

Lewis-Clark

S T A T E

C O L L E G E

Coeur d'Alene

Social Work Program Dispositions

Before considering a career in social work, examine the list of dispositions below to determine if there is a good fit between your work ethics, interpersonal skills, intellectual assets, and personal beliefs and those required of social work professionals.

DISPOSITIONS FOR SOCIAL WORK PROFESSIONALS

To be a professional social worker you must...

1. Be willing to subscribe to the NASW Code of Ethics (<http://www.naswdc.org/pubs/code/default.asp>)
2. Be reliable (excellent attendance, timely work, excellent follow through).
3. Be able to manage stress (in all aspects of life so as not to interfere with professional responsibilities).
4. Be able to relate to people (initially a willingness to relate to all peoples).
5. Maintain an appropriate professional appearance (dress and conduct).
6. Be self-aware (of strengths, weakness, prejudices, gaps in knowledge) and open to feedback in these areas.
7. Be respectful of others: clients, colleagues, and supervisors in all their diversity of opinions, beliefs, life experiences, and culture.
8. Be organized, motivated, and self-directed to accomplish professional responsibilities.
9. Be able to use critical thinking skills to address professional social work issues (social justices, diversity, barriers to change, evaluation).
10. Have excellent social skills (active listening, rapport building, compassion, empathy, ability to work well in small and large groups).
11. Have excellent oral and written communication skills.
12. Be eligible for and able to pass a state licensing exam upon graduation in most states.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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