

So You Want to Be a Human Services Professional

LCCC Career Exploration Podcast

Music:	00:05	[Inaudible]
Arlena Lockard:	00:05	Oftentimes, we'll have somebody come in and they'll say, I want to help people, but I don't want to be a nurse and I don't want to be a teacher.
Music:	00:15	[Inaudible]
Arlena Lockard:	00:16	The y know that they want to be within a helping profession and we talk about what that is and that you are that person that helps navigate a system. And you're really that advocate for that patient or client or customer.
Music:	00:33	[Inaudible]
Jennifer Kukis:	00:33	They're really compassionate people and they're very motivated to help others and to give back to society.
Music:	00:43	[Inaudible]
Jennifer Kukis:	00:43	What I always loved about social work is you can work with so many different types of people in so many different jobs. It's just, a field that has lots of different opportunities.
Music:	01:02	[Inaudible]
Janet Maltbie:	01:03	From the campus of Lorain County Community College. This is the Career Exploration podcast on LCCCradio.com the Boom. I'm Janet Maltbie. We explore careers, college majors, and more so you can be a success here on the LCCC campus and beyond. I'm a career counselor and I believe completing a degree, pursuing passionate work and debt free living is key to your future. I'm here to help you on your journey. And so are my guests.
Music:	01:30	[Inaudible]
Janet Maltbie:	01:30	In this podcast we'll discuss the two year degree in Human Services with Professor Jennifer Kukis and Academic Advisor Arlena Lockard. Welcome Jennifer and Arlena.

Jennifer Kukis: [01:40](#) Thank you.

Janet Maltbie: [01:41](#) Jennifer. Can you talk about the Human Service degree? What kind of things would they normally do?

Jennifer Kukis: [01:46](#) Okay, so somebody with the Associates Degree in Human Services would be doing program development, carrying out programs. You know, an example is Big Brothers Big Sisters that has a lot of my students there. Some have gone on and got higher degrees but they did their practicum there. So they people think of big brothers, big sisters. As you know, the volunteer in the community gets a little, but they also go into schools and they do. So a Human Service degree student might coordinate those sites at the schools with high school students being the big and elementary schools, students being the little. In social work. The first professional level is a Bachelor's degree, but this is a paraprofessional level that has a, license with it. So when they successfully complete the two year Human Services degree and meet all the requirements, they are eligible for the Assistant Social Work license with the Ohio Social Work Board.

Jennifer Kukis: [02:52](#) And so the purpose of the Applied Human Service degree is that they are being trained to be able to go into an entry level position in Human Services and Social Services as a generalist. So, you know, they may want to work with an agency that helps children or somebody might want to work with the elderly, but we're training them to work with any population.

Janet Maltbie: [03:16](#) They are working alongside of social workers. Correct?

Jennifer Kukis: [03:20](#) Yes.

Janet Maltbie: [03:20](#) Okay. Cause.

Jennifer Kukis: [03:21](#) And other people,

Janet Maltbie: [03:22](#) All right. And other people

Jennifer Kukis: [03:23](#) Um right. So you know, so they have to be just like Social Workers at the Bachelor's Degree have an LSW. They also have to be supervised but this is an entry level, allows for an entry level position at the two year degree.

Janet Maltbie: [03:40](#) All right. Arlena when you talk with students regarding this Human Services degree, what kind of students do you think are particularly well suited for this degree?

- Arlena Lockard: [03:50](#) Those students that, know, they want to be helpers in some fashion, but they're trying to figure it out. Oftentimes we'll have somebody come in and they'll say, I want to help people, but I don't want to be a nurse and I don't want to be a teacher. And so they know that, they want to be within a helping profession and we talk about what that is and that you are that person that helps the patient or the client navigate a system and you're really that advocate for that patient or client or customer. And so understanding the system, they are going to be working for the institution that are going to be working for the agency that you're working for. And having that knowledge is only gonna make you better at your job. So understanding that as well as people in general, understanding how people operate,
- Jennifer Kukis: [04:37](#) It helps.
- Arlena Lockard: [04:38](#) It's going to be, I'm really what makes you a good at this position. I also have another bucket of students that come in that again have been touched by Social Services. So they've either been a child that had a child advocate or somebody in their family had to navigate Job and Family services or something like that. And so they come in with clear purpose and a goal. They know, they understand why they're pursuing Human Services. So they'll come in and tell you that I want to do the Human Services degree or I want to be a Licensed Social Worker. So I think if I had to pick between the two, the ones that have the very clear decision on why they're doing it, that purpose and that intent are typically the most successful out of the two buckets. But that doesn't mean that somebody who kind of falls into this career, isn't it also a successful one as well.
- Janet Maltbie: [05:31](#) The thing that I like about the Human Services degree is the two year program. You don't have to go on for a four year degree because that's not what everybody wants. Only certain people want to continue on with the Bachelor's degree, but yet it also, those courses that you take for the Human Services also feed into the Bachelor's degree in social work.
- Jennifer Kukis: [05:52](#) Correct.
- Janet Maltbie: [05:52](#) So you have a choice.
- Jennifer Kukis: [05:54](#) Right. But I would say, and I do encourage students, I think in the classes we make it pretty clear to really move forward in this field. You really do need to go on and get a social work degree. However, I do have several students who have not and are still in the job that they got when they got hired after the two year degree and it's been, I mean one's been a decade and

she's very happy where she's at in the position she's at and has built herself a career there.

