

Human Services Requisite Skills and Abilities

The Human Services field is a broad encompassing field that focuses on helping individuals within the community in a variety of capacities. These include working as an Educational Assistant who supports children with special needs in the educational setting; a Community Support Worker who assists people with disabilities in the community; and a Social Service Worker that provides services to individuals who are marginalized or needing assistance within the community.

Individuals working in the Human Services field, work with people of all ages regardless of gender, ethnicity or social situation in a variety of settings (e.g., community agencies, homes, schools, residential facilities).

A breadth and depth of knowledge is required with regard to the social justice issues present in our society, an understanding of the social service and education systems, and understanding on how to promote and advocate for the needs of the individuals they support. Strong interpersonal, communication and collaborative teamwork skills, are fundamental to safe and effective practice.

A Human Services' education prepares her or him with the basic skills and abilities necessary to enter into their chosen area of practice within the field. This outline is meant to provide you with an overview of these and to assist you in identifying challenges that could influence your success in your chosen Human Services program.

1. Excellent interpersonal, listening, and communication skills in both verbal and written context

Example: Student is able demonstrate basic listening skills through their attending skills and use of paraphrasing, questioning, prompting, non-verbal gestures. They are able to speak clearly and articulately when presenting ideas, thoughts and facts. In their written work, they are able to respond to the required expectations in assignments and present the information clearly and articulately.

2. Interest in people, emotional stability, maturity, patience and energy

Example: Student is able show interest in others input and engage respectfully in discussion by allowing others to share without interrupting or dismissing the others point of view. They are able to demonstrate the ability to separate their home life from their professional life and demonstrate good self-care.

3. Independent, resourceful, responsible, ethical

Example: The student is able to set priorities in the face of multiple demands; manage own behaviour well enough to provide a safe environment, and demonstrate competent and ethical practice. They demonstrate responsibility by maintaining regular attendance at both class and in their practice setting.

Human Services Requisite Skills and Abilities (page 2)

4. Capacity to work well in small groups and collaborative environments

Example: The student is able fulfill their responsibility as part of a team and recognize the needs of others within the group context. They recognize the value of sharing and working collaboratively to achieve goals and complete tasks.

5. Creative and innovative problem solving skills

Example: The student is able to use past experiences to inform current decisions, and when situations require further inquiry seeks to gather the information through discussions with others and observations of similar situations.

6. Ability to put aside personal bias and beliefs and to be sensitive to the beliefs of others

Example: The student is able to demonstrate an open attitude to learn and to listen to a different point of view without discrediting or dismissing another person’s belief. They recognize that they may have certain beliefs that others may not agree with and are open to hearing this.

7. Awareness of community, national, and international issues that affect how people live their lives; the desire to make a difference

Example: The student is able look at current issues and policies and sees how they are interpreted and implemented on several different levels from a community perspective up to a global perspective.

8. Knowledge of structural issues and anti-oppressive practices in society and how they impact individuals

Example: The student is able to critically examine various social issues in society and understand the implications both in the present and in the long term and how it affects individuals or marginalized populations. For example how Residential School and colonization affected First Nations people.

I have read the list of Requisite Skills and Abilities. If now, or at any time during my education program, I have difficulty demonstrating one or more of the Requisite Skills and Abilities and would like assistance, then it is my right and my responsibility to advise my education program. I can make this request by contacting HSW faculty.

Having read the above with care and attention, your signature will reflect your understanding of the above information and its implications.

Signature

Printed name

Date

Student number