BMCC’s Human Services Program

The Human Services program in the Social Sciences Department awards graduates with an Associate in Science degree, and prepares them for careers that help people solve problems and live more satisfying lives. These careers encompass jobs in social work, counseling, case management, rehabilitation, recreation, child welfare, public welfare, social security, developmental and physical disabilities, substance abuse, services for older adults, and others.

**General requirements:** English Composition I and II; Health Education; Introduction to Statistics; Fundamentals of Speech; Science; Modern Foreign Language; Music or Art; Elective.

**Curriculum requirements:** Introduction to Human Services and Social Work; Human Services Skills; Introduction to Gerontology or Introduction to Disabilities and Behavior Change or Child Welfare; Field Experience in Human Services I and II; Social Welfare Programs and Policies; American Government; General Psychology; Introduction to Sociology; Social Science.

For More Information, go to: [http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/social-science/programs.jsp](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/social-science/programs.jsp) or call 212-220-1210.
The field of human services attracts well organized people with excellent communication skills—and a strong desire to improve the lives of others. Graduates of BMCC’s Human Services program start their careers as social work assistants, youth workers, gerontology aides, community outreach workers and in other roles where the focus is helping people. They assist clients building skills for everyday life, and guide them to vital services such as childcare, housing and job training. They lead group activities, administer food banks and update case records in clinics, women’s shelters, group homes, hospitals—connecting a community’s most vulnerable members to resources that build their independence and quality of life.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for assistants in social work will grow 23%—and for licensed social workers, 16%—from 2008 to 2018. Professionals in this expanding field live the words of Petra Scully: “You must be the change you want to see in the world,” and many start that change, at BMCC.

**Meet Our Students**

**Brett Toney** grew up on Long Island, and studied to be a Microsoft Office Specialist at the SUNY/BMCC Manhattan Educational Opportunity Center, where staff encouraged him to enroll at BMCC. “They saw that my writing and communication skills were strong, and I had a natural talent for helping people,” he says. “I did a lot of volunteering at local non-profits, and the staff there were very supportive.”

**Cheray Fitzpatrick** earned an Associate in Occupational Studies and worked as a clothing store manager before enrolling in BMCC’s Human Services program. “I had always had a strong desire to help children,” she says, and while earning a place on the Dean’s List, she interned at the NYC Administration for Children’s Services, working with children in foster care, and their families. She’s also a Student Ambassador at BMCC, and is gathering field experience as a volunteer with New York Cares, and a NYC Veteran’s Home nursing faculty.

**Adrian Miller** earned a BS in Social Work at SUNY Stony Brook, a Master’s in Social Work from the Hunter College School of Social Work, and a Doctor of Social Welfare from the CUNY Graduate School, where he will pursue his PhD. “I hope to get into community organizing, planning and development,” says Gilgore. “I’d like to work around policy, advocating for people whose voices aren’t heard.”

**Petra Scully** made the Dean’s List, and interned with The Jewish Guild for the Blind. “I worked closely with the MSW, sat in on counseling sessions, and tutored clients in reading and math,” she says. After earning her Associate in Human Services at BMCC, her goal is to eventually complete a master’s degree in Social Work, and provide family services, preventing children’s placement in foster care. “I’ve had great professors at BMCC,” says the Brooklyn native. “If I were having issues—anything blocking my success as a student—they would take time to talk, and point me toward the resources I needed.”

**Julie Gilgore** earned an AS in Human Services at BMCC, while she interned at Housing Works in East New York, Brooklyn. “I was helping clients resolve issues that were blocking their access to services, such as their immigration status,” she says. Now working toward her BSW at Lehman College, she’s interning at the Department of Homeless Services in the Bronx, and was just accepted into the Columbia University School of Social Work, where she will pursue an MSW. “I hope to get into community organizing, planning and development,” says Gilgore. “I’d like to work around policy, advocating for people whose voices aren’t heard.”

**Meagan De La Cruz** held an internship through the YAI Network and FEGS, provide employee tuition funding—and reflect an industry trend to promote from within. She assisted clients building skills for everyday life, and guided them to vital services such as childcare, housing and job training. They lead group activities, administer food banks and update case records in clinics, women’s shelters, group homes, hospitals—connecting a community’s most vulnerable members to resources that build their independence and quality of life.

