MAJORING IN HUMAN SERVICES

Human service professionals focus on the development of human potential and are dedicated to helping people lead happier and healthier lives.

Drawing from the knowledge base of social sciences, the Human Services major helps students develop knowledge and skills in a variety of therapeutic, teaching, supportive, and preventive methods. The program has an applied emphasis that will enable students to listen therapeutically, problem-solve, help implement mental health programs, develop social skills programs, and provide supportive services. This degree prepares individuals to do work in human services settings under the supervision of a graduate prepared supervisor.

THE CURRICULUM

The Bachelor of Science in the Human Services Pre-Professional degree provides students with general training in human services and counseling related skills (See Undergraduate Curriculum Degree Requirements). Students acquire knowledge of the dynamics operating within the individual, couples, families, and larger social systems and contexts. A broad variety of courses are provided through the program, including counseling skills, multicultural issues, drugs and behavior, case management, and family dynamics. During senior year, students will have the opportunity to experience working in the profession through their field placements. The field placement will be integrated with the academic coursework during the senior year and students will have an on-site supervisor and fieldwork course.

The field of human services is academically highly competitive, complex, and sophisticated. For these reasons, this major was designed for junior and senior students with a minimum grade point average of 2.75. National figures indicate that about half of undergraduate students pursue graduate study. In addition, there are four pre-human services major courses: CED 117, CED 200, CED 300, and CED 315. These four courses must be completed with a grade of B or better. Students with majors other than Human Services can minor in Human Services as well.

Human Services majors can also minor in Addictions Treatment. Nevada passed legislation making it possible for students with a baccalaureate degree to become state-certified addictions counselors; this is the only specialty that is approved as counseling at the bachelor’s level. Our Addictions Treatment minor will help prepare the student to enter this rapidly growing field.

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

National studies indicate that the human services field is rapidly expanding at the bachelor’s level. Undergraduate students will be able to work in a variety of fields including residential counselors, youth workers, psychiatric and mental health aids and technicians, and support services for individuals with developmental disabilities. Many jobs are in state and local government agencies including clinics, detoxification units, community mental health centers, psychiatric hospitals, day treatment programs, sheltered workshops, and homeless shelters. The undergraduate student will be well prepared to pursue graduate study in several areas including counseling, psychology, social work, and related fields. Our department also offers master’s programs in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Professional School Counseling.

EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Students are encouraged to volunteer or work part time in social services agencies in order to gain more hands-on experience. Volunteer positions are available through many of the community human service agencies. Example include the Clark County School District, Clark County Social Services, the Salvation Army, and WestCare, Inc. Involvement in the Student Organization of Addictions Professionals (SOAP), an affiliate of the Association for Addictions Professionals, allows students the opportunity to become involved in activities relating to the field of addictions.

THE UNLV CAMPUS

UNLV is committed to academic excellence in each of its more than 200 undergraduate and graduate programs. Following a decade of unprecedented growth in enrollment and facilities, the campus is now focusing its resources on those qualities which make a university great: its academic offerings, its faculty, and its students. All academic programs at UNLV are fully accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

UNLV is located on a 332-acre main campus and two satellite campuses in dynamic Southern Nevada. The university is classified in the category of Research Universities (high research activity) by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

ABOUT UNLV:
Student Enrollment: 27,000+
Degree Programs: Over 200
Undergraduate, Master’s, and Doctoral
Student to Faculty Ratio: 21:1

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