



TRIDENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

HUMAN SERVICES

Introduction to Human Services

**The Essential Characteristics of a
Human Services Professional**

What Is Human Services?

“The career field (aka the helping professions) that services others”

Human Services is defined as an interdisciplinary field whose primary commitment and aim is to meet the basic psychological, social, interpersonal and wellness needs of populations through prevention, remediation, and treatment. --The National Organization for Human Services (NOHS)

*Interdisciplinary–In the field of Human Services, it relies on people with different skillsets and areas of expertise to work together to help those in need.

The Essential Characteristics of a Human Services Professional





Human Services Professionals

In the field of Human Services, job titles, roles, and settings can be wide-ranging.

*The Essential Characteristics of a
Human Services Professional*

Job Titles

Examples to include:

- Youth Worker
- Child Advocate
- Case Manager
- Social Worker Assistant
- Direct Support Professionals
- Counselor
- Mental Health Aide
- Community Health Worker/Organizer

Job Settings

In the field of Human Services, Professionals can also work in a variety of settings:

- Group Homes
- Halfway Houses
- Mental Health Centers
- Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centers
- Child and Family Services Agencies
- Correctional Facilities
- State and Local Government Agencies
- Sheriffs Offices
- Colleges
- Schools
- Adult Daycare Centers
- Hospitals

Can you name other Job Titles and Settings of Human Services Professionals???



*Behavioral Interventionist
Adoption Specialist
Community Outreach Specialist
Probation Officer*

*Child Welfare Specialist
Substance Abuse Counselor
Crisis Intervention Specialist
Policy Analyst*

*Occupational Therapist
Residential Counselor
Eligibility Counselor
Skills Instructor*

*Intake Interviewer
Life Adult Daycare Worker
Gerontology Aide
College Admissions Representative*

Why is the Field of Human Services so Important?

Human Services is the infrastructure of our communities. Professionals who work in this field often provide resources and care for the most vulnerable and marginalized members of our communities.

Vulnerable and marginalized members of our communities consist of:

- Children and the elderly
- Those with disabilities or mental illness/impairments
- People who have been abused or who are overcoming addictions
- Victims of natural disasters

Without Human Services Professionals, agencies, and organizations providing needed services to our vulnerable and marginalized members, many individual's quality of life may decrease.

Negative outcomes could consist of:

- *Homelessness
- *Chronic Pain
- *Death
- *Illnesses
- *Addictions

Question: What if our communities didn't have Human Services? What would that look like?

- Non-flourishing Communities
- Lack of Quality of Life
- Unhealthy Lifestyles



In short, a community without Human Services isn't one most of us would want to live in.

Who would be Suited for a Career in Human Services as a Human Services Professional?

Could it be
you???

*The Essential Characteristics of a Human
Services Professional*



Essential Characteristics of a Human Services Professional



There are essential characteristics that an individual must have to be an efficient and successful Human Services Professional.

Here is our checklist:



People's skills

- Ability to direct people
- Ability to relate to people
- Ability to advocate for someone who may be struggling
- Ability to create empathic relationships with people from a diversity of backgrounds

The Essential Characteristics of a Human Services Professional

Checklist:

- Open-Minded
- Good Listener
- Problem-Solving Abilities
 - Strategic
- Self-Awareness
- Empathic



Great Time Management and Organizational Skills

- Ability to budget one's time and that of employees
- Ability to multi-task
- Ability to prioritize and delegate
- Team-player



Checklist:

- Strong communication skills
- Has a strong desire to give back to the community



Ethical

- Being able to make sound decisions
- Unbiased
- Fair
- Knowledge of process/business/resources



TRIDENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

HUMAN SERVICES

**Do you think this is the field
for you?**