

# Human Services & Social Justice Program Handbook

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The George Washington University  
Columbian College of Arts and Sciences

## Preparing for a Career in Human Services & Social Justice

Academic Year 2021-2022

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# THE HUMAN SERVICES & SOCIAL JUSTICE PROGRAM

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## *About HSSJ*

GW's Human Services & Social Justice (HSSJ) Program assists students in developing identities as leaders and professionals in nonprofit organizations, educational institutions and government and private agencies. Merging sociology, counseling, education and psychology, the program's interdisciplinary major, minor and combined degrees blend rigorous academic classwork with scholarly research and community practice. Students are empowered to work against injustice, discrimination and poverty while making a focused impact on their local communities.

The profession of Human Services emerged in the 1960's and initially focused on mental health, working with marginalized communities that included people of color, women, and people living with mental illness (Neukrug, 2008). The intellectual roots of Human Services drew from Social Work and Psychology, but over time expanded to include theories, research, and best practices from Education, Sociology, and Non-profit Management to better address the systems and contexts in which individuals and communities live, learn, and grow. By adapting and broadening its knowledge base, the field became more resilient and effective in fostering individual, organizational, and systemic well-being.

Social justice is the ultimate aim and vision of Human Services work; we define it as the "full and equal participation of all groups in a society that is mutually shaped to meet their needs" (Bell, 2007, p. 1). To accomplish this, we seek partnerships with the DC-area community through our community engaged scholarship programming. Hands-on service learning is central to the HSSJ Program, and we work with many nonprofit organizations, cultural institutions and government agencies. We combine theoretical and academic learning with practice so that students are prepared for their careers after graduation.

# Career Spotlights

- Allie Donahue, BA'20: Team Member, FEMA Corps
- Jagan Dookata, BA'20: Psychiatric Institute of Washington
- Caroline Malone, BA'20: Development and Volunteer Coordinator at Horton's Kids in DC
- Emma Martens, BA'20: Network Coordinator, the Global Business School Network
- Savannah O'Sickey, BA'20: Elementary School Teacher, Teach for America
- Dawn-Marie Sullivan, BA'20: Legislative Correspondent, U.S. House of Representatives
- Kyrah Altman, BA'19: President and Co-Founder Let's Empower, Advocate and Do, Inc
- Haley Amdur, BA'19: Educator, Washington Hebrew Congregation
- Caroline Malone, BA'20. Horton's Kids.
- McKenzie Connors, BA '18: Product Sales Manager, Privia Health
- Peter Sacco, BA '15: Executive Director, DC Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A
- Andrew Siegel, BA'15: Founder of eGenShare
- Ashley Trick, BA'15: Community Affairs Engagement Strategist/Principal Associate, Capital One
- Tyler Daniels, BA '14, former spokesperson, Department of Justice
- Michael "Misha" Kessler, BA '13: Founder of Remedient design firm
- Andrew Breza, BA'09: director of Data Insights & Analytics, Bulletin Media

# Careers in HSSJ

After graduation students have gone on to work for:

## Businesses/Organizations:

American Heart Association

Autism Speaks

Avalere Health

Booz Allen Hamilton  
Edelman

Environmental Protection Agency

FEMA

Horton's Kids DC

KIPP DC Schools

Planned Parenthood

Privia Health

Psychiatric Institute of Washington

The ACLU

The American Red Cross

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

The National Zoo

United Services Organization (USO)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

United States Department of Justice

XPO Logistics Inc.

