Social services provide people with assistance in such personal and interpersonal areas as health, welfare, counseling, education and rehabilitation through social and welfare agencies, community organizations, hospitals, schools and churches.

Harold Washington College’s Social Service/Mental Health programs prepare students for entry-level positions in these helping professions, for transfer to a four-year college, or for career advancement for those already working in the social service area. Students may elect to earn a degree or a certificate, to enroll full-time or part-time, to attend during the day or the evening. The curriculum integrates the theory of Social Service/Mental Health practice with the student’s own experiences and with a work-experience practicum. Students learn basic skills, which can be used effectively in a variety of client situations: with individuals, groups, families or communities.

**Career & Employment Possibilities**

WC program graduates will have the necessary skills to work as paraprofessionals in public and private social welfare agencies, community mental health centers, day care facilities and community sponsored social service organizations. Job titles vary: case work assistant, mental...
health technician, social work aide, etc. Responsibilities may include working with battered women or alcohol and substance abusers, counseling families, doing intake interviews, recording psychosexual (background) histories of patients and making referrals to other agencies. Salary and the range of responsibilities may depend on previous work or volunteer experience.

Positions at the professional level (requiring a bachelor’s or master’s degree) include school, employment or rehabilitation counselor, social worker, shelter director, volunteer service director, public health worker, community health director or welfare worker.

For most occupations in this field, employment opportunities are expected to increase at an average rate. Most agencies and organizations employing social service workers are non-profit and depend on private or government funding; a rise or fall in available funding will affect employment opportunities. At all levels, social service continues to be a profession offering variety and challenge to those who choose it as a career.

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**Degree & Certificate Programs**

**SOCIAL WORK, GENERALIST:** study of the generalist approach to working with the individual, family, group, and community. Can lead to employment as aide to social worker in government, community and, private social service agencies.

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<tr>
<th>Advanced Certificate (37 credit hours)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Service 101: Introduction to Social Work</td>
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<td>Social Service 109: Report Writing in Social Work</td>
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<td>Social Service 201: Principles of Social Work Practice</td>
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<td>Social Service 212: Introduction to Group Process</td>
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<td>Social Service 215: Social Problems &amp; Social Action I</td>
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<td>Social Service 228: Methodology for Social Work</td>
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<td>Social Service 229: Practicum in Social Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Development 101: Human Growth &amp; Development I*</td>
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<td>Child Development 102: Human Growth &amp; Development II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Development 107: Child Care, Health &amp; Nutrition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mental Health 223: Introduction to Addictions Studies</td>
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*Requires completion of clinical experience/observation hours.

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<tr>
<th>Associate in Applied Science Degree (66 credit hours)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Social Service 101: Introduction to Social Work</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Social Work – The Associate in Arts (AA) degree with a Social Work concentration provides basic liberal arts and introductory courses for students who intend to transfer to another college or school of social work in preparation for careers in social service as counselors or caseworkers.

Associate in Arts Degree (62 credit hours)

General Education courses 38

In General Education Area II, Humanities, take:
- Art 103: Art Appreciation or Music 121: Introduction to Music or Any Literature or Philosophy Course 3

In General Education Area III, Social Science, take:
- Sociology 210: Diverse Cultures in a Global Age 3

In General Education Area IV, Mathematics, take:
- Mathematics 125: Introductory Statistics 4

Recommended concentration courses for AA degree candidates (24 credit hours)
- Anthropology 202: Cultural Anthropology 3
- Psychology 201: General Psychology 3
- Social Service 101: Introduction to Social Work 3
- Sociology 201: Introduction to the Study of Society 3
- Economics 201: Principles of Economics I or History 111: History of the American People to 1865 3
- History 112: History of the American People from 1865 3
- Political Science 201: The National Government 3
- Social Service 201: Principles of Social Work Practice or Social Service 212: Introduction to Group Process 3

Gerontology – The Associate in Arts (AA) degree with a Gerontology concentration provides basic liberal arts and introductory courses for students who intend to transfer to another college or university’s school of social work in preparation for careers in social work with an emphasis on aging.

Associate in Arts Degree (62 credit hours)

General Education courses 38

In General Education Area II, Humanities, take:
- Art 103: Art Appreciation or Music 121: Introduction to Music or Any Literature or Philosophy Course 3

In General Education Area III, take:
- Sociology 210: Diverse Cultures in a Global Age 3

In General Education Area IV, Mathematics take:
- Mathematics 125: Introductory Statistics 4

Recommended concentration courses for AA degree candidates (24 credit hours)
- Anthropology 202: Cultural Anthropology 3
- Computer Information Systems 120: Introduction to Microcomputers 3
- Psychology 201: General Psychology 3
- Economics 201: Principles of Economics I or History 111: History of the American People to 1865 3
- History 112: History of the American People from 1865 3
- Mental Health 223: Introduction to Addictions Studies 3
- Political Science 201: The National Government 3
- Social Service 101: Introduction to Social Work 3
- Social Service 105: Physiology of Aging 3
- Social Service 106: Aging and the Family 3
- Social Service 204: Cross Cultural Studies in Gerontology 3

*Requires completion of field experience/observation hours.
RECOMMENDED AREAS OF SUPPORTING COURSE WORK

Students are urged to take elective courses in psychology, sociology, child development, anthropology, criminal justice and addictions studies to become familiar with various disciplines’ approaches to the problems of individuals, groups, or societal problems. In addition, Computer Information Systems 120-Introduction to Microcomputers and English 102-Composition II are strongly recommended.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Harold Washington College
(312) 553-2679

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(312) 553-6080