



CAREER PATH

Human Services

CAREER CLUSTER
Human Services

CAREER PATHWAY
Counseling and Mental Health Services



MENTAL HEALTH/SUBSTANCE ABUSE SOCIAL WORKER

Assess and treat individuals with mental, emotional, or substance abuse problems, including abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and/or other drugs. Activities may include individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, case management, client advocacy, prevention, and education.

Knowledge and Skills Needed

In addition to courses required for high school graduation, essential skills and knowledge needed for a career as a mental health/substance abuse social worker are reinforced by taking rigorous and relevant courses, as well as participating in work-based experiences and student organization activities.

(See the Sample Personal Plan of Study for suggested coursework, activities, and knowledge and skills to pursue in preparation of an occupation in this Career Cluster.)

Education Requirements

Occupation	Percent of Missouri employees aged 25 to 44 in the occupation whose highest level of educational attainment is:		
	High School or Less	Some College	Bachelor Degree or More
Mental health and substance abuse social workers	7.1%	15.7%	77.2%
Counselors, social workers, and other community and social service specialists	10.3%	19.8%	69.9%
Community and social services	10.5%	20.5%	69.0%

Most Common Educational Level: Master's degree

Note: Be sure to learn whether your occupation has a specific requirement for education or licensing. Apprenticeships are available for more than 240 occupations. Visit www.oa.doleta.gov/bat.cfm

National and State Wage Information

Location	Pay Period	2006		
		Entry*	Median	Experienced**
United States	Hourly	\$13.43	\$17.02	\$21.98
	Yearly	\$27,900	\$35,400	\$45,700
Missouri	Hourly	\$11.69	\$14.45	\$18.03
	Yearly	\$24,300	\$30,100	\$37,500

Based on (*) lower 25% and (**) upper 25% percentile of wages

National and State Employment Trends

Mental Health/Substance Abuse Social Worker	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings*
	2006	2016		
United States	122,300	158,800	+ 30 %	6,240
Missouri	2,840	3,510	+ 24 %	120

*The estimate for Job Openings includes both turnover that results from people who leave the occupation (e.g. quit, retire, death) and new jobs that are created.

Educational Opportunities

Note: This list may not be all inclusive. For more information about Missouri schools and programs, visit www.dhe.mo.gov

(No schools listed)



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