

Social Work



Jane Addams (1860–1935)

Addams founded Hull House in Chicago in 1889, America's first settlement house providing English language classes, childcare, health education, and recreational programs for poor immigrant families. From 1919 until her death, Addams was president of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931, the first American woman so honored, for her unending dedication to the causes of peace and social justice.

Social work is a job focused on helping people live better lives and meet their basic needs. Social workers pay special attention to people who are vulnerable, struggling, or treated unfairly. They use different skills and methods to help individuals, families, groups, and communities solve problems, handle challenges, and improve their overall well-being.

Social workers show their commitment to public service by:

- Speaking up for people who need support
- Helping people find important resources and services
- Creating and running programs that support communities
- Working to fix unfair systems
- Promoting healthy, strong, and fair communities

If you want to make a real difference in people's lives and help your community, social work is a great way to improve society and support others.

Students should meet with their advisor to choose classes that match the requirements of the university they plan to transfer to. The transfer plan on this page is an example based on a university many Lee College students select, but students may transfer to any university they choose.

What Will I Learn?

Social work is a rewarding career that helps people, families, and communities face challenges and improve their lives. Students studying social work build a strong foundation of knowledge and hands-on skills needed to succeed in this field.

Core Knowledge Areas

Human Behavior and Social Environment

Students learn how biological, mental, and social factors affect people as they grow and develop. This includes understanding families, groups, organizations, and communities. You'll also study how culture, race, gender, sexual orientation, and income level affect a person's experiences.

Social Work Theory and Practice Methods

Students explore important theories that guide social work, such as systems theory, the ecological perspective, and strengths-based approaches. They also learn practical methods like case management, crisis help, group work, and community organizing.

Social Policy and Services

This area focuses on how social programs and laws are created, run, and affect people. Students learn to understand and advocate for policies that help vulnerable populations and promote fairness and justice.

Research and Evaluation

Students gain skills in research, collecting data, and evaluating programs. This helps social workers use proven methods and contribute new knowledge to the field.

Essential Skills Development

Communication and Interpersonal Skills

Students practice listening carefully, showing empathy, and communicating clearly in writing and speech. They learn how to interview clients, write reports, and work with people from different backgrounds.

Assessment and Problem-Solving

Students learn how to figure out client needs, identify strengths and resources, and plan interventions. They also develop critical thinking through real-life case studies and problem-solving exercises.

Cultural Competence

Students learn to understand and respect different cultures and backgrounds. They reflect on their own biases and practice approaches that honor clients' dignity and choices.

Ethical Decision-Making

Students study professional rules and learn how to handle ethical challenges in social work. This includes understanding confidentiality, consent, boundaries, and relationships with clients.

[View Program Learning Outcomes](#)

"What Can I Do With This Course of Study?"

Career Opportunities in Social Work

Social work offers many different career paths in a variety of settings. People can choose areas that match their interests and their desire to help others. Below are the main fields of practice and common jobs for social work graduates.

Healthcare and Medical Social Work

Hospital Social Work Medical social workers help patients and families understand the healthcare system, plan for leaving the hospital, find community resources, and cope with stress during medical emergencies. They may work in emergency rooms, ICU units, and other hospital areas.

Mental Health and Behavioral Health Social workers in this area provide counseling, therapy, and case management. They may work in mental health centers, psychiatric hospitals, treatment homes, or private practice. Some focus on substance abuse, trauma, or crisis support.

Hospice and Palliative Care These social workers support people with serious or terminal illnesses. They help families with grief, planning for end-of-life care, and connecting with helpful services.

Public Health Public health social workers create programs that address health problems in communities. They provide health education and advocate for better access to healthcare and reduced health inequalities.

Child and Family Services

Child Protective Services Social workers investigate reports of child abuse or neglect, support families, arrange foster care or adoption, and speak up for children's safety in court.

School Social Work These social workers help students who face emotional, social, or behavior challenges. They provide counseling, work with families, and connect students with needed resources.

