WHAT DO SOCIAL WORKERS DO?
Social workers are professionals who have many different roles. They provide services to people of any age, income, race, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation. They help people cope with complex social and interpersonal problems and assist in obtaining resources for people.

The historic mission of social work has been to help people who are disadvantaged. Social workers today work with people from all walks of life with all kinds of problems in all kinds of settings.

Social workers can be found in:
- Child and Family Services Agencies
- Social Welfare Agencies
- Addiction Treatment Centers
- Nursing Homes
- Mental Health Centers
- Schools, Colleges and Universities
- Foster Care and Adoption Agencies
- Residential Treatment Programs
- The Criminal Justice System and Correctional Facilities
- Hospitals and Health Care Agencies
- And many other private and public settings in local, state, federal, and global arenas!

Social workers are also active in community organizations where they play key roles in social planning, social action, social policy, and program development.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
The field of social work and human services ranks among the top ten fastest growing occupations, according to the National Occupational Handbook. Opportunities are expected to be good, particularly for job applicants with appropriate post-secondary education and experience.

According to the State of New Jersey's Estimated and Projected Employment by Occupation Report, the Garden State projects greater than a 25 percent increase in the next ten years in social work positions (which usually require Bachelor's and Master's degrees) and greater than a 50 percent rise in social and human services positions (which usually require an Associate's degree). Social and human services assistant positions are projected to more than double, making them among the most rapidly growing occupations.

Northern New Jersey alone currently has almost 500 social service and mental health related agencies and organizations providing direct and indirect care to almost one million residents. The need for employees with training in generic casework, crisis, and cross-modal intervention skills is essential.

PROFESSIONAL STUDIES, SOCIAL WORK OPTION ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE (A.S.) DEGREE

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
The Associate in Science (A.S.) Degree in Professional Studies, Social Work Option, is designed to serve as a transfer degree program into baccalaureate programs in social work and to train students for entry level positions in a variety of human and social service fields such as gerontology, domestic violence, residential care, developmental disability, child care, substance abuse, and juvenile justice.

Through theoretical and experientially based learning, this program will provide students with competencies for assessment, advocacy, and intervention with individuals, small groups, and community organizations. Such skills are fundamental to the social work and human services fields.

GENERAL CURRICULUM (47 credits)

**Requirements**
- English Composition
- Social Science Electives
- Humanities Electives
- Mathematics
- Natural Science Electives
- Speech Communications
- Dynamics of Health and Fitness

**Credits**
- 6
- 6
- 15
- 6
- 8
- 3
- 3

SOCIAL WORK CURRICULUM (18 credits)

**Requirements**
- Introduction to Human Services
- Sociology
- Sociology of the Family
- Social Problems
- Sociology/Social Work Co-op Work Experience
- Changing Roles of Women
- or
- Ethnic and Minority Group Relations

**Credits**
- 3
- 3
- 3
- 3
- 3
- 3
- 3

* Please consult the college catalog in the year of your admission to the program for the exact degree requirements.
SOC-101 Sociology is the study of social behavior and human groups. It focuses primarily on the influence of social relationships upon people's attitudes and behavior. It is the examination of culture and the structure of human societies. The course focuses on major theoretical perspectives in sociology, social research methods, the impact of socialization and gender roles, how human groups arrange and/or stratify themselves, social inequalities, deviance, and social change. 3 credits
General Education Course

SOC-102 Introduction to Human Services is an analysis of the history of social welfare, social welfare philosophies, and social service systems in the U.S. Through lectures, group participation, field trips and/or Service Learning, students learn to recognize perspectives, definitions, historical developments, dynamics, current issues and trends, and social work roles while working within a multicultural society, as well as the common aspects of helping within the broad field of human services. 3 credits

SOC-103 Sociology of the Family is the study of the oldest and most fundamental social institution—The Family. This course analyzes various types of marriage forms, family types, sexuality and sexual learning, gender role socialization, family communication, conflict, and violence. Family life is viewed from the perspective of society and of the individual, and students are encouraged to examine their own family patterns in relation to topics discussed. 3 credits
General Education Course

