

CURRICULUM

SOCIAL SERVICES

Centre for Social Services and Health Care

Social pedagogy and creative methods have a special emphasis in the Degree Programme in Social Welfare Work. You have a possibility to obtain the qualifications of a kindergarten teacher as part of your studies. You will take the degree of Bachelor of Social Services in multi-professional learning environments that enhance your key and specialised competences. Multimodal study methods will be utilised in the studies, and you will have an opportunity to participate in local development work in the field of social welfare and health care, for example in the field of sparsely populated areas, which has been chosen as an area of emphasis at Karelia University of Applied Sciences .

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 can find work in the public, private or the third sector. 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, working with the disabled, or multicultural work. It is easy for Bachelors of Social Services to find employment. After graduation you can work, for example as a social adviser, a supervisor or leading supervisor in child welfare institutions, in social work among adults, in day-time activities for mentally disabled or in housing services. About one-third of Bachelors of Social Services get employment as kindergarten teachers. The degree gives the student skills to work as an immediate superior and in development duties.

Implementation of Studies

Bachelor of Social Services studies are offered every year as two versions: contact teaching and multi-form learning. The studies have a strong connection to working life. Each academic year, both the theoretical studies and the practical training will give you experience on how to act in various environments in the social field. Connections to working life are based on long-term cooperation with working communities and networks of the area and on the key partnership agreements concluded. Research and development activity with working life is connected especially to the theme of the third academic year: Research-minded Development in the Social Field. During the studies, you will practise multi-professional cooperation with students of nursing, public health nursing and physiotherapy in the learning and service environment Voimala. The goal is that all students in social services and health care complete at least one practical training period in the Voimala environment. The studies are implemented in a variety of ways, for example in virtual and simulated learning environments. Part of your studies will consist of research

and development projects that are implemented together with different organizations and companies. You have excellent possibilities in international activities through English language courses, projects, student exchange and practical training.

Structure and Content of Studies

The degree programme contains common core and complementary studies enhancing your key and specialised competences. The extent of basic studies is 180 cr and that of complementary studies 30 cr. The basic studies contain practical (47 cr) training and a thesis (15 cr). The thesis process is divided into three 5-credit courses. Each course can be completed at different stages of studies. However, the thesis plan needs to be accepted before the implementation phase.

Your degree gives you the qualifications to work as a kindergarten teacher if you take the required 60 credits of early childhood education and social pedagogy studies (Act on Qualification Requirements for Social Welfare Professionals L272/2005 and the Decree 608/2005 that complements it).

The Bachelor of Social Services studies are based on behavioural sciences and sociology and they are observed from a socio-pedagogical knowledge base as well as from practical activities. Socio-pedagogical activity means, for example, supporting and educating the client, giving motivation and promoting social changes. You work with individuals, groups and communities. The pedagogic starting point of your studies is a socio-constructive conception of learning that is based on communal learning and communal formation of knowledge. The starting point of the planning and implementation of the learning process are the methods of experiential and cooperative learning. The curriculum is penetrated by four central learning processes:

1. Professional growth: you learn to see, reflect and evaluate your professional development and professional identity.
2. A reflective and developing approach: you learn to observe and inspect your future work, involve clients and develop services in the social field.
3. Creative process: you get experiential knowledge from the use of creative methods as a tool for self-expression and self-knowledge and learn to use creative and art-based methods in client work with individuals, groups and communities.
4. Client work process: you learn to support the clients' resources and to apply the methods of client work.

The core competence of your studies is built little by little. During the first year, you learn to understand societal connections and the multidisciplinary basis of social welfare work and also the place of a Bachelor of social services in the service system of social welfare and health care. During the second year of studies you will learn to understand the process of the socio-pedagogical client work and learn to plan, implement and evaluate target-oriented socio-pedagogical client work in practice. During the third year you will learn to structure how organisations work and how to develop them, and you also get skills to apply the methods of research and development to central societal questions. In the last phase of the studies you show what you have learned and analyse your own professional growth in the form of reflection, a thesis and different seminars.

The complementary studies mostly contain modules of 15 credits. The following modules suit especially well those who study in the Degree Programme in Social Welfare Work. If you want to receive the qualifications to work as a kindergarten teacher, you will need to take the Early Childhood Education Module.

- Child Welfare
- Early Childhood Education
- Developing Competence in Ageing
- e-services in Social Welfare and Healthcare
- Multi-professional Rehabilitation
- Special Know-how in Mental Health and Addiction Care
- Productisation and Innovation
- Studies in Partner Universities
- International Practical Training
- Expertise Pertaining to Russia
- Optional language studies (Spanish, Chinese, French, German, Russian)
- Refresher courses in languages (3-6 cr)
- Training programme of Joensuu Sports Academy (3-15 cr)
- Participation in peer tutoring and student union activities (3-15 cr)

The complementary studies are scheduled to take place in the fifth and seventh semesters. Additionally, complementary studies can be taken during summer months. Participation in Sports Academy training, peer tutoring or student union activities and optional language studies can be spread over several semesters. If the studies mentioned above do not match with your professional objectives, you can discuss other alternatives with your teacher tutor or counsellor.

