

SOCIAL WORK

Bachelor of Social Work

La Sierra University Social Work Department's mission is to provide strengths-based, ecologically oriented social work education. Within this Christian context we value servant leadership, activism, and the progressive nature of truth. The Social Work department prepares its graduates to be ethically principled, culturally responsive generalist practitioners who value activism yet are sensitive and responsive to individuals rights and self-determination.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND RELATED OCCUPATIONS: A professional degree in Social Work prepares graduates of this program for beginning-level, generalist social work practice. Areas in which students are qualified to work include criminal justice, mental health, children and youth services, schools, aging/gerontology, health care, family service agencies, substance abuse programs, domestic violence programs, developmental disabilities services, public welfare (child and adult services), community organization, and social action groups.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: A BSW prepares students for direct-service positions such as caseworker or mental health assistant. These programs teach students about diverse populations, human behavior, social welfare policy, and ethics in social work. All programs require students to complete supervised fieldwork or an internship.

Some positions require a master's degree in social work (MSW), which generally takes 2 years to complete. Master's degree programs in social work prepare students for work in their chosen specialty by developing clinical assessment and management skills. All programs require students to complete a supervised practicum or an internship.

JOB OUTLOOK: Overall employment of social workers is projected to grow 12 percent from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average for all occupations. Employment of child, family, and school social workers is projected to grow 6 percent from 2014 to 2024; Employment of healthcare social workers is projected to grow 19 percent from 2014 to 2024; and Employment of mental health and substance abuse social workers is projected to grow 19 percent

SALARY:

The median annual wage for social workers was \$45,900 in May 2015. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$28,530, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$76,820.

Median annual wages for social workers in May 2015 were as follows:

Social workers, all other	\$58,560
Healthcare social workers	\$52,380
Child, family, and school social workers	\$42,350
Mental health and substance abuse social workers	\$42,170

Career information adapted from Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17 Edition, Social Workers, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/social-workers.htm> (visited June 12, 2016).

Academic program information adapted from La Sierra University. (2018-2019). *Undergraduate Academic Bulletin*. Retrieved from <http://www.lasierra.edu/bulletin>.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Websites

La Sierra University
www.lasierra.edu

Department
www.lasierra.edu/socialwork

Faculty

Chair

Jill Rasmussen, M.S.W.

Faculty Mentors

Jill Rasmussen, M.S.W.

Marni Straine, M.S.W.

Daphne Thomas, M.S.W.

Becky Galvez-Nelson, M.S.W.

Contact Information

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Professional Organizations

National Association of Social Workers
750 First Street, NE, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20002-4241
www.naswdc.org

American Board of Examiners
in Clinical Social Work
241 Humphrey Street
Marblehead, MA 01945
www.abecsw.org

Association of Social Work Boards
400 Southridge Parkway, Suite B
Culpeper, VA 22701
www.aswb.org



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