Successful Alumni

**Petra Scully** made the Dean’s List, and interned with The Jewish Guild for the Blind. “I worked closely with the MSW, sat in on counseling sessions, and tutored clients in reading and math,” she says. After earning her Associate in Human Services at BMCC, her goal is to eventually complete a master’s degree in Social Work, and provide family services, preventing children’s placement in foster care. “I’ve had great professors at BMCC,” says the Brooklyn native. “If I were having issues—anything blocking my success as a student—they would take time to talk, and point me toward the resources I needed.”

**Brett Toney** grew up on Long Island, and studied to be a Microsoft Office Specialist at the SUNY/BMCC Manhattan Educational Opportunity Center, where staff encouraged him to enroll at BMCC. “They saw that my writing and communication skills were strong, and I had a natural talent for helping people,” he says. “I did a lot of volunteering at local non-profits, and the staff there were very supportive.”

**Cheray Fitzpatrick** earned an Associate in Occupational Studies and worked as a clothing store manager before enrolling in BMCC’s Human Services program. “I had always had a strong desire to help children,” she says, and while earning a place on the Dean’s List, she interned at the NYC Administration for Children’s Services, working with children in foster care, and their families. She’s also a Student Ambassador at BMCC, and is gathering field experience as a volunteer with New York Cares, and a NYC Veteran’s Home nursing faculty.

**Adrian Miller** earned a BS in Social Work at BMCC, then a MS and Masters in Social Work at SUNY Stony Brook. He plans to continue his education by earning a PhD in education, and has worked at FEGS and YAI, social work agencies providing services to people with disabilities. Today he is employed at Big Brothers Big Sisters as a Program Manager in their Workplace Mentoring project.

**Meagan De La Cruz** held an internship through the YAI Network and FEGS, provide employee tuition funding—and reflect an industry trend to promote from within. She assisted clients building skills for everyday life, and guided them to vital services such as childcare, housing and job training. They lead group activities, administer food banks and update case records in clinics, women’s shelters, group homes, hospitals—connecting a community’s most vulnerable members to resources that build their independence and quality of life.

Successful Alumni

**Petra Scully** made the Dean’s List, and interned with The Jewish Guild for the Blind. “I worked closely with the MSW, sat in on counseling sessions, and tutored clients in reading and math,” she says. After earning her Associate in Human Services at BMCC, her goal is to eventually complete a master’s degree in Social Work, and provide family services, preventing children’s placement in foster care. “I’ve had great professors at BMCC,” says the Brooklyn native. “If I were having issues—anything blocking my success as a student—they would take time to talk, and point me toward the resources I needed.”

**Brett Toney** grew up on Long Island, and studied to be a Microsoft Office Specialist at the SUNY/BMCC Manhattan Educational Opportunity Center, where staff encouraged him to enroll at BMCC. “They saw that my writing and communication skills were strong, and I had a natural talent for helping people,” he says. “I did a lot of volunteering at local non-profits, and the staff there were very supportive.”

**Cheray Fitzpatrick** earned an Associate in Occupational Studies and worked as a clothing store manager before enrolling in BMCC’s Human Services program. “I had always had a strong desire to help children,” she says, and while earning a place on the Dean’s List, she interned at the NYC Administration for Children’s Services, working with children in foster care, and their families. She’s also a Student Ambassador at BMCC, and is gathering field experience as a volunteer with New York Cares, and a NYC Veteran’s Home nursing faculty.

**Adrian Miller** earned a BS in Social Work at BMCC, then a MS and Masters in Social Work at SUNY Stony Brook. He plans to continue his education by earning a PhD in education, and has worked at FEGS and YAI, social work agencies providing services to people with disabilities. Today he is employed at Big Brothers Big Sisters as a Program Manager in their Workplace Mentoring project.

Careers launched with an Associate Degree

Associate degree in hand, graduates of BMCC’s Human Services department often go right to work as client advocates, activity coordinators, full-time assistants in housing shelters, and continue their education at the same time. Many social service agencies, like the YAI Network and FEGS, provide employee tuition funding—and reflect an industry trend to promote from within. Other BMCC Human Services graduates head straight for a bachelor’s degree program in Human Services, Gerontology, Community Health, Criminal Justice, Recreation Therapy and other areas.

Many earn their MSW—Master in Social Work—and as licensed social workers, facilitate individual and group therapy, conduct crisis interventions, manage substance abuse programs and provide other services. They also work as advocates and community organizers, shaping policies that impact the lives of people in need. From the perspective of their own social work careers in healthcare, social service and government agencies, the full-time faculty at BMCC advise Human Services students on which of these career paths best matches their goals and strengths.