



Stark State

COLLEGE

human and social services gerontology

associate of applied science

Q&A

What can I do with an associate degree in human and social service?

When you finish your associate degree, you're eligible for employment as an assistant to a social worker, a chemical dependency counselor assistant, or a case manager. In the human services field, students are strongly encouraged to transfer their associate degree to a bachelor's degree program in social work.

Where could I be employed with an associate degree in human and social services?

You might be employed in any agency working with the elderly, mental health, adult or juvenile criminal justice, substance abuse, homelessness, crisis intervention, or any other area where social services are needed.

How does the gerontology major differ from other human and social services options?

With specific courses geared to current best practices in this field, this major prepares you to be more effective in working with older adults and in the implementation of programs and services for the elderly.

How does a gerontology major help with my career options?

Graduates can apply to become an Ohio registered social worker assistant, working under the supervision of a social worker to develop and organize programs related to cases such as substance abuse, rehabilitation and the aging process. You also can continue to a bachelor's degree program to become a social worker. You'll be in demand – students enrolled in this major often get hired before graduation.

How is the associate degree different from a bachelor's degree in social work?

After you successfully complete your associate degree program, you'll be eligible to apply to be registered as a social work assistant through the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board. In Ohio, licensed social workers must have a bachelor's or master's degree in social work (social workers might even have a doctoral degree). Different states have different licensing requirements.

Is further education available in this field?

Stark State has transfer agreements with several four-year universities that offer social work programs at the bachelor's degree level. Your advisor can help you determine your best path to a bachelor's of social work degree.

What's the salary range for graduates with a two-year degree in human and social services?

Salaries vary based on individual agency standards, education and experience. Salaries tend to increase with advanced education and credentialing, and Stark State's associate degree can smoothly transfer to a bachelor's degree program. Salary ranges are estimates which can vary due to a number of factors and may change over time.

Can I transfer classes to Stark State College?

You can transfer certain classes you've taken at other colleges/universities. Contact admissions at info@starkstate.edu.

Can I be licensed with an associate degree?

While you can't be licensed in Ohio as a social worker with an associate degree, you can apply to be a registered social worker assistant. For more information, contact the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapist Board at 614-466-0912 or at www.cswmft.ohio.gov.

How long will it take me to complete the associate degree?

You can enroll as a full-time or part-time student. Part-time enrollment increases the time needed to complete the course requirements. Also, your placement scores may indicate additional remedial course work is needed. Classes are offered days, evenings and weekends and at satellite locations. You'll need to attend main campus for some of your classes.

Is there a professional organization for human service professionals?

The National Association of Social Workers is a professional organization for those employed in the human services field.

Is financial aid available?

Yes, you could qualify for financial aid and/or scholarships. Contact the Financial Aid Office about your eligibility at studentservices@starkstate.edu.

Will field work be required for this degree?

You'll be required to complete observation hours at a community agency in addition to completing 210 hours of a practicum experience.

Are there any other areas of specialization in the human and social service degree program?

Stark State offers an associate degree of applied sciences with a major in chemical dependency and community corrections, along with certificates in both gerontology and chemical dependency.

For more information
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