

What is Relevant Social Work and Human Service Experience?

The Faculty of Social Work defines social services experience, either paid employment or volunteer work, as organized activities, interventions, or other actions that reflect policies and programs responding to recognized social problems/needs or to improve the well-being of those at risk (adapted from the Encyclopedia of Social Work).

Examples include paid and/or volunteer experience in a recognized government, non-profit, or social service agency such as:

- Camp counsellor with children and youth
- Case manager in hospital and/or health and/or mental health setting
- Child welfare worker (protection, guardianship, policy analyst)
- Community advocate
- Counsellor in a non-profit agency
- Crisis line volunteer
- Foster parent
- Group home/residential worker
- Hospital volunteer
- Overseas social development employee/volunteer
- Research assistant in human services research
- Settlement worker
- Shelter services employee/volunteer
- Social planner in a municipal setting
- Teacher
- Teacher's assistant or education assistant
- Volunteer mentor

This list is not exhaustive. In your resume, please evidence how your experience is relevant to social work practice, whether or not it is listed above.

Scope of Practice

Social work is the application of social work knowledge, values, focus, and practice methods in a person-in-environment context to accomplish the core functions of social work, which include:

- Deliver clinical services in the context of a helping relationship, including counselling, therapy, crisis intervention, and referral services
- Advocacy activities to address barriers and inequities that exist in organizations and society, and to uphold human rights and social justice, including support for Indigenous populations
- The delivery of services and interventions that support community development and enrich individual, family, and collective well-being
- The development, promotion, implementation, and evaluation of social policies aimed at promoting social justice and improving social conditions and equality (CASW, 2020)



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For more information

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Learn more about the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Calgary at socialwork.ucalgary.ca.