Family Therapy and Counseling Licensed social workers offer therapy for families, couples, and parents in community centers or private practice.

Youth Development Social workers create programs for at-risk youth, work in juvenile justice settings, run mentorship programs, and support teens in group homes and youth centers.

Aging and Geriatric Services

Elder Care Services Social workers help older adults with counseling, case management, and advocacy in nursing homes, assisted living centers, day programs, and community aging services.

Adult Protective Services These workers investigate reports of elder abuse or neglect and connect older adults with help and protection.

Dementia and Alzheimer's Care Specialized social workers support people with memory disorders and their families through education, counseling, and referrals to support groups and care services.

Community Development and Policy

Community Organizing Social workers help communities work together, build partnerships, fight for policy changes, and address problems affecting neighborhoods.

Policy Analysis and Advocacy These professionals study social issues, review laws, and advocate for changes that help vulnerable groups. They may work in government, nonprofits, or research organizations.

Grant Writing and Program Development Social workers create proposals for funding, design new programs, and evaluate services to help nonprofits grow and better serve communities.

International and Global Social Work Social workers help with international development, refugee support, disaster relief, and global health efforts through nonprofits and government agencies.

Criminal Justice and Legal Settings

Probation and Parole Services Social workers help individuals returning from jail or prison by offering counseling, supervision, and support for rebuilding their lives.

Victim Services These workers support victims of crime by offering crisis help, safety planning, and assistance in navigating the legal system.

Correctional Social Work Social workers in jails and prisons provide mental health services, substance abuse treatment, reentry planning, and support for family relationships.

Specialized Practice Areas

Substance Abuse and Addiction Treatment Social workers provide counseling, lead support groups, create treatment plans, and work in inpatient or outpatient programs for addiction.

Disability Services Social workers support people with physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities by offering advocacy, case management, and independent living assistance.

Military and Veterans Services These workers assist service members and veterans with issues like PTSD, benefits access, family support, and adjusting to civilian life.

Corporate and Employee Assistance Social workers help employees with counseling, crisis support, and wellness programs in workplace settings.

Private Practice and Entrepreneurship

Clinical Private Practice Licensed social workers may run their own therapy practice, offering counseling and consulting to individuals and organizations.

Consultation Services Experienced social workers provide training, program evaluations, and expert guidance to agencies, schools, and community groups.

Social work is a flexible field with many paths. Professionals can move into new areas, specialize further through extra training, and respond to changing social needs. Whether working directly with people or focusing on community and policy change, social workers stay committed to improving lives and promoting fairness and justice.

Social Work - University of Houston - Clear Lake Transfer Plan

Foundations: These are the courses students need in order to progress in their career/college pathway, as they either provide a certificate or lay the groundwork for moving to the next set of courses.

Lee College

UHCL

Course	Course Title	Counts Toward
EDUC 1200	Learning Frameworks	PSYC 1100
ENGL 1301	English Composition I	WRIT 1301
BIOL 1406 or BIOL 1408	Biology for Science or Biology for Non-Science Majors	BIOL 1306 or BIOL 1308 + lab
SOCI 1301	Introductory Sociology	SOCI 1301
SPCH 1315	Principles of Public Speaking	COMM 1315
MATH 1314, MATH 1332, or MATH 1342	College Algebra, Contemporary Math, or Elementary Statistics are accepted at UHCL	MATH 1314, MATH 1332, or MATH 1342
PSYC 2301	Introduction to Psychology	PSYC 2301
ARTS 1303	Art History/World Art Survey I	ARTS 1303
HIST 1301	History of U.S. to 1877	HIST 1301

Knowledge Building: These courses further the students' knowledge in the area of study and increase their preparation for the degree completion.

