
Checklist

For Choosing the Right Social Work Path

Deciding between **macro**, **direct**, and **clinical social work** can feel overwhelming, but this checklist will help you evaluate which path aligns with your skills, interests, and career aspirations. Use this guide to make an informed choice:

- I prefer working with individuals or small groups to address immediate needs.
- I enjoy building close relationships with clients and providing hands-on support.
- I am interested in counseling, therapy, and diagnosing mental health conditions.
- I want to pursue licensure, such as becoming a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW).
- I am passionate about advocating for systemic change and influencing policy.
- I see myself addressing issues like poverty, healthcare reform, or social justice.
- I enjoy designing programs or initiatives that impact communities at large.
- I value theories and frameworks that guide social work practice.
- I want to develop practical skills for direct intervention, like crisis management or resource coordination.
- I am interested in studying specialized programs in macro, direct, or clinical social work.

Review your answers to see which statements resonate most with your interests and strengths. If you checked multiple boxes across different categories, consider a career that blends elements of these practices.

Pro Tips

1. **Pro Tip 1:** Research job descriptions for roles in macro, direct, and clinical social work to gain insight into daily responsibilities and requirements for each path.

2. **Pro Tip 2:** Speak to professionals in each field to understand the challenges and rewards of their specific practice area—it's one of the best ways to get real-world perspective.

View our website for more helpful guides:

<https://www.socialworkportal.com/>
