

INSIDE THE MIND OF A SOCIAL WORKER



A social worker's ability to assist people who have mental or social challenges is not for the untrained mind. Social work is an interdisciplinary profession of psychology, sociology, culture, and politics that requires critical thinking and communication skills.

“ I UNDERSTAND YOUR PROBLEM. LET’S TAKE A LOOK AT SOME POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS. ”

NASW CODE OF ETHICS CORE VALUES

- SERVICE**
 To willingly volunteer your professional skills with no expectations in return, for the benefit of other peoples' needs.
- SOCIAL JUSTICE**
 Seeking out social change on behalf of other people who may be in a vulnerable or oppressed situation.
- DIGNITY AND WORTH OF THE PERSON**
 Being mindful, respectful, and caring of each individual's specific needs, while seeking opportunities for them to grow.
- IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS**
 Finding ways to strengthen the relationships among people in a way to promote, restore, maintain, and enhance their well-being.
- INTEGRITY**
 Consistently aware and practicing the profession's mission, values, ethical principles, and standards by being responsible and honest.
- COMPETENCE**
 Always trying to increase professional skills and knowledge, then incorporating that new information into their job.



STATISTIC:

200,000
 TRAINED SOCIAL WORKERS

Professional social workers are the nation's largest group of mental health service providers, according to SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), with over **200,000 trained social workers** – more than the number of psychiatrists, psychologists, and psychiatric nurses combined.

SOCIAL WORK COMPETENCIES

- DEMONSTRATE ETHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR**
 Understands and practices the profession's ethical standards, relevant laws, regulations, and ethical decision-making.
- ENGAGE DIVERSITY AND DIFFERENCE IN PRACTICE**
 Demonstrates knowledge on how diversity and difference shape human experiences and how it affects the formation of a persons identity.
- ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**
 The understanding of every persons fundamental human rights like freedom, safety, privacy, standard of living, education, and health care.
- ENGAGE IN PRACTICE-INFORMED RESEARCH AND RESEARCH-INFORMED PRACTICE**
 Finds ways to advance the science of social work through quantitative and qualitative research methods.
- ENGAGE IN POLICY PRACTICE**
 Understands that human rights, social justice, social welfare, and services are mediated by policy at local, state, and federal levels.
- ENGAGE WITH INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND COMMUNITIES**
 Knows that engagement is a consistent component of the dynamic and interactive process in the practice of social work.
- ASSESS INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND COMMUNITIES**
 Knows that assessment is a consistent component of the dynamic and interactive process in the practice of social work.
- INTERVENE WITH INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND COMMUNITIES**
 Knows that intervention is a consistent component of the dynamic and interactive process in the practice of social work.
- EVALUATE PRACTICE WITH INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND COMMUNITIES**
 Knows that evaluation is a consistent component of the dynamic and interactive process in the practice of social work.

With a Master of Social Work degree from Our Lady of the Lake University you can be ready to make a difference in the field of social work.