



# Career Insights and Industry Spotlight: Social Work & Human Services

**Human services** is a broad category of helping professions focusing on human well-being and supporting individuals, families, and communities. This sector includes social services, healthcare, mental health support, child and family services, disability services, housing assistance, and other programs aimed at addressing social issues, providing care, and enhancing Canadians' quality of life.

**Social work** is a specialized profession regulated by each province. Social work programming combines supervised practical experience with research-based educational practices rooted in ethics, social justice and advocacy, and Indigenous and decolonizing frameworks. Some human services jobs specifically require a social work degree.

## COMPETENCIES How does your university education relate to these competencies?

- **Communication**
  - **Active Listening**
  - **Written and Oral**
- **Inclusivity & Intercultural Responsiveness**
- **Mentoring/Coaching**
- **Resiliency**
- **Self-Awareness**
- **Social Perceptiveness**
- **Time Management**

### An example of social perceptiveness:

During group work, two of your group members are arguing over the direction of the project. You notice their body language is getting more agitated and the tension is rising. You suggest a break so everyone can reset and come back ready to collaborate.

## JOB TITLE EXAMPLES

The human services industry often involves collaboration between government departments, non-profit organizations, First Nations agencies, and private sector providers, and plays a vital role in promoting social justice, equity, and access to essential resources for diverse populations.

- Case Worker
- Child Adoption Specialist
- Child Care Worker
- Client Care Manager
- Community Health Worker
- Community Recreation Worker
- Community Social Development Officer
- Human Rights Officer
- International Relief Worker
- Human Services Assistant
- Outreach Worker
- Probation Officer
- Program Manager
- Social Policy Researcher
- Social Program Coordinator
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Youth Care Worker

**“In general, job openings in social work are projected to rise between 2019-2028 because of increased demand and job vacancies created by the retirement of the baby boom generation.”**

<https://www.casw-acts.ca/en/what-social-work>



## NOTES

## BECOME A SOCIAL WORKER

Obtain a bachelor's degree in social work

- Prerequisites often include humanities and social science courses and volunteer experience



**University of Regina - Social Work**

- Most prerequisites can be completed through USask
- Option to complete BSW in Saskatoon

Register with your provincial body

- Becoming a student member has perks like scholarships and professional development



**Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers**

[www.sasw.ca](http://www.sasw.ca)



**The Canadian Association of Social Workers**

[www.casw-acts.ca/en](http://www.casw-acts.ca/en)

## CAREER SUPPORT



**USask Career Services**

Prepare for your career, develop competencies, and find opportunities



**STM Career Page**

Learn more about career pathways, internship opportunities, and career planning-- especially if you're studying the liberal arts!