



# Human Services Careers

## South Suburban College's Human Services program prepares students for rewarding careers in an expanding field.

**T**oday, more and more students are beginning their college education or returning to college in search of careers that are both satisfying and rewarding. New job seekers want to take pride in their work and know that they are making a difference in their communities. Human services is a field that meets these personal goals and remains one of the fastest growing fields for employment (Educational Outlook Handbook).

South Suburban College in South Holland, IL offers a specialized Human Services career program that provides a unique opportunity working with individuals, families, groups, and communities to enhance social functioning and improve the quality of life of others. The college is proud to showcase a revised state-of-the-art curriculum that was approved by the Illinois Community College Board earlier this year.

Students who are interested in human services can take advantage of this highly specialized program with a career path that leads to immediate employment after two years of study. Graduates of the program will receive an Associate degree in Human Services with a concentration in Addictions Studies and/or Sign Language. SSC offers the only College Credit Sign Language program in the south suburban area. Credits earned through the Human Services program are also transferable to four year institutions where one can earn a bachelor's degree in the field of either social work or human services.

"The human services field covers a wide range of areas, each with the goal of enabling people to find solutions to the complex social and psychological problems they face in everyday living," said Valerie Wise, coordina-

tor of the Human Services program at SSC. "Students will have a well rounded background to pursue all of their goals in the Human Services field upon graduating from our program."

Ms. Wise has been working to build the Human Services program at SSC since 2000. One of the recent changes to the program is the addition of online classes, two of which will be offered in the spring semester for addictions studies. Her goal is to have the complete basic certificate addictions studies program online by 2008.

Classes in this program will not only benefit students seeking a human services degree, but also students of Law Enforcement, Early Childhood Education and Nursing. The addictions studies program has been certified by the Illinois Alcohol and Other

variety of settings whether they plan to continue their education or not.

Three such students at SSC recently sat for the certification exam. Deevon Dorsey of Country Club Hills, and James Miller and Jeffrey McNeil of Calumet City all passed the CADC with flying colors.

"The instruction I received through the Human Services program gave me a great base, and more than prepared me to take the CADC exam," said McNeil. "I am truly grateful for my overall experience at South Suburban College."

The Human Services program is one of many SSC programs structured with the flexibility to help students meet their goals. Students can enroll in courses offered during day or evening hours, and the program can be completed on either a full-time or a part-time basis.

Graduates typically find employment opportunities in their area of concentration that may include social service agencies, schools, hospitals, clinics, residential programs and sheltered care facilities. Using a holistic approach, workers are engaged in assessing the client's psychosocial needs, planning alternative intervention strategies, establishing personal and social management plans, and evaluating the success of these actions. Some program graduates choose to transfer to senior institutions to complete a baccalaureate degree without loss of time or credit.

For more information about the Human Services program at SSC, contact Ms. Wise by e-mail [vwise@southsuburbancollege.edu](mailto:vwise@southsuburbancollege.edu) or call 708-596-2000, ext. 2277.

Registration is now in progress for the spring semester! Visit [www.southsuburbancollege.edu](http://www.southsuburbancollege.edu) or call 708-210-5718 for registration information.

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Valerie Wise, SSC Human Services Coordinator

Drug Abuse Professional Certification Association and offers an 18-hour basic certificate in addictions studies to individuals who already have a degree or experience in a related field. The certificate is accepted by IAODAPCA for candidacy to sit for the Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC) exam, which enables one to work in drug treatment centers after two years.

Additionally, all of the human services students who take two semesters of basic addictions coursework will be able to sit for the CADC as well. Upon successful completion of this exam, and with an AAS in human services, students will be able to find immediate employment in a