Human services professionals assist individuals and communities in functioning more efficiently. They work in diverse settings, including group homes and halfway houses; correctional, intellectual disability and community mental health centers; family, child and youth service agencies; and programs concerned with alcoholism, drug abuse, family violence and aging.

**JOB GROWTH IS TIED TO:**
- Efforts to improve health outcomes and reduce healthcare costs
- Increased access to healthcare and prevention and treatment services
- An aging population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAREER OUTLOOK</th>
<th>GROWTH</th>
<th>MEDIAN PAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Educators and Community Health Workers</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>$44,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>$50,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation Counselors</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>$34,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School and Career Counselors</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>$54,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social and Community Services Managers</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>$64,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance Abuse and Behavioral Disorder Counselors</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>$41,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Workers</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>$46,890</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HUMAN SERVICES EMPLOYERS**
- Consulting firms
- Government agencies
- Graduate schools
- Nonprofit organizations
- Public health institutions
- Alcohol or drug prevention/treatment
- Corrections
- Assisted-living facilities
- Social services agencies

**JOB TASKS AND DUTIES**
- Collect data
- Advocate for the prevention of abuse
- Provide health education and disease prevention strategies
- Help seniors lead healthy and productive lives
- Assist individuals and families with challenges related to mental health, substance abuse and disabilities.
- Evaluate client needs and create a plan for support.

**CHARACTERISTICS:**
- Strong desire to help others
- Patience, understanding and caring
- Communication skills
- Strong sense of responsibility
- Critical-thinking skills
- Detail oriented and observant
- Problem-solver
- Cultural competence and understanding
- Teamwork
- Integrity

Sources: https://www.bls.gov/ooh/Community-and-Social-Service/Social-and-human-service-assistants.htm#tab-8
WHAT TO EXPECT IN A HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM

A degree in human services will prepare you to make an impact in your community. You’ll learn to remediate a variety of social problems and improve the quality of life for a variety of populations, including those with disabilities or mental illness and the elderly. Your degree can be customized to meet your specific career goals in direct service or community interventions.

HUMAN SERVICES MAY BE A GOOD FIT IF YOU…

• Want to make an impact in your community and to help others.
• Have a passion for the field and are okay with a modest income.
• Love pursuing knowledge.
• Are interested in a career in human services but are not sure of your specific goals.

CLASSES MAY INCLUDE:

• Human Growth and Development
• Statistics
• Human Services Skills
• Program Planning and Evaluation
• Health Promotions/Education
• Health Communications and Media
• Perspectives on Aging
• Community Resources for Older Adults
• Rehabilitation Principles
• Case Management
• Client Assessment

LOOK FOR A PROGRAM THAT OFFERS:

• Opportunities to gain hands-on experience, including research, internships and field placements with social service organizations.
• A program that embraces the diversity of people.
• Faculty that includes professors with experience in the classroom and field.
• Relationships with service agencies and organizations.

Before you declare your major in Human Services:

• Volunteer at a hospital, nursing home or nonprofit organization to gain experience working with at-risk populations.
• Narrow down human services fields you’re interested in through web research or speaking with your guidance counselor.
• Talk to someone in your field of interest to learn more about what they do and why they love their profession.

“You treat a disease, you win, you lose. You treat a person, I guarantee you, you’ll win, no matter what the outcome.”

—Patch Adams, Physician, Comedian, Social Activist

To learn about the Human Services program at the University of Northern Colorado, visit us at UNCO.EDU/PROGRAMS/HUMAN-SERVICES/