in social/human services be sure to work with an advisor to develop an academic plan that is tailored to your interests. Your plan should lead to the completion of coursework that is useful for an entry level position in the social services field or for admission to a graduate program in the social services field.

University and College Requirements

In addition to the requirements for the social services track, which are listed below, be sure to complete all other university and college requirements, including the foreign language requirement.

If you are planning to start college-level foreign language with a course beyond 111, you are advised to begin foreign language in your first year. If you are starting foreign language with 111, begin language courses no later than the junior year.

Required Courses in Psychology

PSY 101	General Psychology (5)	PSY 308	Human Judgment (4)	Social/Organizational—at least two of the following:	
PSY 221	Statistics (5)			PSY 261	Industrial and Org (4)
PSY 226	Research Methods (4)			PSY 310	Motivation (4)
<i>PSY 390</i>	<i>Research in Psy (1-15, 15 max)</i>	Developmental—at least two of the following:		<i>PSY 336</i>	<i>Social Psychology (4)</i>
<i>PSY 489</i>	<i>Fieldwork in Psy (1-5, 5 max)</i>	PSY 273	Child & Adolescent (4)	PSY 337	Social Psych of Justice (4)
		PSY 315	Behavior Genetics (5)	PSY 361	Adv Org Psychology (4)
		PSY 374	Adulthood & Aging (4)	PSY 362	Personnel Psychology (4)
Biological—at least one of the following:		PSY 376	Disorders of Childhood (4)		
PSY 201	Sensation & Perception (4)	PSY 378	Psychology of Gender (4)		
PSY 203	Learning (4)	PSY 470	Prenatal Infl on Dev (4)		
<i>PSY 312</i>	<i>Physiological Psych (4)</i>	Clinical—at least two of the following:			
PSY 314	Comparative Psych (5)	PSY 233	Psych of Personality (4)		
PSY 327	Human Psychophys (4)	PSY 332	Abnormal Psych (4)		
PSY 380	Psy of Health & Ill (4)	PSY 341	Tests and Measures (4)		
Cognitive—at least one of the following:		<i>PSY 351</i>	<i>Intro to Clinical (4)</i>		
PSY 304	<i>Learning & Cog Proc (4)</i>	PSY 430	Psychoactive Drugs (4)		
PSY 305	Human Memory (4)				
PSY 307	Psycholinguistics (4)				

Note: Courses in **bold** are required for the social services track and courses in *italics* are recommended.

The following courses are recommended if you are planning on pursuing the doctoral degree in clinical or counseling psychology:

PSY 321	Advanced Statistics (5)
PSY 418	History & Systems of Psy (4)

Extra-Departmental Required Courses

Psychology majors with a Social/Human Services track must complete three courses in ONE of the following natural science areas: Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Environmental and Plant Biology, Geography, Geology, or Physics. Courses that fulfill this requirement are listed under the Natural Sciences Area Requirement in the College of Arts and Sciences section of the catalog. The three courses that you choose must have the same departmental prefix, with the following exception: BIOL 101 may be combined with either two Environmental/Plant Biology (PBIO) courses or two Biological Sciences (BIOS) courses. It is highly recommended that students who intend to go to graduate school in social/human services complete three courses in Biological Sciences.

Psychology majors with a Social/Human Services track must complete two courses in either mathematics or computer science. Students may select any two courses in Mathematics (MATH) 113 or above except (251) OR any two courses in Computer Science (CS) 200 or above. You may choose MATH 250, but only if completed BEFORE you take PSY 221.

Required Courses for Social Services Minor

A Social Services Minor is recommended for those students interested in pursuing a Master's in Social Work, Master's in Counseling Education, or a bachelor's level job in a social service-related field. Note: The minor does not make you eligible for licensure in states regulating the practice of social work.

Complete a minimum of 29 hours including the following and at least four other social work courses at the 300 level or above:

SW 102	Intro to Soc Work & Soc Welfare (4)
SW 190	Social Work as a Profession (2)
SW 290	Soc Welfare as an Institution (4)
SW 390	Social Policy (4)

Social Services Electives

SW 380	Child Abuse & Neglect (4)
SW 381	Counseling Older Adults (4)
SW 382	Alcohol Problems (4)
SW 383	Social Welfare Law (4)
SW 410	Intl Soc Work & Soc Wel (4)
SW 440	Mental Health & Soc Work (4)
SW 450	Social Work in Health Care (4)
SW 470	Writing for Social Workers (4)
SW 486	Aging in American Society (4)

Additional courses

In addition to social work electives, the following courses are recommended and can be taken with permission of the instructor to fulfill the four course requirement:

SW 383	Soc Work Practice Methods (4)
SW 393	Dynamics of Human Beh I (4)
SW 394	Dynamics of Human Beh II (4)