The world needs more social workers.

Social workers step in and help whenever there is a crisis: They are in offices (either for an organization like LDS Family Services or in their own, independent office), counseling individuals and families. They are in disaster zones, helping people put their lives back together. They are in schools, helping kids who are being bullied, who have eating disorders, who have boyfriend/girlfriend problems, or who have family problems. They are in hospitals, teaching families how to care for a family member. They are in prisons, preparing inmates for life on the outside. They are in the military, getting families ready for deployment or for the return of a family member. They are overseas working on international development, helping to stop the spread of disease, and promoting minority rights, women’s rights, and families. This career is never boring!

To be a social worker, you need an MSW (Masters of Social Work), since BYU does not have a BSW program. With an MSW,

- You can go straight into a career in social work, doing clinical work, assuming supervisory roles, and managing large caseloads.
- You can go on to law school, understanding real-world practice in solving social problems.
- You can go on to a Ph.D. in any of the social sciences, and become a researcher or a professor.

Here are the classes you must take to get into BYU’s MSW program, if you are a Sociology major:

- Introduction to Social Work (3 hours): Soc W 200
- Research Methods (3 hours): Soc 300
  Also helpful: Soc 301, 307, 404, 405
- Statistics (3 hours): Stats 121 or Soc 307
  Also helpful: Soc 405

BYU’s MSW program also recommends the following for Sociology majors:

- Abnormal Behavior: Soc 383
  Also helpful: Soc 380, 481
- Human Development: Soc 318 and 365
  (You must take both, to cover the entire life course.)

Other MSW programs may have different prerequisites, so check their websites.

In addition to taking the relevant classes, you also should consider the following:

- Work with the populations social workers serve.
- Volunteer with an organization that helps people who are in need.
- Do an internship that involves working with people who are in need.
- Serve an LDS mission.
- Do social research.
CONTACT

If you have questions about an MSW, contact Lisa at msw@byu.edu

If you want to talk about how sociology can prepare you for a career in social work, see

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Revised: July 2014