The Social Services Major prepares students with academic and professional skills to work in non-profit and government organizations and agencies assisting populations in need. A core component of the social service major is developing students’ knowledge of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities. Students learn to apply this knowledge in developing strategies to assist a wide range of populations and social problems in communities.

At Central Washington University, department of Sociology, the Social Services core and required courses are designed to direct, engage, and enhance student learning through personal hands-on experience; completing service projects, working with non-profit organizations, and developing a broad understanding of professional ethics as it is related to social casework. These courses, along with the various elective course options provide opportunities for reflective reporting, research, and, service to reinforce learning outcomes and objectives.

The Social Services practice spans a range of activities including various forms of therapy and counseling, group work, and community work; policy formulation and analysis; and advocacy and political interventions. From an emancipatory perspective, social work strategies are aimed at increasing people’s hope, self-esteem and creative potential to confront and challenge oppressive power dynamics and structural sources of injustices, thus incorporating into a coherent whole the micro-macro, personal-political dimension of intervention.

Examples of social service agencies and populations include: job placement agencies and vocational rehabilitation services for people with disabilities; food delivery programs and food banks; senior housing facilities, homeless shelters, and transitional housing; abuse prevention programs, juvenile justice organizations, and prisoner rehabilitation programs; recreational and social programs for children and teenagers; senior citizen centers, foster care and adoption agencies, and women’s shelters.

Course of Study

**SOCILOGY (Core courses 22 credits)**

**Required:**
- SOC 107 Principles of Sociology (5)
- SOC 300 Cornerstone (1)
- SOC 350 Social Theory I (5)
- SOC 363 Methods of Social Research (5)
- SOC 364 Data Analysis in Sociology (5)
- SOC 489 Senior Seminar (1)

**PRACTICE AREA: (24* credits possible)**

**Required:**
- SOC 301 Introduction and History of Social Service Agencies (5)
- SOC 310 Social Service Methods and Casework (5)
- SOC 442 Social Welfare (5)
- SOC 445 Social Inequality (5)
- SOC 490 Cooperative Education (4-12) *

*minimum of 4 credits in Soc 490 are required.* (additional credits in SOC 490 may count toward graduation)

**APPROVED ELECTIVES IN SOCIOLOGY:**

(20 credits — Upper Division)

Select four:
- SOC 320 Death and Dying (5)
- SOC 325 Aging (5)
- SOC 327 Sociology of Health (5)
- SOC 343 Child Abuse (5)
- SOC 344 Juvenile Delinquency (5)
- SOC 354 Minority Experience (5)
- SOC 356 Sociology of Gender (5)
- SOC 357 Sociology of Families (5)
- SOC 365 Minority Groups (5)
- SOC 386 Seminar on Racism (5)
- SOC 425 Sociology of Education (5)
- SOC 415 Urban Sociology (5)
- SOC 460 Community Structure and Organization (5)

No more than 5 credits of 100 level may be counted toward the major. PSY 363 Intermediate Statistics and Research Methods is an approved elective.