

Social Worker



What do they do?

They help people cope and solve problems that happen in people's everyday lives. In a clinical setting they also help diagnose and treat mental, behavioral, and emotional issues.

Where do they work?

Social workers typically work in schools, hospitals, state 7 local government and clinic settings. They may also work remotely through distance counseling via videoconferencing or mobile technology.

Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for Social Worker is \$49,470.



Education:

A bachelor's degree in social work (BSW) is required and to work in a clinical setting a social worker must have a master's degree (MSW) in social with two years of supervised clinical experience. clinical social workers (CSW) also must become licensed (LCSW) by their state.

High School students interested in applying to Social Work programs should take courses psychology, sociology, and health.

Programs in Madison:

Many Wisconsin schools in the University system offer a bachelors degree in Social work.

<https://www.socialworkdegreeguide.com/in/wisconsin/>

Schools in Wisconsin with both a BSW and MSW:

UW Madison: <https://socwork.wisc.edu/>

UW Milwaukee: <https://uwm.edu/socialwelfare/>

UW Green Bay: <https://www.uwgb.edu/social-work/>

UW Oshkosh: <https://www.uwosh.edu/socialwork>

UW Whitewater: <https://www.uww.edu/cls/departments/social-work>

Professional Associations:

Association for Community Organization and Social Administration: <http://www.acosa.org/>



National Association for Social Workers: <http://www.naswdc.org/>



Council on Social Work Education: <http://www.cswe.org/>



Certifications & Licenses:

All states require clinical social workers to be licensed and many states requires licensure or certification for nonclinical social workers. All licensure and regulations are maintained by the Association of Social Work Boards.

Association of Social Work Boards: <https://www.aswb.org/>



Common Duties:

- Identify people and communities in need of help
- Assess clients' needs, situations, strengths, and support networks to determine their goals
- Help clients adjust to changes and challenges in their lives, such as illness, divorce, or unemployment
- Research, refer, and advocate for community resources, such as food stamps, childcare, and healthcare to assist and improve a client's well-being
- Respond to crisis situations such as child abuse and mental health emergencies
- Follow up with clients to ensure that their situations have improved
- Maintain case files and records
- Develop and evaluate programs and services to ensure that basic client needs are met
- Provide psychotherapy services

Important Qualities:

Communication Skills / Emotional Skills / Interpersonal Skills / Organizational Skills / Problem-Solving Skills

Job Outlook:

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics includes Social Worker. Job outlook for this group is expected to grow 16 percent between 2016-2026, which is much faster than the average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2017-18 Edition*, Social Worker, <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/social-workers.htm>

