



Career Advice

Julie Sander

Hospice social worker, Bradley, IL.

Why did you choose to pursue a career in social work?

I chose to pursue social work because I always loved to help people. I knew that becoming a social worker would allow me to help people in many aspects of their life they may find challenging whether they need help with their mental health or finding resources to help them overcome barriers they may face.

What kinds of fieldwork/internships did you do while in school?

During my undergrad I did a job shadow at a facility that provided programs and housing within the community for individuals with intellectual disabilities. In my final year of my undergraduate I interned at a behavioral hospital.

While in grad school I interned working with Veterans experiencing homelessness. We provided case management, resources, and emergency shelter until finding permanent housing for these individuals.

How did you find your first job out of school?

After graduating from grad school, I found my first job through an individual I attended school with.

What is the social work landscape like in Illinois?

I feel like in Illinois the opportunities for social workers are endless. There are ample opportunities to take on many different roles as a social worker.

What course of experience in school do you think best prepared you for your career?

I feel that many experiences throughout my time in school have prepared me for my career in social work. Readings, assignments, projects, and most importantly conversations in the classroom have molded me into the social worker I am today.

Interning while consistently working through different competencies pertaining to social work highly impacted my ability to be a competent and confident social worker.

Any advice for current students?

My advice for current students would be to embrace the process. At times it is challenging being a student, but in the end the hard work will pay off. Education is a way of investing in yourself to not only better your future, but to also help others in many ways as a social worker.

Published on <https://mastersinsocialworkonline.org/states/illinois/#expert=julie-sander>
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