



Human services equips future social agents to address the needs of highly diverse populations confronting issues such as poverty, substance abuse, mental health, aging, and relational crisis.

At Ottawa University

The Human and Social Services major provides an introduction to policies and programs designed to meet community needs among a variety of populations. Students analyze the social, legal, political, and governmental forces that influence the delivery of human services and gain abilities in program implementation, client interviewing, data gathering, counseling and consulting, and case management. This major follows guidelines of the National Organization for Human Service Education, which promotes the knowledge and skills needed by professionals who plan to commit their lives to serving others.

Careers

Social and human service assistants help social workers, health care workers and other professionals provide services to people to improve their quality of life. Careers in private and public sectors include welfare agencies, church ministries, community development programs, youth and adult group homes, senior centers, retirement and nursing homes, case management agencies, and homeless shelters.

Education and Qualifications

Formal education is almost always necessary for advancement. In general, advancement to case management, rehabilitation or social work jobs requires a bachelor's or master's degree in human services, counseling, rehabilitation, social work, or a related field. These workers should have a strong desire to help others, effective communication skills, a sense of responsibility, and the ability to manage time effectively.

Undergraduate Human and Social Services

Required Major Courses

SOC 10453 Introduction to Sociology

Introduces theory and method in social sciences as they relate to key concepts in the field of sociology including socialization, culture, status, stratification, conflict, and change.

HUS 20553 Introduction to Human Services

Broad overview of the profession of Human Services and the social welfare system. Examines historical developments of human services and social welfare and the knowledge, values and skills required to function in the role of a human services professional. Allows participants to evaluate their strengths as a potential human services professional. Introduces field experience. Prerequisite: PSY 12053 General Psychology or SOC 10153 Social Thought or SOC 10453 Introduction to Sociology.

HUS 30000 Social Welfare Issues

Overview of emerging issues in social welfare. Topics including culture and diversity, social justice, privatization and emerging technologies in the field of social welfare.

ADC 30000 Introduction to Substance Abuse Disorders and Addictions Counseling

Examines substance use disorders and process addictions inclusive of compulsive sexual behaviors, eating disorders, and pathological gambling.

HUS 30063 Human Behavior in the Social Environment

Study of theories and knowledge of human development across the lifespan within the wider context of a range of social systems. Social systems examined include individual, family, group, organizational, and community in which people live. The ways social systems promote or deter people in maintaining or achieving health and well-being are emphasized.

HUS 30253 Social Policy and the Community

Effects of social policy on practice; social policy analysis; process of policy formulation as it relates to human services and other social welfare professions.

PSY 30353 Psychopathology

Study of biological, psychological and sociocultural influences contributing to abnormal behavior patterns. Includes history, identification, diagnosis, and treatment of various psychopathological disorders.

SOC 30653 Ethnic Relations and Multiculturalism

Focuses on intergroup and intragroup experiences of various ethnic populations within the United States. Includes impact of integration, discrimination, prejudice, and social dynamics of conflict and assimilation to various groups. Prerequisite: SOC 10153 or SOC 10453

HUS 30654 Marriage and Family

Study of the function of marriage and family in contemporary American society, including the why of intimate relationships, couple/parent/child adjustment, three generational relationships, and the process of break-up and remarriage.

HUS 32000 Group Work in Human Services

Develops both knowledge and skills in facilitating group experiences used in the human services and helping professions. Particular emphasis on group processes for the psycho-emotional-social development of group participants.

HUS 36000 Statistics for the Social Sciences

Introduction to descriptive and inferential statistical techniques used in the social sciences. Topics include data collection procedures, measures of dispersion, correlation designs, probability, statistical inference, and analysis of variance.

HUS 40454 Ethics in Human Services

Examines ethical theories and application to practice and management of social service agencies. Explores relationship between federal/state regulations and the effect on client and provider.

HUS 40553 Skills and Techniques in Human Services I

Examine systems framework, skills, analysis of issues and current intervention strategies for working with individual clients and groups in diverse social service settings. Develop and enhance interviewing and effective communication skills. Opportunity for observation and participation in direct practice within a social service setting. Awareness of technology and art of human services practice.

HUS 40554 Skills and Techniques in Human Services II

Emphasis on skill development working with individuals, groups, families and community resources. Interviewing and/or counseling clients; in-depth analysis of case management in social service professions. Students will have the opportunity to begin direct practice in a social service setting as part of class work.

HUS 49000 Seminar in Human Services

Capstone course that provides student opportunity to integrate and synthesize key concepts and theories through analysis and evaluation of current topics and issues impacting the human services profession and its clients. Examines policy and legislation, agency mandates, trends in treatment, and evaluates the same for sustainability in society from three areas: equity, economic and environmental. Prerequisite: Most or all of the core required courses in the major must be completed or instructor permission.

Site-Specific Coursework

Other courses may be required for state certification/licensure. Please consult your advisor for details.