

Seattle Central College Transfer Major Planning Guide

SOCIAL WORK

What can I do with a major 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.

How can I prepare at Seattle Central for a major in social work?

Students planning to major in social work at a baccalaureate institution may take courses in **sociology, psychology, economics, political science, and biology, as well as general education requirements**, to prepare to transfer. Specific requirements vary according to the transfer university, so it is strongly recommended that students work with an advisor at Seattle Central as well as advisors at the universities where they are considering transferring to ensure they take the appropriate classes to be prepared to enter the major when they transfer.

Students planning to major in social work should consider earning the Associate of Arts – DTA degree to prepare to transfer.

Consider an emphasis to your associate degree before you transfer, such as Global Studies, Global Health or Equity and Social Justice. This can enhance your resume, personal experience and be something you put into your personal statement. You may even already have completed it without knowing it! For questions on how to plan your emphasis, please contact your advisor.

Tips for Success as a Social Work Major

- Many social work programs require statistics. If your math skills are weak or it has been some time since you took math, do not put off getting started! Depending on your placement scores, you may need to take math for several quarters before you are ready to take statistics.
- Check prerequisites, admission requirements, and GPA requirements at your intended transfer university early so you can be well-prepared to transfer.
- 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.
- Check both university *admission* and *graduation* requirements at your preferred transfer university as a guide to choosing your classes. Some universities, for example, may require a year of foreign language as a graduation requirement. It may be much easier (and cheaper!) to meet that requirement at Seattle Central rather than waiting until later.

Where can I earn a bachelor's degree in social work in the Seattle area?

Pacific Lutheran University – Social Work

Saint Martin's University – Social Work

Seattle University – Social Work

University of Washington, Seattle – Social Welfare (within the School of Social Work)

University of Washington, Tacoma – Social Welfare

You can use the College Navigator search engine found at <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/> to find additional social work programs in Washington State or around the country.

Next Steps:

- Research the universities you are interested in attending and the prerequisite classes they require for your major.
- Meet with an advisor to choose a transfer degree, discuss prerequisites, and plan what classes you need to take in the next quarter or two.
- Explore the professional organizations in your area of interest for more information about education and career options.