

WHAT OUR GRADUATES SAY:

Myra Mensch, BSW – Class of 2022

Conservatorship Case Worker with Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

“I loved my time in the social work program at HPU. My professors were knowledgeable, friendly, and genuinely cared about student success. The courses provided real-world perspectives. Along with my internship, my professors gave me the experience and knowledge I needed to begin working in the field of social work.”

Destiny Sharp, LMSW – Class of 2020

Hendrick Medical Center Brownwood Social Worker

“I have many amazing memories from the four years I attended the university. The most impactful part of my experience is the amount of support professors gave students and continue to give post-graduation. I left HPU knowing I had developed friendships that will last a lifetime!”

Jacob Escobar, BSW – Class of 2018

Family Service Worker for the Head Start in Winters, Texas

“The social work program at HPU is great. The classes were small, but that made learning better for me. Having a better understanding of cultural competency, human behavior, and field (my internship) helped me with where I am today. I work with low-income families by providing them with the resources they need. We serve families with different cultural backgrounds, children with disabilities, and those who are close to their goals but need a little more assistance. I am blessed to have been a part of this program.”

“**Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.**”

Proverbs 31:8-9, NIV

CONTACT

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

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SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

The mission of the Social Work Program is to prepare students in a Christian context as generalist practitioners for service at baccalaureate entry-level positions by ensuring that they will have the requisite competencies and corresponding practice behaviors to effectively assist those in their community and greater society with integrity and competence.





THE SOCIAL WORK COURSES ARE SUPPORTED BY THE LIBERAL ARTS CURRICULUM AND INCLUDE:

- Introduction to Social Work
- Human Behavior in the Social Environment I and II
- Social Services in Rural Settings
- Social Welfare Policy, Research Theory and Techniques
- Social Work Practice I, II, and III
- Field Instruction I
- Field Instruction II

Howard Payne University is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Graduates of CSWE-accredited schools who pursue a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree can waive the first year of graduate education.

FIELD PRACTICUM

The purpose of field practicum is to afford an opportunity for the student to apply generalist social work knowledge, values, and skills in an agency setting. Students are supervised by a social worker or a related professional in the field as well as their field director. The field practicum in the social work program is an experience designed to integrate the concepts from previous and current program components and to provide an opportunity for the student to perform generalist social work practice. Students must complete a total of 400 hours in their placement. Students will complete 200 hours in the fall and 200 hours in the spring. Students are placed with local social service agencies in the community. A student cannot graduate without the completion of their field hours. Upon completion of their hours, students graduate with one year of experience for their résumés, making them highly competitive for an entry-level social work position.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORK (SASW)

This student-led organization encourages members to become involved in our community with volunteer opportunities, education, advocacy, and unity. The guiding principle of the Student Association of Social Work (SASW) is “Be the change you wish to see in the world.” The SASW at HPU is an organization aimed at:

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| • Enhancing the students’ learning and skill development in social work | • Fostering unity among social work students |
| • Encouraging social change in the community | • Promoting advocacy |
| • Promoting social and economic justice | • Providing volunteer opportunities |
| • Enhancing personal growth and development | • Increasing student awareness of the social work profession |

WHAT IS A SOCIAL WORKER?

A social worker is an advocate for the dignity, worth, and rights of every individual in society. Social workers give people hope and concrete tools to help them make it through the hard circumstances in life. They take action to promote social justice for individuals, organizations, and communities. Social workers can work in any area including healthcare, mental health, nursing homes, education, corporate consulting, communications, and policy analysis.

Master’s-level social workers can provide specialized mental health therapy in a private practice or for a mental health services provider (social work majors who go on to graduate school can earn a master’s degree in one year).

ACCORDING TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS FROM 2016-2026 IN THE U.S.:

- Overall employment of social workers is projected to grow 16%
- Employment of child, family, and school social workers is projected to grow 14%
- Employment of healthcare social workers is projected to grow 20%
- Employment of mental health and substance abuse social workers is projected to grow 19%

More than 10,000 social workers are currently employed at the U.S. Department of Veteran’s Affairs. The Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration ranks social workers as the nation’s largest group of mental health services providers.

CAREERS IN SOCIAL WORK

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| • Adult Protective Services | • Foster and/or Adoption Agencies |
| • Child Welfare | • Government Agencies |
| • Community Based Organizations | • Hospice |
| • Community Mental Health Centers | • Hospitals and Outpatient Clinics |
| • Community Organizations | • Individual and Family Service Agencies |
| • Correctional Facilities | • Military Hospitals |
| • Environmental Justice Agencies | • Nursing Facilities |
| | • Policy Analysis |
| | • Politics |
| | • Prisons |
| | • Private Practice |
| | • Psychiatry |
| | • Researchers |
| | • Schools |
| | • Substance Abuse |
| | • Treatment Facilities |
| | • Veteran Hospitals and Outpatient Clinics |
| | • Vocational Rehabilitation Centers |

