

CURRICULUM

Social Services

Expertise in client work, inclusion, and social influencing have special emphases in the degree programme in Social Services. As part of your studies, you also have a possibility to obtain the qualifications for early childhood education. Studies at Karelia University of Applied Sciences are multi-professional, and the learning environments are close to working life. Your studies will follow the practices of blended learning, and during your studies you will have an opportunity to participate in developing services and service structures, together with regional, national, and international partners.

Degree

Degree Title: Bachelor of Social Services
Extent: 210 cr / 3.5 years

Typical Tasks for Graduates

Those who have graduated with a Bachelor of Social Services degree are qualified to work in the fields of social welfare. The degree gives you skills to work in the fields of, for example, child welfare and family work, mental health and intoxicant abuse, elderly care, rehabilitative work, work with the disabled, or multicultural work. Obtaining at least 60 ECTS credits in early childhood education and social pedagogy grants you the qualification to work in early childhood education, in the duties legislated by the Finnish law (Early Childhood Education and Care Act 540/2018, personnel and eligibility criteria, currently only in Finnish).

Implementation of Studies

The starting points for the bachelor's degree in Social Services are both the general and field-specific needs of social and health care. All future professionals in the field of social services need skills in customer work, service and field development, and change competence in employeeship and cooperation. These skills are partially developed in multidisciplinary studies, where you will study together with students from nursing, public health nursing, and physiotherapy programmes. The multidisciplinary studies will give you tools for your future multi-professional working life.

Studies in Social Services are based on the national competence requirements for graduates of UAS:

- Ethical competence in social services
- Customer work competence
- Social service system competence
- Critical and participatory societal competence
- Research, development and innovation competence, and
- Workplace, leadership and entrepreneurship competence

An emphasis in the studies is on customer work skills, participatory societal skills, and the student's professional development. The studies are offered every year as two versions: contact teaching and blended learning. The studies have a strong connection to work. Each academic year, both the theoretical studies and the practical training will give you experience in how to act in various environments in the social field.

Starting points for learning

Studies in Social Services are based on the concept of learning as a process that is reflective, experimental, and socially constructed. Thus, students' personal experiences, active participation, and interaction play an important role. It is important that you learn to acquire and evaluate information in versatile ways, and that you are able to apply the information to new and changing situations. Changes in the society and in the working life require skills in continuous learning and updating your competencies.

Structure and Content of Studies

Your degree consists of working life-based core studies (180 cr) and complementary studies (30 cr). The basic studies contain practical training (47 cr) and a final thesis (15 cr).

The studies consist of sociological and pedagogic modules, and include a module in social pedagogy. Socio-pedagogical activity means, for example, supporting and educating the client, giving motivation and promoting social changes. The goal of this is to support people's active participation in society, and to prevent social exclusion.

The complementary studies mostly contain modules of 15 credits. The following modules suit especially well those who study in the Degree Programme in Social Studies:

- Child Welfare
- Early Childhood Education
- Special Know-how in Mental Health and Addiction Care
- Multi-professional Rehabilitation
- Optional language studies (German, Russian, Chinese, French or Spanish)
- Agile Development in Social Services, Health Care, and Care and Education Sectors (5-15 cr)
- International Studies 1
- International Studies 2
- Participation in peer tutoring and student union activities (3-15 cr)
- Training programme of Joensuu Sports Academy (3-15 cr)

If you want to receive the qualifications to work as a kindergarten teacher, you will need to take the Early Childhood Education module.

Some of the complementary studies can be completed during the summer months. If you already work as an entrepreneur or are planning to establish your own business, this can be part of your core and complementary studies, in cases which would develop your own business or business idea.

Ethical Competence | Client Work Competence | Competence in Social Service Systems | Critical and Inclusive Societal Competence | Competence in Research-based Development | Internationalisation Competence | Learning Skills | Innovation Competence | Working Community Competence

