MAJOR
The Human Services major prepares you to meet the growing demand for human service workers, whose occupations encompass a broad range of helping professions. The program combines courses from the disciplines of communications, sociology, and psychology to provide an overall understanding of the field. The curriculum is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of human behavior and to develop the skills necessary to function as a human services professional.

According to the National Human Services Organization, “The primary purpose of the human service worker is to assist individual and communities to function as effectively as possible in the major domains of living. A strong desire to help others is an important consideration for a job as a human services worker. Individuals who show patience, understanding, and caring in their dealings with others are highly valued by employers. Other important personal traits include communication skills, a strong sense of responsibility, and the ability to manage time effectively.” (http://www.nationalhumanservices.org)

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE
Completion of an internship is required. Majors who have a cumulative GPA of 2.50 are eligible to apply for semester-long internships, for which students earn 3-12 credit hours. The internship provides supervised training in various regional agencies and service organizations. Students have completed their internships in various places, such as:
• Head Start
• K-12 public schools
• Sheyenne Care Center
• Assisted living facilities

Recent graduates have found employment as case managers, directors of residential facilities, probation officers, parole officers, and personnel specialists at local agencies such as James River Correctional Center, Barnes County Juvenile Court, ND State Hospital, Barnes County Sheriff’s Department, and Open Door Center.

TECHNOLOGY
• Notebook computers with DVD burners and multimedia capabilities
• Digital cameras, video cameras, and other peripherals
• Blackboard online learning environments

CAREER SERVICES PROVIDES
• Career, job search, placement services free to all students
• Field trips, employer on-campus visits
• Information, networking opportunities and skill development
• Visit www.vcsu.edu/careerservices/

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
Probation or Parole Officer, Director of Residential Facilities, Non-Profit Organizations, Family Support Worker, Social Services Liaison, Case Management Aide, Client Advocate, Gerontology Aide, Mental Health Aide, Intake Interviewer, Social Work Assistant, Social Work (with completion of a Master’s degree in Social Work)

EXPLORE HUMAN SERVICES
www.aphsa.org/Home/home_news.asp
www.aphsa.org/Links/links-state.asp
www.hrsa.gov/
www.nd.gov/dhs/

QUOTE
“Through my internship at Open Door Center I am able to apply skills I learned in class to real working situations.”

Constance Lund
Sharon, ND
Human Services - General Human Services Concentration

Composite Major

MAJOR

The Human Services major prepares graduates to meet the growing demand for human service workers, whose occupations encompass a broad range of helping professions as case managers, advocates, volunteer coordinators, human resource specialists, paraeducators, fundraisers, and youth workers. The major is well suited for those who have a strong desire to help and care for the well-being of others, and desire to improve the quality of life for individuals. The program draws from an interdisciplinary knowledge base in communications, sociology, and psychology to provide and overall understanding of the field. The curriculum is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of human behavior and combines theory and practice with professional internship. Students develop communication, analytical, and problem solving skills necessary to function as a human services professional.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Content: Students will accumulate an understanding of the interaction between individual and societal forces, and why knowledge of social and historical context, norms, institutions, and inequalities are important to human services.

2. Social Theory and Critical Evaluation: Students will develop an understanding of how philosophies, methodologies, and theories are derived, how they can be applied to the real world, and how they can shape scholarly and applied understanding of the social sciences. In addition, human services students should understand how theory and research may relate to applied settings.

3. Application: Students will demonstrate their knowledge of content and social theory by illustrating that they can utilize it in real world experiences and applied settings.

ABILITIES

Communication
Written and Spoken

Aesthetic Engagement
Receptivity

Problem Solving
Research and Creative/Critical Thinking

Global Awareness
Works with Diversity

For degree and graduation requirements see pages 39-40.

Department Chair
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