Potential Careers

NMU’s Social Work Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

Occupations

- Administration on Aging
- Adult Protective Services
- Alcohol & Drug Treatment Services
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Child Protective Services
- Children’s Bureau
- Children’s Mental Health
- Community Mental Health
- Courts
- Department of Defense
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Social Services
- Forensic Units
- Head Start
- Job Corps
- Long-Term Care Unit
- Mental Health Institution
- Police Departments
- Prisons
- Public Health Institution
- Public School Social Worker
- United Way

Additional Resources and Info

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
www.nmu.edu/acac

Department of Sociology and Social Work
130 Gries
906-227-2706
www.nmu.edu/sociology

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

Student Social Work/Sociology Organization
http://www.nmu.edu/soc_work/sswso.htm

Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.careerresource.net

For Career Information with National Organizations:
www.naswdc.org National Association of Social Workers
www.cswe.org Council on Social Work Education
www.sc.edu/swan Social Work Access Network

Current as of Fall 2015
Provided by:
The Academic & Career Advisement Center
Social Work

Social workers help individuals, families and communities manage and overcome social, personal and other problems. They work in many different settings and at multiple levels and can be found: connecting clients with needed services and resources, advocating for social change, managing and delivering public and private social service systems, providing crisis intervention, and offering life skills training.

The Bachelor’s in Social Work Program at NMU offers a generalist social work education and prepares students to work in many different capacities. Graduates have found successful careers in several areas, including: child protection, public welfare, health (as hospital social workers), education (as school social workers), mental health, and criminal justice agencies (as probation officers and social workers within correctional facilities).

Graduates earn a Bachelor’s in Social Work which allows them to take a licensing exam and become a licensed social worker. (License requirements vary by state. Michigan is a licensed state and many employers require them to have a license.)

Skills and Competencies

As in other degree programs, you will be exposed to a variety of academic coursework as a Social Work major. You will acquire a great number of new skills in the process. Your interpersonal communication, ability to assess situations, knowledge of community resources, ability to make decisions and ability to maintain composure will be enhanced. Also, objectivity, open-mindedness, and systematic work habits are important in all types of social work occupations.

Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with liberal studies and graduation requirements.

Core

- SW 100 Exploring Social Work (4 cr.)
- SW 230 Human Behavior in the Social Environment I (4 cr.)
- SW 308 Methods of Social Research II (4 cr.)
- SW 331 Human Behavior in the Social Environment II (4 cr.)
- SW 341 Social Welfare Policy (4 cr.)
- SW 370 Generalist Practice Methods I (4 cr.)
- SW 372 Generalist Practice Methods II (4 cr.)
- SW 440 Social Work Policy Analysis (4 cr.)
- SW 472 Social Work Practice w/ Diverse Populations (4 cr.)
- SW 473 Integrative Seminar I (2 cr.)
- SW 474 Integrative Seminar II (2 cr.)
- SW 480 Senior Field Placement I (4 cr.)
- SW 481 Senior Field Placement II (4 cr.)

Human Behavior Minor (Required)

- AN 100 Intro to Socio-Cultural Anthropology (4 cr.) or
- NAS 204 Native American Experience (4 cr.) or
- HS 233 Native American History (4 cr.) or
- HS 273 Gay and Lesbian History (4 cr.) or
- HS 283 American Women’s History (4 cr.)
- BI 100 Biological Science (4 cr.) or
- BI 104 Human Anatomy & Physiology (4 cr.) or
- BI 201 Human Anatomy (3 cr.) or
- BI 202 Human Physiology (5 cr.)
- EC 101 Introduction to Economics (4 cr.) or
- EC 201 Microeconomic Principles (4 cr.) or
- EC 202 Macroeconomic Principles (4 cr.) or
- EC 337 American Economic History (4 cr.)
- PY 100 Psychology as a Social/Natural Science (4 cr.)
- SO 101 Introductory Sociology (4 cr.)
- SO 208 Methods of Social Research (4 cr.) or
- MA 171 Intro to Probability & Statistics(4 cr.) or
- PY 305 Psychological Statistics (4 cr.)
- SO 372 Minority Groups (4 cr.) or
- SO 322 Social Class, Power and Mobility (4 cr.) or
- SO 362 Gender and Society (4 cr.)

Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship is a way to develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

Additional Considerations

Careers in these fields offer steady, stable employment. Positions are usually permanent after an initial probationary period. For occupational advancement, some additional education (beyond the baccalaureate level) may be required.

Working as a social worker can be both challenging and rewarding. Social workers are likely to encounter clients with serious social and personal problems. However, opportunities to create positive changes are great.

Job Outlook

The national employment rate for social workers is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations over the next several years. Job prospects are expected to be particularly favorable for: social workers who work with older adults, children (including school social workers) or families; mental health and substance abuse workers; medical and public health social workers (including hospital social workers); and social workers in rural areas.