## Gap Year Programs:

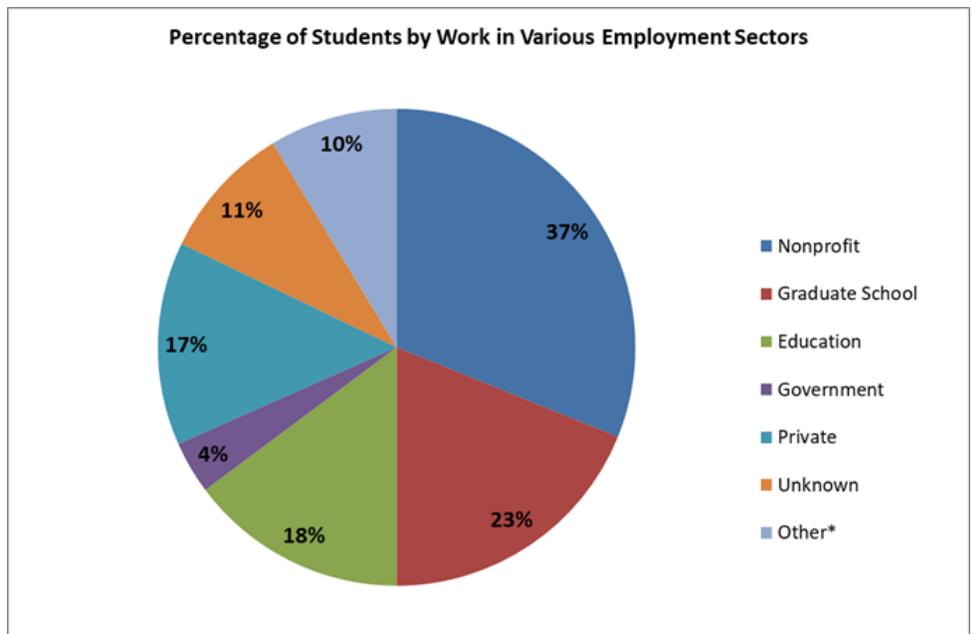
Americorps

Fulbright Program

Peace Corps

Teach for America

HSSJ Employment figures 2019



## HSSJ CURRICULUM FOR MAJORS<sup>1</sup>

### First or Second Year

#### *Fall or Spring Semester*

HSSJ 1100	Introduction to Human Services & Social Justice (3)
HSSJ 1177	Organizing for Social Justice in Human Services (3)
SOC 1001	Introduction to Sociology (3)
	or
SOC 1002	The Sociological Imagination (3)

#### *Spring Semester*

HSSJ 2172	Human Interactions: Adult Development (3)
HSSJ 2200*	Principles of Ethical Leadership (3)
	(*Fullfills GPAC/Local and Civic Engagement)

#### *Fall Semester*

HSSJ 2170	Interpersonal Relationships in Human Services (3)
HSSJ 2171	Human Interactions: Child and Adolescent Development (3)
SOC 2101	Social Research Methods (3) *(this is a prerequisite for HSSJ 3100W)

### Third or Fourth Year

#### *Fall Semester*

HSSJ 3100W*	Program Planning and Evaluation (WID) (3) [pre-req is SOC 2101]
HSSJ 3110W*	Non-profit Management (WID) (3).

Note: Only one WID can be taken per semester so plan accordingly not to take both classes the same semester.

#### *Fall or Spring Semester*

SOC 2102	Techniques of Data Analysis
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<sup>1</sup> Please see the GW Bulletin

Three Electives (can be taken in second, third or fourth year)

Group A Choose one course

SOC 2170: Class and Inequality (3) or  
SOC 2179: Race and Minority Relations (3)

Group B Choose two courses

SOC 2104: Contemporary Sociological Theory (3)  
SOC 2175: Sociology of Sex and Gender (3)  
\*\*SOC 2105: Social Problems in American Society (3)  
\*\*SOC 2173: Social Movements (3)  
\*\*SOC 2135: Youth and Delinquency (3)  
\*\*SOC 2162: Sociology of the Family (3)  
\*\*SOC 2189: Punishment and Reentry (3)  
\*\*HSSJ 4198 Social Justice in Sports (3)

*Spring Semester (AY21-22 only; thereafter Fall Semester)*

HSSJ 3110W Non-profit and Organizational Management (WID) (3)

## **FOURTH YEAR**

*Spring Semester*

HSSJ 4195 Capstone Seminar in Human Services (3)  
(Fulfills GPAC/Oral Communication)

**Total: 45 Credits**

\*\*must petition through your advisor to use one of these classes. When SOC 2111 Field Methods is offered, students can petition to take this after they take SOC 2101.

### **HSSJ Curriculum for HSSJ Minors:**

HSSJ 1100 Introduction to Human Services & Social Justice (3)

Five courses (for a total of at least 15 credits) within HSSJ with no more than one additional course at the 1000 level beyond the required HSSJ 1100.

**Total: 18 Credits**

### **Note on Grades:**

All majors and minors are required to earn a grade of C- or better in any 2000-level or higher course in the Program. If a student receives a grade of D+, D, or D- in a required course, the student may either: (1) repeat the course, in which case the grade in the repeated course must be no lower than a C- and grades for both the original and repeated courses will appear on the student's transcript; or (2) take a 2000-level course in the same department, in addition to the minimum number of courses required for the major, and earn a grade no lower than C-. Option 1 must be approved by the department chair in writing before the student may register for a course a second time. Option 2 must be approved by Prof. Kelso ([mkelso@gwu.edu](mailto:mkelso@gwu.edu)).

## **Upcoming Curricular Changes for AY 2021-22**

Beginning in Fall 2021, HSSJ 3152 and HSSJ 3153 will no longer be offered for our majors and minors. Below are the replacement courses.

### **FOR MAJORS**

Depending when you declared, you may have either HSSJ 3152 (6 credits) or the two courses HSSJ 3152 and HSSJ 3153, each 3 credits.

To fulfill those 6 credits, you will take:

SOC 2102 Techniques in Data Analysis (pre-req SOC 1001/1002; 2101)

And either

1. CCAS 2154 Internship (must have HSSJ faculty advisor). This is for students who want an internship for credit

OR

2. One additional SOC elective credit from the list above or propose an elective from another department to your advisor that you believe fits well with HSSJ. This is subject to approval by the Program director.

### **FOR MINORS**

Replacements with two other HSSJ courses.

Note: Seniors who are minors in AY 21-22 may take HSSJ 4195 Senior Capstone in SP22. You must be signed in for this course.

