Human Services

Experience the satisfaction of helping others and serving the community by choosing a career in Human Services at Central Ohio Technical College!

This practical two-year degree program emphasizes personal growth and professional development through knowledge-based learning, experiential processes, community involvement, and 280 hours of practical experience under direct supervision by professionals in local agencies.

Graduates are awarded an Associate of Applied Science degree in Human Services.

Program Summary

Graduates who have successfully completed the program are eligible to apply for Human Services Board Certified Practitioner, and registration as a Social Work Assistant (SWA) through the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.*

"A social worker assistant, under … direct supervision … may provide human, social and community services that include intake assessment and referral, screening, crisis intervention and resolution, community support, case management and outreach, record keeping, social assessment, visual observation of an individual in the individual’s environment, assistance in facilitation with groups and families, advocacy and orientation, education, and prevention services.” (Ohio Revised Code 4757.26)

Students are given an opportunity to select between a chemical dependency and gerontology elective course.

The student choosing a gerontology elective is eligible to register as a Social Work Assistant in Ohio, will enter a promising job market due to an increase of approximately 60 percent in the 65+ age elder category during the next half-century. Ohio is expected to among the top ten states for numbers of elder residents. Job opportunities in the field of gerontology include day treatment, senior centers, mental health and substance abuse program assistants, elder abuse prevention, medical centers, and bereavement services.

Graduates choosing a chemical dependency elective in the program are eligible for the Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistant and have fulfilled a portion of the requirements necessary for licensure as a Chemical Dependency Counselor II (LCDC II) through the State of Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board.*

"In addition to practicing chemical dependency counseling, an individual holding a valid chemical dependency counselor II license may … perform treatment planning, assessment, crisis intervention, individual and group counseling, case management, and education services as they relate to abuse of and dependency on alcohol and other drugs ….” (Ohio Revised Code 4758.57).

*For complete up-to-date information on licensing & registration requirements, refer to the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage & Family Therapist Board at www.cswmft.ohio.gov or the Chemical Dependency Professions Board at www.ocdp.ohio.gov.

Purpose

The purpose of this program is to prepare qualified individuals for entry-level positions in a wide variety of human services settings serving individuals, families, groups, and communities by providing opportunities for personal and professional growth through knowledge-based learning, experiential processes, community involvement, and practical experience under direct supervision of professionals in local agencies.

Learning Outcomes

To accomplish the stated purpose of the Human Services Program, the following student learning outcomes have been developed.

Upon successful completion of the program, the students will be able to:

• Demonstrate an understanding of the role of the human services worker in a variety of social service settings.
• Examine current social issues and their impact on society, including substance abuse and dependence.
• Compare and contrast a variety of family systems and multi-dimensional systems in relation to human behaviors and the environments.
• Apply interpersonal and group leadership skills in helping relationships.
• Apply case management skills, including documentation, assessment, treatment planning, crisis intervention and the ability to make appropriate referrals.
• Demonstrate the ability to adhere to professional, ethical standards, including confidentiality, sensitivity when working with diverse populations and responsibility for professional growth.

Career Opportunities

According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17 Edition, "The number of social and human services assistants is expected to grow by nearly 11 percent between 2014 and 2024, which is must faster than the average for all occupations. This is due in large part to the aging population and increased demand for mental health and substance abuse treatment.” See reverse side for information.
Important Student Characteristics

- Desire to help others on both a personal and community level;
- Sensitivity to diversity and multicultural issues;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Effective time and stress management skills;
- Ability to schedule transportation and time required for practicum placement.

Practicum Experience

A special feature of the Human Services Program is that students are required to enroll in a practicum course for two semesters in the program. Through this practicum, the student participates in a supervised work experience at a community agency. This provides the student with:

- Direct knowledge of human service agencies and work requirements;
- Professional growth and development;
- Opportunity to transfer classroom learning to work experience; and
- Potential job placement and/or references.

Transferability

Graduates of COTC’s Human Services associate degree program may decide to enhance their educational and job possibilities with a Bachelor’s degree. Several area universities work with COTC graduates to maximize transfer credit applicability to their Bachelor of Social Work or Human Services programs. COTC’s Human Services program has articulation agreements with The Ohio State University College of Social Work, Mount Vernon Nazarene University, and Capital University, and others. Additional universities may also accept coursework for transfer into various human services related degrees.

How do I Start?

If you are a new student, you should apply online at cotc.edu. If you are a current or returning COTC student, contact one of the Gateway Offices listed below, send an e-mail to cotcadmissions@cotc.edu or connect with the Gateway website at http://www.cotc.edu/current-students/Gateway/Pages/Gateway.aspx

For specific questions regarding the Human Services associate degree, please contact:

- Tressa Arnold, MSW, LISW-S
  Human Services Program Director at tarnold@cotc.edu, 740-366-9470

Accreditation/Membership

Central Ohio Technical College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission hlcommission.org.

COTC is also a member of the American Association for Higher Education, the American Association of Community Colleges, the American Council on Education, the American Technical Education Association, the Ohio Association of Two-Year Colleges and the Ohio College Association.

The Human Services program is accredited by the Council for Standards in Human Services Education.

Non-Discrimination Statement

Central Ohio Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or veteran status in its programs, activities, employment and admissions. General information, questions, concerns, or complaints related to these matters are to be directed to the Title IX Coordinator, Holly Mason, or designee, Warner Center Suite 226, Ohio State Newark/COTC, 1179 University Drive, Newark, Ohio 43055-1797 (740-364-9578) or ADA/504 Coordinator, Connie Zang, at the same location.