

College of Education and Human Services
Department Social Work/Gerontology
Career Advising Guide

Major	Skills/Attributes Associated	*Related Occupations	Related Extracurricular Activities at SU	Additional Sources of Information
Social Work B.S.W. Accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the national standard setting & monitoring body for social work educational programs.	sensitivity, empathy problem-solving skills good communication skills ability to make sound judgements & decisions commitment to social justice integrity works well under pressure desire to help people and make a difference in making a better life for others	Child Welfare Worker Gerontologist Medical Social Worker Probation Officer School Social Worker Rehabilitation Counselor Community Social Service Agency	Resident Assistant x1164 Residence Hall Association x1164 Orientation Team x1164 Social Work Organization x1717 T.O.U.C.H. x1710 Phi Alpha Alpha Lambda x1717 Big Brother/Big Sister x1717	National Assoc. of Social Workers 7981 Eastern Ave. Silver Springs, MD 20910 Council on Social Work Education 1744 R Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 20009 Dr. Denise Anderson (Acting Chair) Shippen Hall 335 x1717

Social Work is a dynamic profession dedicated to improving social functioning in an ever-changing world. The profession can be characterized by its diversity -- diversity of clientele, diversity of knowledge and skill base, and diversity of career opportunities. Social workers also respect the diversity of people and are committed to the promotion of empowerment and opportunity for oppressed groups.

Job opportunities vary widely. In addition to working directly with people, indirect roles such as supervision, planning, development, and management are also employment possibilities. While some positions focus directly on people's problems through individual, family, or group intervention, other positions focus on system change and development. Employers in the region regularly recruit the graduates of SU's Social Work program because of the program's reputation.

Social Workers are employed in child welfare, health, aging, mental health, corrections, schools, government, business and industry, substance abuse, domestic violence, preschools, mental retardation, and family services.

Entering Salary: \$20,000 - \$50,000 (depending on position -- comparable to other humans service professions) * A Bachelor's or Master's degree in social work would be useful in pursuing these occupations.

Division of Undeclared Majors

Shippensburg University

Partially adapted from: Phifer, Paul. (1993). College Majors and Careers: A Resource Guide for Effective Life Planning. Garrett Park, MD: Garrett Park Press.