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Why Human Services and Social Work?

Social workers provide individual, family and group counseling, connecting people with resources and service providers. Social workers work with communities, organizations or governments to address social problems on a systems level and create social change. Social workers also advocate for vulnerable populations, fighting to end the inequalities and injustices and work for social justice.

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“Social work and sociology are integral partners in understanding what is happening at the micro, meso, macro, and institutional levels. Social work is significant because its focus is hands-on based intervention ranging from therapeutic services to program evaluations that offer tools for improved care and outcomes. Sociology asks us to develop theoretical understanding into the outcome trends we’re seeing on the ground and put that into conversation with root causes. Having these two disciplines under my belt has been foundational in the development of my worldview.”

Violeta Donawa
Part-time MSW Student

“Sociology has been incredibly helpful to me as I pursue my MSW. As someone interested in community organizing and community development, I use insights I gleaned from sociology all of the time. Both disciplines are about people’s fundamental interconnectedness; as sociology describes the utility of human relationships, social work describes their irrevocable connection with protecting the dignity and worth of all humans. Sociological thinking will be a part of my work as long as I am in the social work field.”

Nathanial Corderre
MSW Student

“In studying sociology and groups of people, I started to understand the depth and importance of community. By pursuing social work, I’m able to take my clinical skills and experiences in interprofessional education and integrated health, and partner all of my interests for the good of the community. Understanding people in their contexts and environments has been an invaluable skill during my social work education, and my research background in sociology has led me to pursue community-level social work research alongside my clinical field placement.”

Amelia Walker
Part-time MSW Student