4 th year		THE DEVELOPER	
Advanced practical training	15 cr		
Supplementary studies	15 cr		
3 rd year		THE EXPERT	
Group Counselling Practice	5 cr	Structural Influencing Work in Society	3 cr
English for Social Services	3 cr	Career Planning and Development III	2 cr
Intensive Case Management	2 cr	Advanced Studies in the Social Field	5 cr
Project and Community Development	7 cr	How to Write a Thesis Report	5 cr
Scientific Writing	1 cr	Complementary studies	15 cr
Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Economy	7 cr		
Implementation of the Thesis	5 cr		
2 nd year		THE PROFESSIONAL IN CLIENT WORK	
Client Work Process in Social Services	5 cr	Strenghts-based Client Work II	3 cr
Strenghts-based Client Work I	5 cr	Client Work Practice	11 cr
Perspectives on Early Childhood Education	3 cr	Group Work in Social Services	4 cr
Social Rehabilitation	3 cr	Community Work	2 cr
Methods of Client Work	5 cr	The Methods of Research, Development and Innovation II	5 cr
Swedish for Social Services	3 cr	Planning of the Thesis	5 cr
Career Planning and Development II	1 cr		
Finnish Language: Oral Communication	2 cr		
The Methods of Research, Development and Innovation I	3 cr		
1 st year		THE SOCIETALLY AWARE AND REFLECTIVE ACTOR	
Career Planning and Development I	2 cr	The Growing, Developing and Learning Human	4 cr
The Working Life and Ethical Principles in Social Work	3 cr	Professional Communication and Creative Methods	4 cr
Perspectives on the Knowledge-base of Social Services	4 cr	Basics of Socio-pedagogical Work	3 cr
First Aid	1 cr	Social Legislation	4 cr
Basic Practical Training	5 cr	Approaches to Client Work in the Social Services	5 cr
Information and Communication Technology	1 cr	Swedish at Work	2 cr
Promoting Wellbeing, Health and Functional Capacity	4 cr	Practical Training: Promoting Wellbeing, Health and Functional Capacity practise	6 cr
English at Work	2 cr	The Customer as an Active Participant in Social and Health Services II	2 cr
Reporting and Written Communication	2 cr		
The Customer as an Active Participant in Social and Health Services I	3 cr		
The Basics of Medication and Pharmacology	3 cr		

Competence Requirements

Area of Competence	Description of Competence Bachelor of Social Services
Ethical Competence in the Social Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is able to work according to the principles of basic and human rights according to social values and the principles of the profession - understands the significance of the human concept and values in case work - is able to act ethically in situations where values conflict - is able to promote equality and equitability - is able to stand up for the rights of vulnerable individuals and groups in society
Client Work Competence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is able to foster professional interaction and cooperative relationships as well as evaluate the needs of clients - is able to support the growth and development of individuals and familial relationships and everyday life - is able to participate in planning, implementing, and evaluating the service process of clients - identifies the risk factors of well-being and knows how to apply preventative work and early intervention - can knowingly target and resourcefully become involved with subsidies to guide clients, client groups, and communities - is able to apply and evaluate the theoretical work orientations and methods of client work - is able to act in a sensitive manner in regards to culture and diversity and promotes intercultural dialogue - is able to provide guidance in different electronic environments and guide customers using electronic services - is able to evaluate client work and can document it in a customer oriented manner
Competence in Service Systems of the Social Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is able to analyse the local and global challenges of well-being and sustainable development and their impact of social and health care - knows the legal basis of the social field and is able to apply the central legislation - manages the ways of organizing and producing social and health care, education and training services, and can guide and supervise them - knows the social security and welfare systems in the public, private, and third sectors and can manage social security - can be an active social expert and justify a client's interest in multi-professional and multi-sectoral cooperation

Critical and Inclusive Societal Competence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is capable of professional, critical reflection - is able to analyse inequalities and disadvantages and furthermore well-being structures and processes that prevent exclusion - is able to defend the interests of the vulnerable and voiceless and to inform political decision makers and other responsible actors of prohibitive situations in life - knows the public administration decision-making system and knows how to act according to its principles - is able to promote citizens' participation and the opportunities to participate and engage in advocacy with different actors
Competence in Research-based Development and Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is capable of innovative problem solving and networking in the development of the social sector - is able to develop partner based approaches to client work methods, work practices and service processes - knows how to plan, implement, evaluate, and manage social welfare development projects - is able to apply research and development methods and develop operational practices - can produce and evaluate information in order to promote well-being - is able to act in accordance with the ethical principles of research and development
Learning Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is able to assess and develop one's competences and learning methods - is able to search for, process and analyse information critically - can assume responsibility for team learning and knowledge sharing
Work Community, Leadership, and Entrepreneurship Competences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is able to work cooperatively in a multidisciplinary team and work community and in international environments - is able to act as a leader in a work community - knows the core labour laws and promotes occupational safety - is able to direct oneself and is able to promote the well-being of self and others at work - is able to evaluate the quality, results, and impacts of work

[Sosiaalialan ammattikorkeakoulutuksen kompetenssit](#)

(Lähde: Sosiaalialan ammattikorkeakouluverkosto, sosiaalialan ammattikorkeakoulutuksen kompetenssit 29.4.2016)

[Sosiaalialan ammattikorkeakoulutuksen varhaiskasvatuksen kompetenssit](#)

(Lähde: Sosiaalialan ammattikorkeakouluverkosto, sosiaalialan ammattikorkeakoulutuksen varhaiskasvatuksen kompetenssit 23.11.2017)