

Lewis-Clark State College

Social Work Program Dispositions

Approved: August 2008

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 Chris Ahlman, Ph.D. at rcahlman@lcsc.edu or at 208-292-2681.

