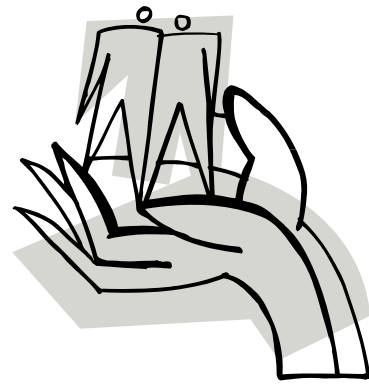


Honolulu Community College

University of Hawaii
874 Dillingham Blvd. Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
www.honolulu.hawaii.edu (808) 845-9129



HUMAN SERVICES

(Community Service)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: A program designed for people interested in working with people as human services workers in settings such as group homes; mental health centers; family, child and youth service agencies; and programs concerned with alcoholism, drug abuse, family violence, and aging. Field experience is an important feature of this program in which a student has supervised work experiences in a community setting.

- **DEGREES OFFERED:** Certificate in Achievement, Associate in Applied Science
- **RECOMMENDED PREPARATION:** Basic English and math
- **COST:** Books - \$100 - \$400 per semester
- **TECHNICAL STANDARDS:** Can be found at <http://tech.honolulu.hawaii.edu/hser/community>

THE OCCUPATION

DESCRIPTION: Social service aides assist people in obtaining social services. Duties vary with the type of employer and the kinds of clients they serve. They may work with and provide support services to social workers, vocational rehabilitation specialists, public housing specialists, or other specialists. They often work as a contact between an agency and the people needing its services. In general, they describe services available and answer questions. They may interview clients and assess their needs and eligibility for services; follow up on cases and refer clients to various agencies; report problems and other concerns to appropriate workers; and perform simple clerical duties. They may work in outreach programs and assist in providing services to people in their homes or communities.

SKILLS AND APTITUDES NEEDED: Patience and understanding; concern for and ability to relate to people of all ages and their problems; willingness to work with disadvantaged clients. Ability to communicate effectively, to manage conflict, and to follow oral and written instructions. Maturity and stability to work with people's problems without becoming stressed or troubled. Basic reading, writing, speaking, and math skills.

WORK SETTING: Indoors and outdoors in the field visiting or transporting clients. Must use care if dealing with difficult and disturbed clients. Hours may be flexible.

EMPLOYERS: State and local governments, community neighborhood organizations, volunteer service or private social service agencies, and health care agencies.

CAREER LADDER: Varies depending on job category.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES: Balance to slight shortage of experienced workers. Outlook depends on economic conditions, government regulations, the level of government spending for social service programs, and replacement needs. Locally and nationally, much faster than average employment growth is expected through the year 2014. Demand for services for the elderly, mentally disabled and developmentally challenged persons, homeless persons, pregnant teenagers, those with substance abuse problems, and those in need of job training is expected to contribute to employment growth.

WAGES: Entry wages for Social Services Aides range from \$1,975-\$2,139 a month, and with experience approximately \$2,311-\$2,500 a month or more.