

SOCIAL WORK VS. PSYCHOLOGY

THE BASICS

Social work focuses on promoting the well-being of individuals and communities through advocacy, direct services, and resource connection.



Psychology explores the study of mental processes and behavior and applies research-based theories to clinical work.

Both aim to improve the lives of others.

SCOPE

Social work offers a range of human services to marginalized populations. Practitioners may target systemic issues, focus on community-level intervention, or provide mental and behavioral health services.

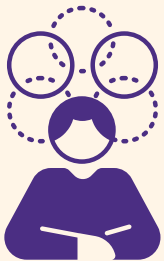
Psychology primarily focuses on individual mental processes and behavior, often working in research or clinical settings.

CAREERS



Social workers may pursue clinical careers like psychologists. However, they work in diverse settings addressing a number of social issues for example working in government agencies, nonprofits, or schools, in roles like program managers, youth advocates, or community organizers.

Psychologists primarily work in clinical settings, but also do research at organizations and universities or work as consultants or trainers on topics of employee wellbeing or organizational development.



Both can be therapists, counselors, caseworkers, or researchers.
With the correct licensing, social workers can diagnose patients and develop treatment plans.

WHO WE SERVE



Both work with a variety of populations, including children, aging adults, married couples, and any persons seeking mental health care. Social workers are focused on serving vulnerable populations, focusing on community/organization and policy/societal level change.



EDUCATION

At the UW School of Social Work, we offer:

**BA IN
SOCIAL
WELFARE
(BASW)**

**MASTER OF
SOCIAL
WORK
(MSW)**

**PHD IN
SOCIAL
WELFARE**