- Jennifer Kukis: [06:23](#) But I would say for the most part, most people do go on. I actually have two Adjuncts who went through my two year degree program who are now teaching here and have Master's degrees.
- Janet Maltbie: [06:36](#) That's cool.
- Jennifer Kukis: [06:37](#) It is.
- New Speaker: [06:37](#) Yeah. It is.
- Janet Maltbie: [06:39](#) The Human Services degrees. What kind of money are we talking about salary wise? Are we, are we looking at what, 10, \$15? \$20 an hour? Is that where we're looking at?
- Jennifer Kukis: [06:48](#) Yeah. you know, you don't go into this field for the money. I mean, I think it's you know, you go in for many reasons, but that is an important component of it. I would say that the average student in getting a degree from the two year Human Services Associates degree is making the average is about \$13 an hour. But that's the average. So I have some getting hired at 11, unfortunately some, you know, at 10 something.
- Jennifer Kukis: [07:17](#) But then I also have had students getting hired at the 15, 16. So it depends on what type of organization or agency you're and what population you're working with.
- Janet Maltbie: [07:29](#) Okay. And then obviously as you move towards the Bachelor's degree and the Master's degree, you going to be earning more.
- Jennifer Kukis: [07:35](#) You're going to be earning more. But the Bachelor's degree and I've done some research. The Bachelor's, there's more opportunity. I'll be honest, at the Bachelor's for entry level jobs, but the rate seems to be about the same as the Associates. They're not really making that much more, except there's some areas they might be able to get a job more easily than the Human Service that might pay a little more.
- Janet Maltbie: [07:57](#) Okay. And embedded in the Human Services degree, I believe is Intro to Social Work, correct?
- Jennifer Kukis: [08:03](#) Correct.
- Janet Maltbie: [08:04](#) Can you tell us a little bit about what that class is about?

Jennifer Kukis: [08:07](#) Okay. So the intro to social work class is really helping people, one, to see if this is the field for them. So it's like a smorgasbord about the social work field and all the areas. I mean, what I always loved about social work is you can work with so many different types of people in so many different jobs. It's just a, a field that has lots of different opportunities. So we want to show them that and also start to build on the kinds of skills they're going to need for the rest of the courses.

Janet Maltbie: [08:42](#) And also part of the social work or the Human Services degree is math, right. There is a math

Jennifer Kukis: [08:49](#) Yes

Janet Maltbie: [08:50](#) Class that you have to take college level math class. Correct. And, and then there's also the practicum that is toward the end of the class, once you've had what, how many, two semesters of what do you, what is.

Jennifer Kukis: [09:03](#) Usually the last semester?

Janet Maltbie: [09:05](#) Is it the last semester?

New Speaker: [09:06](#) Yes.

Arlena Lockard: [09:06](#) And in the last year for sure.

Janet Maltbie: [09:08](#) And they go to you or are they are you coordinating that part?

Jennifer Kukis: [09:11](#) Yes, I do, I interview them really to see what their interests are and tell them workplaces I've had students and also how, explain how if they want to find their own place, how that works and walk them through all that and support them through that.

Janet Maltbie: [09:27](#) Okay. Is there any student that comes to mind that kinda really struggled through the program but then eventually found a way?

New Speaker: [09:35](#) Yes, they've often have a life event or more than one life event that has come up such as, you know, having a child or a parent getting really sick on top of another issue and they've had to take a break and then they've come back. It's sometimes it's happened more than once, but those are those students that Arlena was speaking about that come in with a purpose and they are motivated and they are going to do this and I was a, you know, it's a high percentage of the students in the, in the

Applied Human Service degree, you know, those are often students that no one else has ever gone to college in their family. They maybe struggled a bit in school. But they're really, I'm compassionate people and they're very motivated to help others and to give back to society.

Janet Maltbie: [10:22](#)

Right. Because somebody has helped them.

New Speaker: [10:23](#)

Often.

Jennifer Kukis: [10:24](#)

Okay. That's been the case.

Music: [10:29](#)

[Inaudible].

Janet Maltbie: [10:29](#)

If you're interested in pursuing a two year degree in Human Services or just want to know more about the program, please call (440) 366-4033 and asked to speak with Arlena Lockard or a member of our Human Services team. Next step, we'll discuss the four year degree in Social Work. We have several options here on the LCCC campus and beyond. You are listening to the LCCC Career Exploration podcast on college radio, heard round the world LCCC, radio.com. The Boom.

Music: [11:11](#)

[Inaudible].