Lee College		UHCL
Course	Course Title	Counts Toward
ENGL 1302	English Composition II	WRIT 1302
GOVT 2306	Texas Government	POLS 2306
Life/Physical Science	Suggested: ENVR 1401Other Options: CHEM 1405, CHEM 1411, PHYS 1403 [ASTR 1303 +lab], PHYS 1404 [ASTR 1304 +lab], GEOL 1403, GEOL 1404, BIOL 2401, PHYS 1401	ENSC 1301 + lab
HIST 1302	History of U.S. from 1877	HIST 1302
SOCW 2361	Introduction to Social Work (Field of Study Course)	SWRK 3301
SOCI 1306	Social Problems (Field of Study Course)	Elective

Completion: These are the courses the student needs in order to complete the degree plan and prepare to enter the workforce.

Lee College		UHCL
Course	Course Title	Counts Toward
GOVT 2305	Federal Government	POLS 2305
SOCW 2362	Social Welfare: Legislation, Programs, &	Elective

	Services (Field of Study Course)	
Language, Philosophy, and Culture	Suggested: PHIL 1301 Other Option: HUMA 1301	PHIL 1301
SOCW 2389	Academic Cooperative (Field of Study Course)	Elective
SOCI 2319	Multicultural Studies	Elective

Social Work - University of Houston - Downtown Transfer Plan

Foundations: These are the courses students need in order to progress in their career/college pathway, as they either provide a certificate or lay the groundwork for moving to the next set of courses.

Lee College		UH - Downtown
Course	Course Title	Counts Toward
EDUC 1200	Learning Frameworks	
ENGL 1301	English Composition I	ENG 1301
BIOL 1406 or BIOL 1408	Biology for Science or Biology for Non-Science Majors	BIOL 1306 or BIOL 1308 + lab
SOCI 1301	Introductory Sociology	SOCI 1303
SPCH 1311 or SPCH 1318	Introduction to Speech Communication or Interpersonal Communication	COMM 1304 or COMM 2309
MATH 1332, MATH 1342, or MATH 1314	Contemporary Math, Elementary Statistics, or College Algebra **Students can choose one of these math courses for their core math. Contemporary Math or Elementary Statistics are recommended.	MATH 1310, STAT 2300, or MATH 1301
PSYC 2301	Introduction to Psychology	PSY 1303
ARTS 1301	Suggested: ARTS 1301 — Art Appreciation Other Options: DRAM 1310 (DRAM 1301 — UHD)	ARTS 1310
HIST 1301	History of U.S. to 1877	HIST 1305

Knowledge Building: These courses further the students' knowledge in the area of study and increase their preparation for the degree completion.

Lee College		UH - Downtown
Course	Course Title	Counts Toward

ENGL 1302	English Composition II	ENG 1302
GOVT 2306	Texas Government	POLS 2306
Life/Physical Science	Suggested: BIOL 2404 – The Human Body Other Options: CHEM 1405, CHEM 1411, PHYS 1403 [ASTR 1303 +lab], PHYS 1404 [ASTR 1304 +lab], GEOL 1403, GEOL 1404, BIOL 2401, PHYS 1401	BIOL 1310
HIST 1302	History of U.S. from 1877	HIST 1306
SOCW 2361	Introduction to Social Work (Field of Study Course)	SWRK 2361
SOCI 1306	Social Problems (Field of Study Course)	SOCI 2302

Completion: These are the courses the student needs in order to complete the degree plan and prepare to enter the workforce.

Lee College		UH - Downtown
Course	Course Title	Counts Toward
GOVT 2305	Federal Government	POLS 2305
SOCW 2362	Social Welfare: Legislation, Programs, & Services (Field of Study Course)	SOCW 2363
Language, Philosophy, and Culture	Suggested: PHIL 1301	PHIL 1301
SOCW 2389	Academic Cooperative (Field of Study Course)	Elective
SOCI of choice	Take either SOCI 2303 (Marriage & Family) or SOCI 2326 (Social Psychology)	SOC 2303 or PSY 2302

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