The BA in Human Services

The human services field continues to be one of the fastest growing in Massachusetts and the nation. Human service providers work in diverse settings, from state agencies to nonprofit organizations. Within these settings they carry out different roles, including advocate, case manager, educator, mediator, and provider of support services for individuals, families, and groups.

The Program
The BA Program in Human Services at UMass Boston’s College of Public and Community Service (CPCS) prepares students for purposeful careers in human services and graduate education. It provides a theoretical framework, and hands-on experience working with individuals, families, and their communities. In this major, students learn to see people and systems ecologically, envisioning the individual in constant interaction with his or her environment. We examine how individuals and small groups affect and are affected by larger systems, including those that are socioeconomical and political.

Our curriculum provides knowledge and skills that are essential for the delivery of human services, with an emphasis on direct service. We offer service-learning opportunities that allow students to engage in local communities, working on mutually defined issues for the purpose of using one’s education to make a difference.

Acquired Skills and Knowledge:
- Human development, family functioning, and community dynamics
- Interventions with individuals, families, and groups
- History and structure of human services systems
- Research skills for gathering information to support effective service delivery
- Ethics, values, and policies guiding human services practice

CPCS Foundation Courses
Students must complete six CPCS foundation courses—Concepts of Community, Diversity and Cultural Competence, Civic Engagement, Concepts of Social Justice, and Media and Society—as well as a course that develops professional writing skills for work in public service fields.

Major-Specific Courses
The human services major requires ten courses, including:

- HUMCTR220 The Life Cycle and the Environment
- HUMCTR230 History of Social Welfare
- HUMCTR320 Intervention w/ Individuals and Small Groups
- HUMCTR322 Intervention with Large Systems
- HUMCTR330 Human Service Systems for Contemporary Families
- HUMCTR345 Professional Responsibility and Ethics
- HUMCTR401 Research and Information for Evidence-Based Practice
- HUMCTR415 Human Service Policy and Practice (Capstone)
- HUMCTR420 Professional Internship Seminar
- HUMCTR425 Case Management

CPCS also offers courses in Youthwork for students interested in working with children and youth in after-school and out-of-school-time programs.

Electives
In addition to courses that meet specific general education, CPCS foundation, and major requirements, students are free to take elective courses that complement their work in the major, or satisfy any other interests they may have. The rich resources of the college and the university are open to them.

Degree Requirements
Human services majors must complete 120 credits, at least 30 of them at UMass Boston. Like all candidates for UMass Boston bachelor’s degrees, they must meet the university’s general education requirements. These include freshman English courses, interdisciplinary seminars, courses focused on quantitative reasoning and human diversity, and distribution courses in several areas of study. Students must also demonstrate elementary proficiency in a foreign language and meet the university’s writing proficiency requirement. Admission to the major requires a 2.5 GPA.

Internships and Service-Learning
All students majoring in human services participate in fieldwork experiences ranging from information-gathering activities, such as observations and interviews, to application-of-theory-to-practice through service-learning and internships. Students entering the major can expect that some human services classes will have community engagement as a requirement. In the senior year, the internship and capstone seminars together will require at least 150 fieldwork hours.

To Apply
- visit www.umb.edu/admissions
- email enrollment.info@umb.edu
- call 617.287.6000

www.umb.edu/admissions

For More Information
about the BA in Human Services:
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