



Career Information

Social Work

Overview

Career Title: Social Work

Industry/Field: Human Services

Are you interested in helping people improve their problem-solving and coping skills and linking them with systems that offer resources, services, and opportunities? The Social Work program prepares you to work in various cultural environments, to recognize and deal with oppression, and to understand how a holistic social work practice is effective in northern and rural communities.

Date	February 2025 Updated
Required Education & Skills	<p>Hard Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proficiency in organizing and coordinating care for clients• Ability to manage and de-escalate crisis situations effectively• Ability to assess clients' needs and develop appropriate treatment plans• Understanding of available resources and how to connect clients with them• Familiarity with laws and regulations related to social work and client rights <p>Soft Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to understand and share the feelings of clients, fostering a trusting and supportive environment• Fully concentrating, understanding, and responding to clients' needs and concerns• Sensitivity and respect for diverse backgrounds and cultures• Ability to identify issues and develop effective solutions• Remaining calm and composed, especially in challenging situations
Job Market & Outlook	<p>Current Demand:</p> <p>The demand for Social Workers in Canada is currently high and expected to grow. Many key points influence this growth: The ongoing mental health and substance abuse crisis has increased the need for qualified addictions counsellors.</p> <p>Projected Growth:</p> <p>Over the period from 2022 to 2031, there are expected to be approximately 22,600 new job openings for social workers.</p> <p>Salary Information:</p> <p>These are average national salaries, experience, and geographical location will alter your salary.</p> <p>These figures can fluctuate based on factors such as industry demand, certifications, and regional economic conditions. Alberta's average salary tends to be higher, reflecting the provincial demands and economic conditions.</p> <p>Entry-Level: \$44,800.00</p> <p>Mid-Level: \$68,000.00</p> <p>Experienced: \$84,000.00</p>

Pros & Cons of this Career

Pros:

- Fulfilling Work: Helping individuals overcome challenges and improve their quality of life.
- Job Security: High demand for addictions counsellors ensures stable employment opportunities
- Opportunities to work in diverse environments such as hospitals, schools, community centers and government agencies.
- Professional Growth: Opportunities for specialization and continuing education to advance your career

Cons:

- Exposure to client trauma and relapses can lead to emotional stress and burnout
- High Stress: Managing crisis situations and dealing with life-and-death scenarios regularly
- Often involves long hours and a heavy caseload, which can be exhausting
- Working with clients who may be resistant to help or have complex needs can be tough

This information has been compiled using publicly accessible provincial and federal data sources.

