What can you do with an MSW from NYU Silver?

Social Work is one of the most rewarding professions. As a social worker, one is able to truly make a difference in the lives of others and help those in need. Our world-renowned social work graduate program equips students with professional knowledge and skills that will allow them to be a prominent member of the field. These skills include, but are not limited to, leadership, program design, program management, counseling, research, and policy analysis. A master’s of social work also demonstrates a sense of compassion and dedication to prospective employers. Social workers help populations such as: children, women, immigrants/migrants, the elderly, the disabled, families living in poverty, health and mental health, employment, and abuse and neglect, and substance abuse in settings such as hospitals, schools, social services agencies, correctional facilities, nursing homes, community centers, NGO, profit and not-for-profit organizations, and government offices.

Approximately 85 percent of graduates obtained a position within six months of program completion. Graduates of the class of 2014 obtained positions in areas including mental health, child welfare and families, health, substance abuse, aging, and school-based social work.

There are many positions available to an MSW graduate. Here are some of the most popular careers in the US:

MEDICAL/PUBLIC HEALTH
Medical/public health social workers work in any facility that provides care to patients, including hospitals, emergency rooms, hospices, nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities, assisted living facilities and home health agencies. They are responsible for providing support to patients with chronic or terminal illnesses, as well as their families. Patients rely on social workers to ensure that they are receiving proper care, assist with decision making, facilitate communication with their medical providers, and assist with paperwork and decision-making. Medical social workers are strong advocates for patient rights and an incredible source of comfort during an extremely difficult time in their clients’ lives. They typically work in interdisciplinary teams with other health care professionals within hospitals, emergency rooms, nursing homes, hospices, and assisted living facilities. Social workers in the medical field are in high demand, as the number of jobs is expected to grow by 22 percent through 2018, and earn anywhere from $49,830 to $74,030 annually per recent reports at the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS).

SUBSTANCE ABUSE
Substance abuse counselors work with individuals that are suffering from dependency on drugs, alcohol, and other substances through both individual and group psychotherapy. Substance abuse social workers are employed in a variety of venues, including rehabilitation facilities, prisons, private practices, for- and non-profit organizations, and juvenile detention facilities. As the legal system continues to increase the emphasis on rehabilitation, employment in this subfield is predicted to grow by 20 percent by 2018. Beginning at $38,120 and extending to as much as $60,400 per the BLS, this career opportunity is often one of the best for MSW graduates to pursue.
MENTAL HEALTH
Mental health social workers provide therapy, and this requires advanced education, as well as licensure, as a clinical social worker (LCSW). As a mental health social worker or clinical social worker, there is a diverse range of mental health services one can provide. You can work in community mental health centers, mental hospitals, private practices, hospitals, and even schools. In this role, you assess your clients’ mental health, diagnose mental disorders, develop treatment plans, and assist in their living with their mental disorders. The average annual salary of a mental health social worker is $41,880.

CHILD WELFARE
Child welfare is an area of social work that requires sensitivity, compassion, and a love for children. Child welfare social workers provide services to children who are abused and neglected by their parents or suffering from impoverishment and homelessness. Many child welfare workers work with child protective services to investigate reports of child abuse and neglect, and intervene when a child’s home environment is deemed unsafe. When a child is in danger, child welfare workers facilitate the removal of that child and place them in a safe alternative environment. Employment for child welfare case workers is expected to grow at a rate of 12 percent before 2018. Most child welfare case workers have lower earnings ranging from $26,710 to $40,210 though some within administrative positions have higher earnings of $42,480 to $70,390 per figures available at the BLS.

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK
School social work is one of the more common areas in the field. As a school social worker, one is a liaison between school and students’ families, essentially bridging children’s personal lives and education to make sure their needs are being met. They serve as a liaison to provide helpful resources in the community or school to aid the student with academic and personal problems. School social workers can function as a guidance counselor and also work with special needs children to facilitate their integration into mainstream classes. School social workers are responsible for addressing a number of school issues, such as behavioral intervention programs, truancy prevention programs, sexual education, health education, crisis intervention and effective communication between parents, teachers and students. According to the BLS, school social workers have the potential to earn as much as $40,210 to $52,000 annually.

In addition to the mentioned popular careers, graduates can also become nursing home directors, hospice workers, psychiatric crisis screeners, teachers at universities, and prison social workers. While the careers are not well-known for being the highest paying, they are some of the most rewarding professions where workers can feel the tremendous impact of their hard work. Of all the degrees available in graduate programs, a social work degree offers some of the most diverse opportunities in meaningful areas.

Learn more about what our graduates have accomplished at socialwork.nyu.edu.