SOC-113 Social Problems is the study of contemporary social issues and problems in the U.S. Various theoretical perspectives are utilized in an effort to understand why particular issues become defined as "problems," to determine the origin of social problems, and to critically assess proposed solutions to these perceived problems. Topics of discussion can include crime and delinquency, poverty, family violence, overpopulation, war, AIDS, sexual assault, mental illness, racism, sexism, and classism. 3 credits
General Education Course

SOC-115 Introduction to Substance Abuse presents an introductory systems-oriented approach to addressing alcohol and other drug problems. Providing an overview of chemical dependency and addiction services, the course examines causal theories, models, and definitions. In addition, intervention and prevention strategies, as well as public policy issues will be explored. Special attention will be given to the family systems perspective in theory, research, and treatment. 3 credits

SOC-116 Substance Abuse Counseling is an introduction to the field of substance abuse counseling, and examines the impact of substance abuse on individuals, families and society. Specific techniques for counseling the alcoholic, the problem drinker, and the addict are presented. Additionally this course will address the etiology of substance abuse, intervention tactics, and primary/relapse prevention strategies will be discussed. Special attention will be given to substance abuse problems in diverse populations. 3 credits

SOC-121 The Changing Roles of Women is an introductory, interdisciplinary study of the changing roles of women today. Topics of discussion includes women's roles in a cross-cultural and historical perspective, the influence of biology, sexuality, and psychology on the roles of women, women in the work force, women as portrayed in literature, the impact of religious beliefs on women, women's changing family roles, and traditional and present-day feminism. 3 credits
General Education Course; Diversity Course

SOC-222 Ethnic and Minority Group Relations is a study of the diverse ethnic and multicultural structures of the U.S. Topics of discussion include the social, economic, and familial structures of various ethnic groups, the impact of dislocation on the new immigrant, and the effects of prejudice and discrimination. 3 credits
Prerequisite: SOC-101
General Education Course; Diversity Course

SOC-463 Sociology/Social Work Co-op Work Experience provides the student with the opportunity to learn about careers in the field of social work/human services and about the operation of human service organizations. Students will receive specialized training and work experience. 3 credits
SOCIAL SERVICE CAREER EDUCATION DAY

Each spring, Bergen Community College brings together many of our area's social service, mental health, and criminal justice agencies and organizations, and other professional and academic programs to expose students to educational and/or career possibilities in the social services, as well as existing services within our community.

**Participating Organizations Have Included:**
Alzheimer's Association  
American Cancer Society  
Alternatives to Domestic Violence  
American Red Cross  
Barnert Hospital  
Bergen County Child Assault Prevention Program  
Bergen County Community Action Program  
Bergen County Department of Health Services  
Bergen County Jail  
Bergen County Prosecutor's Office – Office of Victim Witness  
Bergen County Sheriff's Office  
YWCA Bergen County Rape Crisis Center  
Bergen Nursing Team  
Career & Life Counseling Center  
Center for Family Resources  
Center for Food Action  
Children's Aid and Family Services  
Council on Compulsive Gambling  
Division of Youth & Family Services  
Englewood Hospital & Medical Center  
Fair Lawn Deaf Program  
Fair Lawn Police Department  
Fairleigh Dickinson University  
Family & Social Service Federation  
Hispanic Research Institute  
Kean University  
Mental Health Association of Passaic County  
Monmouth University  
New Jersey Department of Corrections  
New York City Department of Investigations  
North Jersey Community Coordinated Child Care  
Pascack Valley Hospital  
Project Youth Haven  
Planned Parenthood  
Ramapo College  
Seton Hall University  
Shelter Our Sisters  
St. Mary's Hospital  
Superior Court of NJ – Domestic Violence Unit  
Teanock Police Department  
Turning Point, Inc., Substance Abuse Recovery Center  
Volunteer Center of Bergen County  
Women's Rights Information Center  
William Paterson University

**For More Information**
For more information, please call the Office of Admissions at (201) 447-7195 or visit our website at www.bergen.edu.