

## Human Services: Description, Philosophy, and Mission

### *Human Services Program Description*

The Human Services Program is part of the Department of Counseling and Human Services housed in the Clemmer College of Education. The Human Services Program is designed to provide a human development, ecological, and behavioral science background through a multidisciplinary perspective with a focus on applied learning and practice. The curriculum is grounded in the Council for Standards in Human Services Education and is rooted in the following disciplines: Human Services, Human Development, Family Studies, Counseling and Marriage and Family Therapy, Psychology, and Sociology. The backgrounds of the Human Services Program faculty members reflect these diverse disciplines and have experience as practitioners and continue to provide services to the local and regional community. The Human Services Program at ETSU offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services, two minors in Family Studies and Human Development & Learning, and two General Education courses (SRVL 1020: Introduction to Service-Learning and HDAL 2340: Understanding Cultural Diversity).

The BS in Human Services degree educates human service professionals who are self-reflective practitioners, culturally-aware, competent care-providers and community leaders through a curriculum designed to foster self-awareness, knowledge, and culturally relevant skills to work with a diverse clientele in a variety of settings and situations. The degree consists of a 120 credit curriculum including 33 credits from the HS Core, 6 credits of field experience (practicum and internship) in Human Services, and 33-36 hours of cognate courses. In addition to the ETSU's requirements for graduation, students pursuing the BS degree must maintain a minimum of a 2.5 g.p.a for graduation. Throughout the coursework, Human Services students will complete at least 350 hours of field experience providing critical on-the-job learning. Students learn the history, roles and functions of the human services profession; personal, social and environmental factors impacting individual and system development; awareness (cultural, values), knowledge and skills for delivery of services; planning, administration and evaluation of human services work; and how ethical, legal, cultural and systemic issues affect the work of human services professionals.

Graduates are prepared to assist clients transitioning through the developmental issues and processes of normal growth and development and solving problems of stress caused personal, social, environmental, and cultural stress. Graduates may be employed in a variety of careers including mental health, disability services, substance abuse, child care, domestic violence, child and youth services, health care, criminal justice, recreation, and foster care to name a few. Professional employment in Human Services is applied in treatment centers, hospitals, child and youth care facilities, community mental health centers, licensed professional practice, colleges/universities, schools, academies, governmental and non-governmental organizations, institutions, group homes, foster and transitional care, in-home counseling, homeless and runaway shelters, community action agencies, wilderness and adventure programming, and similar programs for social and personal development. Types of jobs for human services majors include Case Worker, Family Support Worker, Child Abuse Worker, Community Outreach

Worker, Social Service Liaison, Mental Health Aide, Residential Counselor, Behavioral Management Aide, Intake Interviewer, Case Management Aide, Eligibility Counselor, Social Work Assistant, Psychological Aide, Adult Day Care Worker, Life Skills Instructor, Assistant Case Manager, Residential Manager, Social Service Aide, Group Activities Aide, Probation Officer, Case Monitor, Rehabilitation Case Worker, Child Advocate, Juvenile Court Liaison, Gerontology Aide, Community Organizer, Home Health Aide, Therapeutic Assistant, Youth Worker, Halfway House Counselor, Parole Officer, and Social Service Technician.

Human Services graduates may be credentialed as a Human Services-Board Certified Practitioner (HS-BCP) through the Center for Credentialing and Education.

Many graduates of Human Services continue their education beyond the bachelor's degree. Students often select the Human Services degree program in order to become licensed counselors, especially in school, couples and family, clinical mental health, and college counseling/student affairs. Students entering graduate programs in audiology and speech-language pathology, counseling, education, psychology, and related health professions regularly take Human Services coursework to prepare for their competencies.

### ***Philosophical Statement – Human Services Program***

The philosophy of the Human Services Program integrates the missions and goals of the Department of Counseling and Human Services, Clemmer College of Education, and East Tennessee State University which are grounded in excellence in educating competent, ethical, and caring professionals who are committed to improving the human condition. The curriculum is designed to provide a multidisciplinary liberal arts education with a focus on service- and applied learning to develop self-awareness, knowledge and culturally relevant skills necessary to work with diverse clientele in a variety of settings. The philosophical basis for the program is grounded in developing self-, other-, and system-awareness. Through the exposure to multiple disciplines and diverse perspectives, students are informed of the cultural, societal, social, and familial interactions that impact individuals and their development within their cultural and systemic contexts. This understanding facilitates ethical and culturally-competent services in response to contemporary needs as well as advocacy and social justice efforts to improve the human condition. Given the multidisciplinary nature of the Human Services profession, the program is designed with excellence as a foundation and flexibility in practice. Students majoring in Human Services are exposed to a variety of theoretical models that serve as a knowledge base of the profession including: Social Exchange Theory, Olson & McCubbins Circumplex Model, Brofenbrunner's Human Ecological Model, Symbolic Interaction Theory, Social Learning theory, Feminist Theory, and a variety of counseling theories including psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive, and multicultural counseling. The core and field requirements of the curriculum lead directly to professional training and employment as human services practitioners. The minor requirements and electives are selected to enhance student professional and academic directions.

***Mission Statement – Human Services Program***

The Human Services Program is committed to excellence in Human Services education focused on preparing future Human Services providers with the awareness, knowledge, and skills necessary to effectively serve a diverse clientele, access resources and provide services that support the individuals, families, and systems/agencies, residing in the communities in which they work. Contributing academic scholarship, practitioner-focused research, and professional service to advance the knowledge base of Human Services is expected and supported. In service to our community, we seek to promote awareness of critical social issues, advocate for and provide direct service in contributing to improving the overall quality of life within the university, our region, and communities around the world.