

# Human Services

# Careers

**H**uman service workers are people with various job titles, such as social services assistant, case management aide, social work assistant, residential counselor, community support worker, alcohol or drug abuse counselor, mental health technician, child care worker, community outreach worker, life skill counselor and gerontology aide. They generally work under the direction of professionals from a wide variety of fields, such as nursing, psychiatry, psychology, rehabilitation or social work. The amount of responsibility and supervision they are given varies a great deal. Some are on their own most of the time and have little direct supervision; others work under close direction.

Human services workers provide direct and indirect client services. They assess clients' needs, establish their eligibility for benefits and services and help them obtain them. They examine financial documents such as rent receipts and tax returns to determine whether the Medicaid, welfare and other human services programs. They also arrange for transportation and escorts and provide emotional support.

Human services workers also play a variety of roles in community settings. They may organize and lead group activities, assist clients in need of crisis intervention or administer a food bank or emergency fuel program. In halfway houses, group homes and government-supported housing programs, they assist adult residents who need supervision in personal hygiene and daily living skills. The review clients' records, ensure they take correct doses of medication, talk with their families and confer with medical personnel to gain better insight into clients' backgrounds and needs.

## Job Outlook

Employment of social and human service assistants is expected to grow by nearly 34 percent through 2016. Job prospects are expected to be excellent, particularly for applicants with appropriate postsecondary education.

The number of social and human service assistants is projected to grow by nearly 34 percent between 2006 and 2016.

Demand for social services will expand with the growing elderly population, who are more likely to need adult day care, meal delivery programs, support during medical crises, and other services. In addition, more social and human service assistants will be needed to provide services to pregnant teenagers, people who are homeless, people who are mentally disabled or developmentally challenged, and people who are substance abusers.

Job training programs are also expected to require additional social and human service assistants. As social welfare policies shift focus from benefit-based programs to work-based initiatives, there will be more demand for people to teach job skills to the people who are new to, or returning to, the workforce.

## Earnings

Median annual earnings of social and human service assistants were \$25,580 in May 2006. The middle 50 percent earned between \$20,350 and \$32,440. The top 10 percent earned more than \$40,780, while the lowest 10 percent earned less than \$16,180.

## Related Careers

- Social Work
- Psychology
- Preschool Education
- Child Care Worker



# Human Services Careers

## Educational Opportunities in Human Services at LCCC

### *Associate of Applied Science in Human Services*

The human services degree prepares students for entry level social service positions. The associate of applied science degree in human services prepares students for employment as case managers, child care workers, program aides, mental health technicians, job coaches, outreach workers and social service aides. Lorain County Community College has articulation agreements with colleges and universities including programs offered by the College's University Partnership.

Students in the associate of applied science in human services program complete courses in:

- Communications
- Computer information systems
- English
- Human services
- Political science
- Psychology
- Social work
- Sociology

## Related Educational Opportunities at LCCC

### *Associate of Arts in Psychology*

The mission of the Psychology Department is to support the college community by providing a diverse, dynamic, scientific and personalized learning environment that inspires student achievement, fosters academic excellence, promotes service, and facilitates lifelong learning.

Through lectures, readings, research, laboratory experiences, writing assignments, discussions, and other academic and scholarly activities, psychology courses will promote the acquisition of knowledge, skills and values consistent with a liberal arts education and enable students to function personally and professionally as informed and socially responsible world-citizens.

The Psychology Department at Lorain County Community College offers eighteen psychology courses that are some of the most popular at the College, enhanced by an outstanding faculty.

### *Associate of Arts (with emphasis in social work)*

The associate of arts is for students who want to pursue bachelor's degrees in social work by completing the first two or more years at LCCC. Students completing the associate of arts degree may transfer with junior (or higher) standing to the four-year university or college of their choice. The associate of

arts is intended for students who wish to complete the first two or more years of a bachelor's degree program at LCCC in a program field such as social work.

## Educational Opportunities through LCCC's University Partnership

### **Cleveland State University**

#### *Bachelor of Arts in Psychology*

The study of psychology is concerned with explaining, predicting, and describing the thoughts, emotions, and actions of humans and animals. A major or minor in psychology provides an excellent background for occupations in such diverse fields as business, education, and the social services. A major provides the basis for graduate training leading to the pursuit of psychology as a profession in either the academic or applied areas. Many students decide to major in psychology because the CSU program prepares them to work with and help others in many different ways, from providing one-on-one, in-depth assistance to those who are suffering to conducting research into the causes of mental illness to understanding what motivates people to respond to written or oral communication. Individuals, couples, families, schools, businesses, and communities all seek and use psychological services.

### **Youngstown State University**

#### *Bachelor of Social Work*

The baccalaureate degree with a major in social work prepares students for entry into beginning, generalist, professional social work practice. Social workers are employed in a variety of settings such as public and private welfare agencies, mental health centers, health care settings, educational systems, correctional institutions, and business and industry. The social work program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. A baccalaureate degree in social work from an accredited degree program qualifies a person to apply for licensing in the state of Ohio.

### *Master of Health and Human Services*

Program accommodates students from health and human service professions who require the skills and abilities for supervisory/managerial positions or who desire competence in health promotion. After completion of an academic core of course work, students may concentrate in either health promotion or administration for health and human service professions.

## About Lorain County Community College

Lorain County Community College continues to experience enrollment growth because attending LCCC is the most economical way to reach educational goals that help graduates become valuable players in the future economic growth of the county and region. Because of the variety and quality of learning opportunities LCCC provides, enrollment has grown 78 percent since 2000.

Lorain County Community College, which opened in 1963, is one of Ohio's leading colleges delivering credit programs at its Elyria campus and outreach centers in downtown Elyria, Lorain, Wellington and Brunswick. Plus more than 200 courses are offered via distance-learning education options, and the Associate of Arts degree can be completed entirely online.

Students can choose from more than 80 educational programs. Students can complete the first half — and sometimes more — of a bachelor's degree through LCCC's University Partnership, which brings eight universities to the LCCC campus offering 40 bachelor's and master's degree programs. Students can upgrade, retrain and improve current life skills.

In addition to providing a great education for those who enter college with aspirations of a degree, LCCC helps those who have changed their career goals, who want to broaden their horizons, and who want to return to work. LCCC provides learning and training for those who want to move up but find they need new or improved skills for the kind of professional opportunities they seek.

LCCC faculty is recognized locally and nationally for their work as professors and in other areas. They all have advanced degrees and real world experience and understand their primary responsibility at LCCC is to teach classes.

LCCC is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, which is the regional accrediting authority for Ohio colleges and universities. Since opening its doors, LCCC has served more than 300,000 people. More than six million students enroll annually in credit courses at America's community colleges, representing about 46 percent of all students in higher education and about 56 percent of all first-time college entrants.



**Lorain County  
Community College**



**The University  
Partnership**

*of Lorain County Community College*

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