



## Social Work

# CAREER GUIDE

## What We Do

BSW-level social workers collaborate with clients to overcome challenges, grow in resilience, and improve the quality of their lives. They also advocate for policies that disrupt inequities and promote equality. Our client systems may be individuals, families, groups, organizations, or communities.

## Who We Serve

The BSW is intentionally broad to prepare students to care for a variety of populations that are at risk across different settings. It is an excellent option for students who want to help others and for students who are looking for variety or flexibility in their careers.

## Where We Work

We work in private not-for-profit and for-profit organizations and government agencies. Social workers work in health care, mental health, schools, child welfare, substance abuse, criminal justice, hospice, military, law, and more!

## Our Responsibilities

- Empower our clients and their families to cope better with social and emotional problems
- Advocate for communities and populations that are vulnerable, and promote social justice
- Maintain a caseload, and document and reevaluate clients at appropriate intervals
- Gather relevant information and make assessments pertaining to our client's needs
- Develop resources, facilitate education and support groups, and make referrals



## Employment Outlook & Salaries

Overall employment of social workers is projected to grow 9% from 2021 to 2031 – much faster on average than for all occupations. Increased demand for healthcare and social services will drive demand for social workers.

A BSW not only prepares you to work as a generalist social worker, but also to continue your education in a Master of Social Work (MSW) program. You may also enter an MSW program with a bachelor's degree in another field of study, but with a BSW you will be able to complete the program more quickly.

The salary a social worker earns can vary significantly based on many factors, including geographic area, educational attainment, workplace setting, and practice specialty or focus area.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual wage for social workers was \$50,390 in May 2021. The lowest 10% earned less than \$36,520, and the highest 10% earned more than \$82,840.

For more information, contact

**Justine Leigh, MSW**, Senior Academic Advisor: [justinen@usf.edu](mailto:justinen@usf.edu)

For appointments with an advisor:

### Current Students

[https://usf.appiancloud.com/suite/sites/archivum/page/archivum/report/M\\_NuSA](https://usf.appiancloud.com/suite/sites/archivum/page/archivum/report/M_NuSA)

### Prospective Students

[usfweb.usf.edu/escheduler/NonStudentlogin.aspx](http://usfweb.usf.edu/escheduler/NonStudentlogin.aspx)

### University of South Florida School of Social Work

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[usf.edu/cbcs/social-work/](http://usf.edu/cbcs/social-work/)

