



Human Services - General Human Services Concentration

About this Composite Major

The Human Services major prepares you to meet the growing demand for human service workers, whose occupations encompass a broad range of helping professions. The program combines courses from the disciplines of communications, sociology, and psychology to provide an overall understanding of the field. The curriculum is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of human behavior and to develop the skills necessary to function as a human services professional.

The general concentration in the Human Services major prepares graduates who strive to work with a wide range of client populations in a variety of settings. The curriculum provides flexibility through a broader range of multidisciplinary course options, including political science, communication, psychology, sociology, management, economics, and health and physical education.

Meet a Student

"There are an array of topics to be aware of as an emerging Human Services professional, but this program does a great job in providing us with this knowledge. From case management to gerontology to theory, we are provided information on a variety of topics." - Kasen Anderson, class of 2023

"I have been able to learn more about communicating with people of different backgrounds, and what we can do to better understand human behavior. I have gained skills that involve understanding people who have different ethnicities, disabilities, and other forms of diversity...The human services program is a great program with professors who understand and care about your education." - Marilyn Quintero, class of 2020

Career Opportunities

Recent graduates have found employment in varied careers including:

- Case managers
- Directors of residential facilities
- Probation officers
- Parole officers
- Personnel specialists at local agencies

Other career opportunities include:

- Youth worker
- Social services liaison
- Director of residential facilities
- Family support worker
- Residential counselor
- Life skills instructor
- Client advocate
- Case manager
- Intake interviewer
- Community organizer
- Home health aide
- Social work (with completion of a master's degree in social work)

Explore Human Services



- National Organization for Human Services (<https://www.nationalhumanservices.org/>)
- North Dakota Department of Human Services (<http://www.nd.gov/dhs/>)
- National Human Services Assembly (<https://www.nationalassembly.org/>)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics – Community and Social Service Occupations (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/home.htm>)



Practical Experience

Completion of an internship is required. Majors who have a cumulative GPA of 2.50 are eligible to apply for semester-long internships, for which students earn 3-12 credit hours. The internship provides supervised training in various regional agencies and service organizations. Students have completed their internships in various places, including Head Start, K-12 public schools, Sheyenne Care Center and other long-term care facilities, and Barnes County Social Services.

Contact Information

Department Chair & Faculty Contact

Dr. Emily Fenster, emily.fenster@vcsu.edu, (701) 845-7313

Department Location

McFarland Hall 315

Schedule your visit today!

<http://visit.vcsu.edu/>

(701) 845-7101 or (800) 532-8641

Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
English Composition (Gen Ed)	3	Art and Music (Gen Ed)	3
MATH 210 (Gen Ed)	3	English Composition (Gen Ed)	3
SOC 110	3	Lab Science (Gen Ed)	4
Speech Communication (Gen Ed)	3	PSYC 111 (Gen Ed)	3
Computer Science and Literacy (Gen Ed)	3	Wellness (Gen Ed)	2
UNIV 150	1		
	16		15

Second Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Additional Electives	3	Additional Electives	3
Additional Humanities or Social Science (Gen Ed)	2	General Concentration Course	3
Lab Science (Gen Ed)	4	PSYC 250	3
Literacies (Gen Ed)	3	SOC 130	3
Social Science (Gen Ed)	3	SOC 220	3
	15		15

Third Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Additional Electives	3	Additional Course (if only taking 3 credit internship)	3
Additional Electives	3	COMM 483	3
General Concentration Course	3	General Concentration Course	3
MGMT 302	3	SOC 340	3
SOC 320	3	SOC 497	3
SOC 330	3		
	18		15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
Additional Electives	3	General Concentration Course	3
COMM 311	3	General Concentration Course	3
General Concentration Course	3	General Concentration Course	3
PSYC 360	3	PSYC 310	3
SOC 422	3	PSYC 470	3
SOC 491	1		
	16		15

Total Credits 125

Please note: This plan is intended for general information only. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with their academic advisor each semester before registration.



Learning Outcomes

1. **Knowledge of Society & the Field:** Students will develop an understanding of the interaction between individual and societal forces; why knowledge of social and historical context, norms, institutions, and inequalities are important to the field of human services; and their role as emerging professionals in the evolving human services field.
2. **Confidence in Assessment, Critical Evaluation, & Theory:** Human services students will apply theories, evaluate studies, and conduct research in course projects tailored to give practical experience that connects to a broad range of professional opportunities.
3. **Application of Knowledge, Skills, & Values in Applied Settings:** Students will complete internships and coursework that integrate their academic knowledge, skills and values as emerging professionals within real world, applied settings.