



What skills can graduates gain?

Through studying a degree in Human Services, graduates develop a valuable set of skills and competencies. These can include:

- Understanding the influences on contemporary society
- An awareness and appreciation of diversity
- Practical application of social theory
- Advanced oral and written communication skills
- Thinking critically and creatively, and challenging ideas
- Interpretive and analytical thinking
- Problem solving skills
- Synthesising and presenting information
- Research and computing
- Time management, planning and organisation.

What do employers look for?

Many employers look for generic skills such as communication, client/customer-focus, bicultural competence, cultural awareness, teamwork and initiative.

With technology, globalisation, and other drivers changing society, skills such as resilience, problem solving, and adaptability are important.

Skills that are likely to grow in importance include analytical and creative thinking, systems thinking, technological literacy, AI and big data.*

*World Economic Forum: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/05/future-of-job-2023-kill>

How can these skills be developed?

- Some skills are gained through studying
- Extra-curricular activities can help, such as getting involved in clubs, mentoring, cultural groups, part-time work or volunteering
- Be open to professional and personal development opportunities, whether it is undertaking work experience, overseas exchange, skills seminar, or joining an industry group.

Where have graduates been employed?

Human Services graduates work in government agencies, private and not-for-profit organisations, and community service agencies.

Human Services courses are designed for students wanting to pursue careers within fields such as:

- Research
- Education e.g. Ministry of Education
- Policy and governance e.g. City councils
- Government ministries, departments and related agencies e.g. Oranga Tamariki | Ministry for Children, Department of Internal Affairs, Whānau Ora
- Management and administration
- Law and safety e.g. NZ Police, Department of Corrections, Community Probation Service
- Health e.g. Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand
- Community and youth development
- Social services and advocacy e.g. Ministry of Social Development
- International aid organisations
- Environmental development
- Animal welfare
- Aged support
- Third sector work (non-governmental and not-for-profit) or joining an industry group.

