



MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS ADVISING GUIDE: *Direct Support Human Services*

The **Direct Support in Human Services Certificate program** is designed to prepare students with a working knowledge and skills to effectively support individuals who may have disabilities or who seek assistance from human service agencies. The program offers courses to develop the basic skills that have been identified by the U.S. Department of Labor as key to becoming a competent human service worker. Students are also prepared to enter the associate degree program in Human Services.



This advising guide includes information that will help you to explore your academic and career interests and determine whether the **Direct Support in Human Services major** will support your long-term goals.



EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS WITH ACADEMIC ADVISING

Throughout each semester, meet with your advisor so that he/she can guide you through a self-exploration process that will help you identify your academic and career interests.

Beginning of Semester:

- ___ Schedule an appointment to meet with your academic advisor during the first few weeks to discuss future plans and how a Business Administration Degree can help you achieve your goals.
- ___ Explore your personal interests by completing Focus2, an online career assessment tool: <https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/careerservices/focus2.aspx>

Mid-Semester:

- ___ Schedule an appointment with academic advisor review your academic progress, Focus2 results and create an academic plan in Degree Works.

Before Semester Ends:

- ___ Schedule an appointment to discuss and register for the classes you will take the following semester. (Early November for spring, Early April for fall and summer)
- ___ Visit the Academic Career & Transfer Center or call 1-800-818-3434 to schedule an appointment.

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- Exploring Your Options
- Personality Inventory
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DIRECT SUPPORT HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Graduates of the program are prepared to:

- Demonstrate basic counseling skills, including active listening, paraphrasing, confronting and engaging clients;
- Use their understanding of the human service system in the United States, the history, course of development, and the current operation of services designed to assist major target populations;
- Recognize problems in the human service system, analyze causes and contributing factors to the problem, and posit appropriate professional responses to the problems identified;
- Demonstrate basic writing and research skills necessary to the profession;
- Understand and apply Community Support Skill Standards;
- Apply the ethical standards for human service workers in internship experiences;
- Demonstrate an understanding of group process and the dynamics found in client groups;
- Analyze the impact of cultural differences in providing human services and demonstrate cultural competence in working with people of different abilities, cultural and ethnic backgrounds

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IS THE DIRECT SUPPORT HUMAN SERVICES MAJOR THE RIGHT FIT FOR ME?

Think about whether you have the following personality traits and abilities that human services professionals must possess:

■ **Ability to communicate**

Listen to others, understand, and ask questions.
Express ideas clearly when speaking or writing.
Read and understand written information.

■ **Ability to reason and problem solve**

Notice when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong.
Use reasoning to discover answers to problems.
Combine several pieces of information and draw conclusions.

■ **Ability to manage oneself, people, time and duties**

Check how well someone is learning or doing a task.

■ **Ability to work with people:**

Be aware of others' reactions and change behavior in relation to them.
Look for ways to help people.
Persuade others to approach things differently.

■ **Ability to pay attention to detail:**

Quickly and accurately follow through on tasks that may require several steps.

Program Requirements

In order for a student to be eligible to participate in an academic, community or clinical program that involves potential unsupervised contact with children, the disabled, the elderly, or other vulnerable populations, the student may be required to undergo a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check and/or a Sex Offender Registry Information (SORI) check

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THE CAREER PATH

Graduates are competitive candidates for immediate employment or advancement in human service agencies such as hospitals, residential mental health facilities and home care services.

Career Planning Activities:

- Work with career advisor to create resume, cover letter and help improve your interview skills
- Identify internship and volunteer opportunities in your desired field
- Attend career workshops and job fairs
- Consider working or volunteering with a human service agency to obtain work experience.



THE TRANSFER PATH

While our **Direct Support in Human Services major** is designed for students to enter the human service field right after graduation, students can continue their education at MCC in the **Human Services Transfer Associate in Science degree** program.

The **Human Services Transfer Associate in Science degree** program provides students with the coursework needed to transfer to bachelor degree programs, primarily as human services and social work majors. This program qualifies for *MassTransfer*, which guarantees credit transfer to Massachusetts state universities and the University of Massachusetts.

Transfer Planning Activities:

- Work with an advisor to discuss *MassTransfer*, Articulations and transfer agreements
- Visit your selected campuses in person. Every college looks good online or in a glossy photo, but you can get a better feel when you visit
- Meet with a transfer counselor to identify transfer scholarships
- Research admissions requirements and deadlines at four-year colleges and universities

MCC ADVISING RESOURCES

Career Services:

<https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/careerservices>

Transfer Services:

<https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/transfer>

MassTransfer:

<https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/transfer/masstransfer.aspx>

Financial Aid:

<https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/financialaid>

Foundation Scholarships:

<https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/foundation/scholarships>

College Board Match Maker:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>

You can find more information about careers and salaries at: www.bls.gov.