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		PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY IN THE SOCIAL FIELD	
Thesis		15 cr	
Complementary Studies		15 cr	
3 rd year		RESEARCH-MINDED DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOCIAL FIELD	
Cooperation, Inclusiveness and Sociocultural Animation		4 cr	Art in the Community 3 cr
Leadership and Development in Social Services and Health Care		5 cr	The Methods of Thesis Writing 2 cr
Group Counselling Practice		6 cr	How to Write a Thesis Report 1 cr
Complementary studies		15 cr	Advanced Practice 15 cr
			Advanced Studies in the Social Field 6 cr
			Professional Development 1 cr
			Swedish for Social Services 2 2 cr
2 nd year		SOCIO-PEDAGOGICAL CLIENT WORK	
Resource-based Client Work		7 cr	Research-minded Development 7 cr
English for Social Services 2		2 cr	Client Work Practice 15 cr
Creative Methods in Socio-pedagogical Client Work 1		2 cr	Group Counselling and Child Education 4 cr
Supporting Communication and Rehabilitation		5 cr	Creative Methods in Socio-pedagogical Client Work 2 2 cr
Nursing Skills Abilities		3 cr	Professional Development 2 2 cr
Client Work Process		5 cr	
Individual Client Practice		4 cr	
Oral Communication and Literature		2 cr	
1 st year		SOCIAL WELFARE WORK IN THE SOCIETY	
Social Philosophy		3 cr	Basics of Client Work 5 cr
Basics of Sociology		3 cr	Basics of Socio-pedagogical Work 3 cr
The Developing and Learning Human		5 cr	Introduction to Early Childhood Education 3 cr
The Service Systems of Social Services and Health Care		6 cr	Social Politics 3 cr
Introduction to Creative Methods		3 cr	Social Legislation 4 cr
Information and Communication Technology		2 cr	Creative Methods in the Social Field 3 cr
Reporting and Written Communication		2 cr	Service System Practice 7 cr
English for Social Services 1		3 cr	Swedish for Social Services 1 3 cr
			Professional Development 1 2 cr

Competence Requirements

Area of Competence	Description of Competence Bachelor of Social Services
Ethical Competence	- has internalized the values and professional ethics of the social field and is committed to act in accordance with them. - is able to use ethical reflection required in the professions in the social field. - is able to take into account the uniqueness of every individual to act properly in situations that include conflicts of values.
Client Work Competence	- recognises the importance of his or her own idea of humans and values in the work done with different client groups - is able to create professional interaction and cooperation relationship with the client so that it promotes the inclusion of the client - understands the needs of the clients and is able to support them to find their potential and get stronger in different phases of their growth and development as well as in different life situations - is able to apply and evaluate different theoretical work orientations and working methods in client work - is able to support and guide different clients and client groups in their everyday life in a goal-oriented way - is able to evaluate and describe the different phases of the client process and develop his or her work on the basis of it
Competence in Service Systems of the Social Field	- masters the service systems and the underlying judicial statutes that support the welfare state and social security and is able to apply them in practice - is able to anticipate and analyse changes in welfare services and is able to participate in producing and developing the services - is able to evaluate what kind of service clients in different life situations need and masters the starting points and methods of service guidance and preventive work - is able to work as an expert in the social field in multi-professional work groups and networks and to promote the functionality of the safety network of the client
Critical and Inclusive Societal Competence	- is able to analyse structures and processes that produce inequality and disadvantage on a local, national and international level - is able to utilise different methods of community social work, societal influence and communication. - is able to support the inclusion of citizens and to participate in opinion-forming together with clients and other actors
Competence in Research-based Development	- has internalized a reflective, research-minded and developing attitude to work - has practical research skills and is able to produce new information - is able to plan, implement, evaluate and write reports about development projects

Innovation Competence	- is able to solve problems and develop working methods innovatively - is able to work in projects - is able to carry out research and development projects and to apply existing knowledge and methods of one's field - is able to find client-oriented, sustainable and profitable solutions
Internationalisation Competence	- has the language competence necessary for the work in the field and its development - is able to cooperate with people from different cultural backgrounds - is able to take into account the opportunities and effects of internationalisation
Learning Skills	- is able to assess and develop one's competences and learning methods - is able to search, process and analyse information critically - can assume responsibility for team learning and knowledge sharing
Work Community Competence	- is able to function as a member of a work community and contribute to its well-being - is able to function in communication and interaction situations at work. - is able to use information and communication technology in the tasks of one's field - is able to establish personal occupational contacts and to work in networks - is able to make decisions in new and unforeseen situations - is able to manage one's work and to work independently in tasks requiring expertise - has developed entrepreneurial skills