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# Career Information for Social Work

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It is important to understand that employers hire people, not degrees. The skills and knowledge you develop as a result of your education, as well as in your work and community activities, have the greatest impact on hiring decisions. Listed below are some key skills and knowledge you will acquire as a result of your university education and your focus on Social Work.

## Specific Knowledge Skills

- An understanding of a range of human and environmental factors and processes that influence social functioning in contemporary life
- An awareness of the range of dimensions in and preventative approaches to personal and social problems experienced by individuals, families, groups and communities to enhance psycho-social functioning
- The ability to appropriately and collaboratively assess, evaluate and understand individual, family and group behaviours and make appropriate referrals or recommendations
- Knowledge and skills to contribute to constructive institutional change and development
- Understanding of major social problems of the history of social welfare and of current Canadian and international social welfare policies and programs
- Awareness of a range of approaches and methods of social work intervention and the foundation of knowledge pertaining to applying those interventions
- Awareness of current social, community and ethical issues and relevant policies
- Knowledge of various government, community and social institutions and resources, their roles and an ability to provide information and direction to assist in making informed decisions
- The ability to gather relevant information, assess situations and analyze needs
- Awareness of and sensitivity to the impact of government policies, economic inequities and ideologies related to culture, class, gender and race on individuals and communities
- The ability to apply critical thinking and reflective analysis in the interest of social justice
- The interpersonal competency to combine self-insight with critical analysis of one's role as a social worker in order to give fair consideration to the impact of power relations and identity in the practice of social work

## Valuable Transferable Skills

### Information-gathering and Communication Skills

### Thinking, Planning and Organizational Skills

### Teamwork and Management Skills

For more information on transferable skills, please go to the Career Centre website at <http://www.lauriercc.ca/career/students/planning/major.htm>



# Some Career Options for Social Work

Case Manager	Agency Manager	Staff Development and Training
Case Worker	Departmental Director	Rehabilitation Counsellor
Child Protection Worker	Unit Supervisor	Service Manager
Counsellor	Group Worker	Program Director/Co-ordinator
School Social Worker	Clinical Director	Professor/Teacher
Medical Social Worker	Mental Health Counsellor	Mediator/Labour Relations
Behaviour Therapist	Respite Worker	Marriage and Family Therapist
Career Counsellor	Support Group Facilitator	EAP Counsellor
Researcher	HR Consultant	Public Affairs Co-ordinator
Policy Analyst/Advisor	Community Outreach Worker	Urban Planner
Public Relations Officer	Public Information Officer	Diversity Consultant
Education Development Specialist	Volunteer Co-ordinator	Executive Director
Outreach Officer	Program Planner	Recreation Mentoring Co-ordinator
Grant Writer	Consultant	Health Promotion Educator

## Potential Employers

Family & Children's Services	Colleges/Universities	International Development Organizations
Boards of Education	Hospitals	Employee Assistance Plan Providers
Long-term Care Facilities	Correctional Facilities	Political Parties/Lobbying Groups
Government Agencies	Medical or Psychiatric Clinics	Residential Facilities
Community Health Centres	Mental Health Centres	Social Services Agencies
Planning Councils	Family Health Teams	Alternative Dispute Resolutions Organizations
Counselling Centres		

## Websites

Access to Justice Network	<a href="http://www.acjnet.org">www.acjnet.org</a>
Canadian Association of Social Workers	<a href="http://www.casw-acts.ca">www.casw-acts.ca</a>
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives	<a href="http://www.policyalternatives.ca">www.policyalternatives.ca</a>
Canadian Council on Social Development	<a href="http://www.ccsd.ca">www.ccsd.ca</a>
Council on Social Work Education	<a href="http://www.cswe.org">www.cswe.org</a>
International Development Research Centre	<a href="http://www.idrc.ca">www.idrc.ca</a>
International Federation of Social Workers	<a href="http://www.ifsw.org">www.ifsw.org</a>
International Sociological Association	<a href="http://www.isa-sociology.org">www.isa-sociology.org</a>
Ontario Association of Social Workers	<a href="http://www.oasw.org">www.oasw.org</a>
Ontario College of Social Work and Social Services Workers	<a href="http://www.ocswssw.org">www.ocswssw.org</a>
Society for Social Work and Research	<a href="http://www.sswr.org">www.sswr.org</a>