## **Community-engaged scholarship/Service-Learning**

### ***300+ hours for the major***

One hallmark of GW's HSSJ Program is the incorporation of community engaged scholarship, also known as service-learning in all required courses as a means to deepen student learning, address community-identified issues, and to weave theory, research, and practice together in relevant ways. The Field of Human Services requires 300+ hours of fieldwork for students to develop not only the “know what” but the “know how”. These experiential learning experiences and their requirements vary course to course, depending on the specific learning objectives for the course.

Classes will vary in the type of service provided:

*Direct:* Assisting the partner sites with service provisions to their clients

*Indirect:* Assisting partner sites with research, grant writing needs, administrative tasks like fundraising, etc.

Please note that service-learning at one site cannot be counted for two courses the same semester without instructors' permission. Also, we recommend that two HSSJ courses is optimal in a given semester to allow plenty of time and space for you to successfully complete the field requirements. Three courses may be taken if necessary.

Depending on when you declare, you may need to take three HSSJ courses in a given semester. Talk with your HSSJ advisor about which classes can work together. Last, please note that site supervisors do not award your grade nor that credit is given for simply

## Nalany Arana BA'20

"I studied abroad in Santiago, Chile in the fall semester of 2019! I loved exploring the different landscapes and culture throughout the country. I had the opportunity to travel to beaches, the desert, and beautiful mountains! In Santiago, I stayed with a loving host family and studied at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. When I wasn't traveling, I volunteered at an after-school program for kids between the ages of 6-14. I helped run an English learning workshop there once a week. Going abroad was one of the best experiences I could have had while being at GW and I encourage every student to take the opportunity and immerse themselves in a culture that is completely different from their own. Because of this I have made several friendships and memories I will never forget."



working in the community. Grades are given by the HSSJ faculty and credit is earned by critically reflecting on the experience and demonstrating how key course concepts and empirical findings inform what is happening in the community and vice versa.

### Study Abroad

Students interested in studying abroad should let their HSSJ advisor know when declaring their major or minor. Since HSSJ is a unique program, it can be difficult to find appropriate course substitutions for upper-level courses that meet GW's academic requirements and core content. However, with advanced planning, HSSJ students can do and study abroad. The key is to plan, saving courses with greater equivalencies for your time abroad.

## Caroline Malone BA'20

"During the Spring Semester of 2019, I studied abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark. I chose to study in Copenhagen because of the strong global reputation Scandinavian countries have for being some of the happiest places on earth which is largely attributed to their social welfare systems. During my semester abroad I took courses such as "Cultural Diversity and Integration" and "Equality in Scandinavia: Developments and Challenges of the Welfare State" which gave me the opportunity to critically analyze the countries I had always viewed as model nations. I came away from my study abroad experience with a renewed appreciation for the cultural, ethnic and racial diversity that is present in the United States and with the understanding that even in welfare states there is still

## Jessica Butehorn BA'20

"This past summer, I had the opportunity to live in Barcelona, Spain working for a rural English tutoring school for kids ages 4-14. I was the Educational Director for their summer program, making lesson plans and creating fun activities for the students to engage in. I lived in the home of the family that started and ran the school, who welcomed and cared for me like their own daughter. I improved my Spanish, learned Catalan, took weekend trips to various cities throughout Europe, learned to cook paella, and fell in love with the city I gratefully called home for the summer."



# Combined BA in Human Services & Social Justice and Master of Public Administration (MPA)

The HSSJ Program offers a combined Bachelor of Arts in HSSJ/Master of Public Administration degree in partnership with the Columbian College's Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration (TSPPPA). The 40-credit combined program allows students to complete 12 credits as part of the undergraduate studies, thereby completing the master's degree on an accelerated timeline. BA/MPA students in HSSJ complete a one-credit-hour prerequisite course (PPPA 6000) during their junior year in preparation for master's level coursework. BA students taking public policy and public administration (PPPA) graduate courses must work with a TSPPPA advisor in addition to their HSSJ advisor.

**Contact:** Christopher Carrigan in the Trachtenberg School at [ccarrigan@gwu.edu](mailto:ccarrigan@gwu.edu) with any questions.

## Application Requirements

Students should apply for the Master of Public Administration degree program during the fall of their junior year.

For best consideration, students should have a minimum GPA of 3.5.

## Course Requirements

All Bachelor of Arts in HSSJ requirements and Master of Public Administration requirements must be completed. Four courses (12 credits) from the MPA program must be taken as part of the BA program. These courses will be double counted toward the MPA requirements. For details on the MPA requirements, visit the Master of Public Administration page.

## Prerequisites

Students should complete the required PPPA 6000 course as a prerequisite during the summer after junior year or during senior year.

## Course Load and Registration

In order to retain undergraduate financial aid, students must maintain a minimum of 51 percent undergraduate classes. Options include adding a one-credit course to the fourth year or taking one four-credit rather than a three-credit course in the fourth year. Students are still considered undergraduates during their fourth year. Therefore, to register for any TSPPPA courses, students must complete a Registration Transaction Form and contact TSPPPA for submission and approval.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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## HSSJ Advising:

Michelle Kelso,  
All students  
mkelso@gwu.edu

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## Full-Time Faculty

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Michelle Kelso- Program Director

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## Part-Time Faculty

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