

HUMAN SOCIAL SERVICES (HSS)

The bachelor's degree in human social services (HSS) at Wisconsin Lutheran College combines the strengths and perspectives of communication, psychology, and religious studies. This interdisciplinary major provides students with a broad exposure within the liberal arts. Students pursuing a degree in HSS will learn to enhance the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual quality of the life for those in need. The HSS major offers content and experiences designed to develop innovative practitioners able to integrate knowledge, theory, practice, research skills, servant leadership and cultural sensitivity within community organizations. Though the HSS major is not equivalent to a bachelors of social work, the student graduating with a HSS major will be prepared to improve accessibility, accountability, and coordination among the multiple professionals and service agencies designed to provide support, education, resources, and/or assistance to diverse populations.

Course of Study

A major in Human Social Services consists of at least 63 credits.

1. Core courses: HSS 100, 200, 300, 400, 493, 494, COM 211, 311, PSY 101, 310, PHI 201, THE 211.
2. Communication: At least nine credits from the following: COM 260, 305, 307, 309, 340, 360, 380.
3. Psychology: At least nine credits from the following: PSY 120, 130, 230, 250, 255, 260, 300, 305, 315, 321, 324, x91
4. Religious Studies: At least nine credits from the following: PHI 101, 102, 202, 203, THE 100/105/110, 120, 130, 421, 431.
5. Collateral Requirements: SOC 101 and MAT 117.
6. Four documented semesters of volunteer experience in the field of human services working with diverse populations is recommended and will be strongly encouraged.

Course Descriptions

HSS 100 Introduction to Human Social Services. 3 cr.

This course provides a Christ-centered study of the history, concepts, theories, principles, and present day practices of the profession and field of human social services. This course pays special attention to the various client populations and career options as well as the characteristics of effective human social service workers.

HSS 200 Serving Diverse Populations. 3 cr.

This course introduces the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviors designed to reflect Christ centered, culturally competent practices within the field of human social services. Prereq: HSS 100.

HSS 300 Human Social Services. 3 cr.

This course provides an overview of the history, theoretical perspectives and concepts related to the network of programs providing service to millions of Americans struggling with illness, disability, and economic dependence. Throughout the course, students will be introduced to careers in human services, theories of counseling, social welfare policy, and current controversies and issues within the field. Students are required to interview and evaluate mission and policies of local public and private agencies. Prereq: HSS 100 and successful completion of PSY 210.

HSS 400 Advanced Human Social Services. 3 cr.

This advanced course in human services professionalizes the many skills introduced throughout the program. Specifically the course addresses professional writing, the use of behavioral observations and documentation, counseling skills as well as case management and treatment planning. In addition, the course addresses legal and ethical issues encountered throughout the field of human services. Prereq: HSS 300 and junior standing.

HSS 493 Practicum in Human Social Services 1. 3 cr.

This represents a required 3 credit, 135 hour placement at single social services agency. Given most agencies require training specific to program, this practicum incorporates on the job training for students enhancing the skills introduced throughout the program. In addition, the course includes a 1 hour per week group seminar designed to discuss application of program goals in the context of students' learning experiences. Students will become familiar with the operations of a human services agency, including client/staff interaction and employee responsibilities. All sites must provide students with professional supervision. Attendance at the weekly seminar remains a mandatory requirement for all practicum credits and serves to separate this course from other internships offered through Wisconsin Lutheran College. Prereq: HSS 400 and junior standing.

HSS 494 Practicum in Human Social Services 2. 3 cr.

This represents a required 3 credit, 135 hour placement at single social services agency. Given most agencies require training specific to program, this practicum incorporates on the job training for students enhancing the skills introduced throughout the program. In addition, the course includes a 1 hour per week group seminar designed to discuss application of program goals in the context of students' learning experiences. Students will become familiar with the operations of a human services agency, including client/staff interaction and employee responsibilities. All sites must provide students with professional supervision. Attendance at the weekly seminar remains a mandatory requirement for all practicum credits and serves to separate this course from other internships offered through Wisconsin Lutheran College. Prereq: HSS 493 and junior standing.

HSS x91 Special Topics. 1-3 cr.

Selected topics in Human Social Services.

HSS 199-499 Independent Study. 1-3 cr.

By arrangement with department.