

Major Planning Guide:

Social Work

What can I do with a degree in social work?

Students who major in social work usually plan to work as social workers after graduation. Students may find entry-level social work positions in public welfare agencies, private non-profit organizations, schools, adoption agencies, hospitals, and the criminal justice system. Social workers may coordinate support programs or serve as advocates or case managers for children and families, elderly people, disabled people, veterans, or people struggling with physical or mental illness, homelessness, or other serious challenges. To advance in the social work profession, a master's degree in social work (MSW) may be required.

Related Majors/Programs

Social Welfare
Social & Human Services
Early Childhood & Family Studies
BAS in Applied Behavioral Science
Psychology
Sociology
Public Health
Law, Society & Justice

Where can I earn a bachelor's degree in social work in Washington?

Many universities offer social work as an undergraduate major. You can use the College Navigator search engine found at <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator> to find social work programs in Washington state or around the country.

How do I prepare to major in social work?

Here are a few steps that we recommend you take to make sure that social work is the right choice for you. There are many different types of careers in social work, and it is important to do some research ahead of time to find the one that best fits your goals. An advisor can help you choose the transfer degree, and what courses you should take while you are here at Seattle Central.

Step One: Research

- Those who are undecided about a major/career can make an appointment with our Career Exploration Center in BE 1102E to take a career assessment test. This assessment can reveal your interests, values, and skills which then match you up with potential careers and programs that prepare you for specific career paths.
- Social work is offered at many universities, but not everywhere. Make sure your intended transfer university offers a social work major, unless you plan to major in another area for your bachelor's degree and pursue social work as a graduate degree.
- Student who wish to provide mental health counseling and therapy should plan on pursuing a master's degree.
- Our Transfer Center in BE 1102F can help find universities you are interested in attending and guide you through the application process.

Step Two: Pick a Degree

Students planning to major in social work often earn the Associates of Art (AA-DTA) degree. Advisors can help students understand what requirements are necessary for transfer. You may pick up a degree planning worksheet for the AA-DTA ([purple sheet](#)) in BE 1102 lobby.

Step Three: Make a Long Range Academic Plan

Students planning to major in social work at a university usually take courses in sociology, psychology, economics, political science, and biology, as well as general education requirements, to prepare to transfer. Many social work programs require statistics.

English	Science & Math	Social Science	Other Courses
<input type="checkbox"/> ENGL& 101	<input type="checkbox"/> BIOL 128	<input type="checkbox"/> PSYC& 100	<input type="checkbox"/> SHS 100
<input type="checkbox"/> ENGL& 102	<input type="checkbox"/> BIOL& 241	<input type="checkbox"/> PSYC 209	
	<input type="checkbox"/> BIOL& 242	<input type="checkbox"/> PSYC 222	
	<input type="checkbox"/> MATH& 146	<input type="checkbox"/> SOC& 101	

*Check prerequisites, admission requirements, and GPA requirements at your intended transfer university early so you can be well-prepared to transfer.

What are my next steps?

- Once you have had the chance to explore the career opportunities in social work you might want to schedule an appointment to meet with an advisor to plan out your course of study. You can make an appointment by stopping by the Advising office in BE 1102D or calling us at 206-934-4068. (*If you are an international student, please stop by International Education Programs in BE 1113*).
- Attend Transfer Fairs and Career & Networking Fairs hosted by our office throughout the year.
- Explore the professional organizations in your area of interest for more information about education and career options.

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