

Introduction to Human Services

Course Overview and Syllabus

Grade level: 9–12

Prerequisite Courses: None

Credits: 0.5

Course Description

This semester-long course introduces high school students to the possibilities for careers in the human services professions. Through anecdotes, lessons, and a variety of assignments and projects, students learn about the broad variety of jobs available in the human services. These begin with entry-level positions, such as associate social workers, that require a two-year Associate of Arts degree. Students also learn ethics and philosophies of the helping professions. The history of the profession, as well as the impact of the cultural, social, and economic environment on individual people, especially those who need social services assistance, is also explored.

Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Learn what defines human services, its history, and the philosophy of helping professions
- Discover how professionals use human resources to achieve goals, with an emphasis on interdisciplinary team approaches
- Examine how values and moral responsibilities drive the field, as well as how to seek guidance on legal, ethical, and professional questions
- Conceptualize client problems as the way an individual interacts with other people
- Explore how people work with, within, and as part of systems
- Discuss the change process, including how and if people can change
- Review delivery models for helping people in need, different stages of intervention, and basic communications and interviewing skills
- Evaluate which characteristics are needed by people who want to help others as a career, including intellectual capacities and cognitive skills

Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from you as a traditional classroom course. Throughout the course, you are expected to spend approximately 5–7 hours per week online on:

- Interactive lessons that include a mixture of videos, readings, and tasks
- Assignments in which you apply and extend learning in each lesson
- Assessments, including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams

Communication

Your teacher will communicate with you regularly through discussions, email, chat, and system announcements. You will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face to face, as you collaborate on projects, ask and answer questions in your peer group, and develop your speaking and listening skills.

Grading Policy

You will be graded on the work you do online and the work you submit electronically to your teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

Grading Category	Weight
Lesson Quizzes	20%
Unit Tests	20%
Cumulative Exams	20%
Assignments	10%
Projects	30%
Additional	0%

Scope and Sequence

When you log into Edgenuity, you can view the entire course map—an interactive scope and sequence of all topics you will study. The units of study are summarized below:

- Unit 1:** Human Services: Changing and Improving People's Lives
- Unit 2:** Values, Ethics, and Legal Issues
- Unit 3:** Systems Theory, the Ecological Framework and Other Perspectives
- Unit 4:** From Theory to Practice
- Unit 5:** Clients and Helpers in Human Services