

Social Work *Endless Opportunities!*

Do you like helping people, families and communities?

What Is Social Work?

Social work is a profession with many different opportunities and areas, all with the common goal of helping individuals. According to the National Association of Social Workers: "Social workers are skilled professionals who work to empower individuals, relieve suffering and affect social change. They are generalists and specialists who work in a wide variety of settings but apply common core values, principles and techniques."

What Do Social Workers Do?

Social workers do a variety of jobs and work in many settings. Some of the major areas of social work are:

- counseling
- advocacy and community organization
- administration/management
- aging and gerontology
- substance abuse
- child and family welfare
- developmental disabilities
- health care social work
- international social work
- justice and corrections
- mental health and clinical social work
- occupational social work
- policy and planning
- politics
- public welfare
- research
- school settings



Educational Opportunities

What education/training do I need to work in social work?

Students interested in social work can obtain three levels of education. A Bachelor of Social Work (B.A.S.W.) is an undergraduate degree majoring in social work. This degree provides the foundation for entry into employment for many social work agencies. The Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) is a graduate degree that allows for advanced practice in the social work field. In most states, an M.S.W. is needed to provide mental health counseling. A doctorate in social work (Ph.D.) is needed for university-level teaching and research.

Social Work and Salisbury University

The Social Work Department at Salisbury University offers both B.A.S.W. and M.S.W. programs for those choosing a career in social work. The programs are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and offer the highest level of professionalism and preparedness for a career in social work. These programs are designed to work with students in a number of ways to meet today's standards. Some highlights of the social work program are:

- flexible class schedules
- small class size
- state-of-the-art learning technology
- satellite program for distance learning.



Additional information about these programs may be found on:

www.salisbury.edu/socialwork

Are There any Licensing Or Certification Requirements?

States regulate the practice of social work through licensing to protect both the public and the social work profession. This is done on a state-by-state basis, but the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) must accredit universities and social work programs. More information about individual state licensing can be found through the Association of Social Work Boards at: www.aswb.org.

For each level of licensure, you must successfully pass a licensing exam. For the LCSW and LCSW-C, supervision hours must be completed prior to taking the licensing exam.

Additional information about licensing in Maryland may be found at the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners at: www.dhmf.state.md.us/bswe



Though every state has specific requirements, there are four main levels of licensure in Maryland:

Licensure Level: **Licensed Bachelor Social Worker (LBSW)**
 Degree: Bachelor of Social Work
 Examination Level: Basic

Licensure Level: **Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW)**
 Degree: Master of Social Work
 Examination Level: Intermediate

Licensure Level: **Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW)**
 Degree: Master of Social Work
 Examination Level: Advanced

Licensure Level: **Licensed Certified Social Worker - Clinical (LCSW-C)**
 Degree: Master of Social Work
 Examination Level: Clinical

Then consider a career in social work!