What does a Major in Social Work prepare me to do?

“Social work is a profession devoted to helping people function the best that they can in their environment. This can mean providing direct services or therapy to people. It also can mean working for change to improve social conditions.” Social workers help people solve social, financial, and health problems.

“For sheer variety, few occupations can match social work which offers a broad range of opportunities and settings. Social workers are found in public agencies, private businesses, hospitals, clinics, schools, nursing homes, private practice, police departments, courts, and countless other interesting workplaces. Social workers serve individuals, families, and communities. They are managers, supervisors, and administrators. They serve at all levels of government. They are educators. They are therapists and researchers. More and more, they are also elected political leaders and legislators.”

“To be a social worker, one must have a degree in social work from a college or university program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The undergraduate degree is the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW). Degree programs involve classroom study as well as practical field experience. The Bachelor’s degree prepares graduates for generalist entry-level work, whereas the master’s degree is for more advanced clinical practice.” Source: National Association of Social Workers, www.naswdc.org/.

How do I prepare for a major in Social Work? What Washington universities offer this major?
Washington Universities that offer this program include but are not limited to:
- Eastern Washington University www.ewu.edu,
While at Highline, you should continue to enhance your skills in the following areas: public speaking, writing, critical thinking, research and computer applications. It is also important that you learn to express ideas clearly and are interested in understanding issues of class, human behavior and social change.

If you plan to complete a transfer degree at Highline Community College, complete the **Associate of Arts (AA) Option A degree.** The following courses are required for admission to social work programs at the UW Seattle and UW Tacoma:

**UW SEATTLE:** PSYC&100; SOC&101; ECON 110 or ECON & 201 or ECON & 202; BIOL & 100 or BIOL &175. It is also a good idea to complete a statistics course (MATH & 146) as part of the transfer degree.

**UW TACOMA:** PSYC& 100; SOC& 101; ECON 110 or ECON & 201 or ECON & 202; BIOL&100 or 160 or BIO& 175. NOTE: There may also be (apart from the above list) other Biology course options for you to consider. Check with the university. If you are applying to other social work programs, there are courses that might be helpful to include as part of your AA degree such as ANTH& 206 (Cultural Anthropology). Recommend English 205.

In general, admission to the program is selective so be sure to maintain a competitive grade point average (GPA). Many social work programs also take into account any work (paid or volunteer) experiences you might have with social service organizations as it provides evidence of the student’s motivation and interest in the field.

**Where can I get more information on this career?**

- For information about accredited schools of social work, contact the Council on Social Work Education at [www.cswe.org](http://www.cswe.org).

**To request a faculty advisor, go to:**
[http://edplanning.highline.edu/request.advisor.php](http://edplanning.highline.edu/request.advisor.php) or stop by the Educational Planning and Advising Center in Building 6. For our hours of operation, go to: [http://edplanning.highline.edu/contact.php](http://edplanning.highline.edu/contact.php).

Working with a social work faculty advisor can be an invaluable resource for you. Your faculty advisor can provide you with information about class selection and good guidance about careers in social work. Having a letter of recommendation written by a faculty who really knows you can enhance your application to a social work program in the future.