

What can I do after completing an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Social Work Specialization at Central Texas College?

Social Workers help people solve and cope with problems in their everyday lives. These problems could be associated with many areas including; platonic/romantic relationships, childhood/family bonds, educational needs, and mental/physical wellness. Clinical Social Workers also diagnose and treat mental, behavioral, and emotional issues. In order to become a Clinical Social Worker, you must have a master's degree in social work (MSW) and be licensed. Licensure varies by state, therefore please check with your state licensing board. For example, in Texas, you would contact the Texas Department of State Health Services.

A bachelor's degree in social work (BSW) is the minimum requirement for entry-level/administrative social work positions. However, students wanting to do specialized practice and provide therapy in clinical settings must have a master's in social work, therefore, students are encouraged to think about how much education they truly intend to pursue.

Truthfully speaking, an AAS in Social Work Specialization may enable individuals to find employment in entry-level positions in social/human service agencies and work as social services assistants and psych techs. While such positions may not be social work specific, they could allow the graduate to undertake related employment while working towards their bachelor's degree. **Prior to pursuing the AAS in Social Work Specialization, students are advised to contact the University they are interested in transferring to, in order to find out which classes may/may not be transferable. There are many institutions offering BSWs and the classes that they will/will not accept varies per institution; therefore, it is important that students contact the institutions in advance to ensure transferability. In some situations pursuing the AAS may not be the most effective route.**

Students wanting to be able to work directly after completing an associate's level degree are encouraged to consider completing the AAS in Chemical Dependency Counseling which does offer a career path with licensure at the associate's level (*please see 'What can I do after completing a Certificate or Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Chemical Dependency Counseling?'*)

Below is a table showing some of the fields social workers may work in and potential employment settings. Please ensure you research the specific qualifications required by the field or agency you are interested in, as many do require a MSW.

Field of Social Work	Employment Settings
Child and Family – protect vulnerable children and intervene when children are in danger of abuse and neglect. Ensure children are well cared for and protected. Help families in need of assistance and support children and families in foster care and adoption processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public and private child welfare agencies • Adoption agencies • Foster care agencies • Child day care agencies • Child advocacy centers
School – help students to cope with pressures of growing up and resolving emotional and academic challenges. Also work with teachers, parents and school administrators to develop plans to improve students' performance and development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary and secondary schools • School districts • Head Start programs
Gerontological - support senior citizens and their caregivers to improve mental and physical health and living conditions by providing counseling and developing programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitals • Nursing homes • Community centers

Field of Social Work	Employment Settings
<p>Healthcare – support patients and families in understanding their diagnoses by providing counseling and helping patients make the necessary adjustments to their lifestyle. Hospice and palliative care social workers help patients suffering from chronic or terminal illnesses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitals and clinics • Public health centers • Nursing homes/hospice • Mental Health Clinics • Veteran’s Administration
<p>Criminal justice and corrections - provide counseling and therapy to victims of crime and assist courts. In correctional facilities, social workers work to rehabilitate offenders and support their families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim services agencies • Courts • Prisons and correctional facilities • Probation and parole offices
<p>Employee assistance – assist employees in dealing with personal and work-related problems in order to improve the work environment and help employees improve productivity and satisfaction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses • Organizations • Employee assistance programs • Labor unions
<p>Developmentally-disabled individuals – help individuals to adjust and lead productive lives by developing policy and advocating for the disabled.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential homes for the disabled • Local, state and federal agencies • Medical and mental health facilities
<p>Community – work with organizations to improve conditions by developing programs and advocating for improvements in order to enhance the quality of life for citizens.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy organizations • Community centers • Community organizations
<p>Individuals in need – assist the lives of those in need by developing programs, providing support and advocacy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public welfare agencies • Homeless agencies • Veteran’s agencies
<p>Clinical social workers - offer psychotherapy or counseling services to resolve psycho-social and emotional problems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family service agencies • Community mental health centers and clinics • Psychiatric and day treatment hospitals • Employee assistance programs • Schools • Jails and prisons • Private practice

Please note: the information above is for general information purposes only and is merely a guideline to give students suggestions of the types of careers that can be pursued following an AAS degree in social work. It is by no means an exhaustive or prescriptive list. We strongly recommend students explore their chosen career fields by visiting the **Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook** (www.bls.gov/ooh).

We also suggest student’s research job search websites to gain an understanding of the types of jobs in the field and the minimum requirements required.