

# COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES FOR STUDENTS MATRICULATED BEFORE JAN. 1, 2014

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The community and human services area of study explores the relationship of human beings' needs and values to social conditions in community living and prepares students for a wide array of helping professions and community service roles.

Through community and human services study, students obtain and enhance values, knowledge and skills necessary to understand and contribute to the development and maintenance of healthy communities, groups and individuals. They analyze, develop, carry out and evaluate methods of prevention and resolution of social and individual problems and barriers.

The objectives of studies in community and human services are to prepare students for:

- Work with individuals, groups and communities in problem-solving situations.
- Entry or continuation in the practice of human services in a variety of areas and at a variety of levels of practice, including advocacy/ community organization, social policy and change, administration, and/or direct service delivery/practice/intervention with groups and individuals.
- Graduate education or other forms of professional development.

Study in this area emphasizes the understanding and integration of four essential foundations, each with its own set of unique competencies:

- **Knowledge:** understanding of the interdisciplinary, conceptual base of practice, historical contexts and the nature of people who live in communities; history of social institutions and social change; human beings and their behavior individually and in groups; evolution of human service systems and public policy; impact of social, economic, political, biological and environmental factors on individuals and communities; relationship of social policy to human service practice
- **Skills:** understanding of the collaborative, helping and problem-solving relationships between human service worker and client; interpersonal skills; prevention and intervention skills; administrative skills; information management skills; research skills; advocating, community organizing and policy management skills.
- **Attitudes and values:** understanding the ethical basis for human service practices with individuals, groups and communities; understanding, respect for and commitment to autonomy, confidentiality, self-determination and the basic rights of individuals and groups from diverse backgrounds.
- **Experience, application and practice:** understanding of the settings, dimensions, systems and mechanics of human service delivery; experience of delivering effective services to individuals, groups and communities; contributing to the development and maintenance of healthy individuals, groups and communities through prevention, intervention, organizing and policymaking activities. Note: Application can focus on individual, group, community and/or systems activities.

Students should explicitly discuss in their rationale essay how each of these four foundations are incorporated and demonstrated in their degree program. It is not necessary that these foundations appear in specific degree titles.

The potential concentrations are numerous and may be focused or broadly conceptualized, depending upon the student's specific interests and goals, prior learning and experience, organizing framework and general expectations of recognized helping professions. The organizing framework will typically be professional/vocational; however, problem-oriented, thematic or interdisciplinary frameworks may be appropriate.

Because degrees in community and human services may take many forms, students must support their designs with clear and articulate rationales.

Even in a broadly conceptualized CHS concentration, it is not expected that all of the areas listed previously will be reflected in specific study titles; however, the student should discuss in the degree-program rationale how they have been explored. In more narrowly conceptualized concentrations, students are encouraged to consider and discuss in their degree program rationales whether and/or how the areas listed above may be relevant to their specific concentrations.

## Sample Concentrations

**Note:** Titles are meant to be illustrative, not exhaustive nor comprehensive.

### Health Care Related

- Health Care Administration.
- Health and Human Services Case Management.

### Human Services Related

- Advocacy in Human Services.
- Human Service Management.
- Disability Studies in Human Services.
- Studies in Diversity and Human Services.
- Education and Training in Human Services.
- Public Safety.
- Economic Security.

### Management Related

- Human Resources
- Personnel Issues for Employee Assistance Professionals
- Managed Care

### Mental Health Related

- Intervention Strategies.
- Alcohol and Substance Abuse.
- Child and Adolescent Development.
- Counseling Skills.
- Adult Development.

### Social Agency Related

- Social Welfare Institutions
- Agencies, Systems and Organization Behavior
- Program Development
- Administration in Human Services

- Criminal Justice Services
- Rehabilitation Services

### **Social Science Related**

- The Child and Family in Society
- History of the Family
- History of Social Institutions
- Social Issues
- Criminal Justice
- Studies in Social Change
- Community Studies
- Public Policy