

HUMAN SERVICES & SOCIAL JUSTICE (HSSJ) PROGRAM HANDBOOK

PREPARING FOR A CAREER IN HSSJ

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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.

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
Conservation International
County Health & Human Services
Environmental Protection Agency
Executive Office of the U.S. President
FBI
FEMA
Horton's Kids DC
KIPP DC Schools
NYC Department of Education
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



MAJOR CURRICULUM

First or Second Year

Fall or Spring Semester

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

HSSJ 2177 Social Justice and Public Policy (3)

SOC 1001 Introduction to Sociology (3)

or

SOC 1002 The Sociological Imagination (3)

Second Year

Fall Semester

HSSJ 2170 Professional Relationships in Human Services (3)

HSSJ 2171 Human Interactions: Child and Adolescent Development (3)

Spring Semester, suggested (can be taken in SP Year 3)

HSSJ 2172 Human Interactions: Adult Development (3)

(HSSJ 2171 must be taken prior)

HSSJ 2200 Principles of Ethical Leadership (3)

(Fulfills GPAC/Local and Civic Engagement)

Third Year

Fall Semester

HSSJ 3110W Non-profit Management (WID) (3).

SOC 2101 Social Research Methods (3) *(this is a prerequisite for HSSJ 3100W) [Substitution with PSYC 2101 or PSC 2101]

Spring Semester (or Fall semester 4th year)

SOC 2102 Techniques of Data Analysis (3)*

*Can be substituted with ANTH 3625

Note: This is the best semester to study abroad

MAJOR CURRICULUM

Fourth Year

Fall Semester

HSSJ 3100W Program Planning and Evaluation (WID) (3)

Spring Semester

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

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

SOC 2170: Class and Inequality (3) or

SOC 2179: Race and Minority Relations (3)

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: Performance, Identity and Social Justice

Total: 45 Credits

MINOR CURRICULUM

Required Courses:

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.

HSSJ 2177 Organizing for Social Justice in Human Services (3)

HSSJ 2170 Professional Relationships in Human Services (3)

HSSJ 2171 Human Interactions: Child and Adolescent Development (3)

HSSJ 2172 Human Interactions: Adult Development (3)

HSSJ 2200* Principles of Ethical Leadership (3)

(*Fulfills GPAC/Local and Civic Engagement)

HSSJ 3100W Program Planning and Evaluation (WID) (3)

Total: 18 Credits

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP/ SERVICE-LEARNING

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.

What type of service do HSSJ students do?

HSSJ students do both direct and indirect service.

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.

Can one site be counted for two courses in the same semester?

It is possible, as long as a student is doing different work or service at the site. For example, if a student is required to do 2 hours for child development, those 2 hours must be focused on child development. They can also use that site for nonprofit management, but they must have an extra 2 hours dedicated to nonprofit management.

How many HSSJ classes can I take in per semester?

We advise two classes per semester. However, three can be taken at one time after consulting with the HSSJ advisor.

STUDY ABROAD

When should I study abroad?

We suggest the spring semester third year as the opportune time to do so as it works best with our curriculum schedule.

What study abroad program fits best with the HSSJ major/minor?

Any program that meets your interests can be paired with HSSJ. However, not all coursework can be transferred back into the major.

What courses will transfer back into the major?

Typically our designated SOC elective courses, of which students must do 9 credit hours, are the simplest to transfer back into our major. However, students should consult with their HSSJ advisor for more information.

COMBINED BA IN HSSJ 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: Anil Nathan in the Trachtenberg School at anathan@gwu.edu with any questions.

For more information please visit <https://tspppa.gwu.edu/combined-undergraduate-and-masters-degrees>