

Career Profile SOCIAL WORKER

What is a Social Worker? – Career Description/Scope

Social Workers are regulated health professionals who work with patients alongside their support system (family, friends, colleagues, employers, community agencies etc), to help develop the best plan of care possible.

Patients may face many issues in their lives such as: psychosocial stressors (family, relationships, employment, financial, addictions etc), physical health crises, environmental situations (housing, homelessness) and much more.

Social Workers, help to provide individual or group treatment, support, education counseling, and advocacy, while focusing on enhancing patients skills and their ability to use these skills and problem solve.

Education Requirements to Work in Ontario

- Social work programs are offered at both universities and colleges nationwide
- 4 year university program that includes various field placements OR 2 year Ontario College Diploma that includes various field placements
- Some institutions offer Master's Programs and accelerated programs for students who have taken other post-secondary schooling

Social Worker Practice Requirements

To practice in Ontario, Social Workers must be registered with the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers and perform the following requirements:

- Entry to Practice
 - Academic qualifications for social work or academic qualifications and experience performing the role of a social worker
- Ongoing
 - Participate in the Continuing Competence Program - review professional responsibilities, conduct a self-assessment, identify learning objectives, develop and implement a learning plan, and evaluate progress

How does a Social Worker Practice at TBRHSC?

- Works to scope of practice as outlined by various legislation and authorities including:
 - Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers Regulated Health Professions Act
 - Social Work and Social Service Work Act
 - Public Hospitals Act
- Works on a referral basis

What does a Social Worker Do?

- Social Workers complete psychosocial assessments, provide clinical interventions, counseling and consultations
- Social Workers help patients:
 - identify and understand the source of stress or difficulty
 - develop coping skills and find effective solutions to their problems
 - find needed resources
 - by providing counselling and psychotherapy
- Social Workers work in both inpatient and outpatient programs

Web Resources

- Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers www.ocswssw.org
- Ontario Association of Social Workers www.oasw.org
- Lakehead University Program Information Page <http://socialwork.lakeheadu.ca/>
- Confederation College Program Information page <http://www.confederationc.on.ca/ssw>
- Canadian Association of Social Workers www.casw-acts.ca
- Canadian Social Work Review: http://caswe-acfts.ca/en/Canadian_Social_Work_Review_32.html