

Definition

Geriatric social workers, also known as gerontological social workers, help elderly people meet their daily needs. Geriatric social workers work closely with a wide variety of medical and health professionals (i.e. [psychiatrists](#), [psychologists](#), [therapists](#), physicians, and nurses). These social workers help elderly/older clients and patients improve their lives (i.e. manage mental health conditions, reduce stress, and resolve issues). More specifically, they provide services to adults, age 65 years old and older. Geriatric social workers also help elderly clients and patients manage behavioral problems, and cope with illnesses (www.psychologyschoolguide.net/social-work-career)

According to the Administration on Aging, the number of elderly Americans over the age of 60 jumped from [378 million in 1980 to 759 million](#) in 2010.

In Nevada, 13.1 % of population is currently elderly, in ten years it will be near 38%.

Education level

National Social Work Total

Approximately 510 bachelors, 250 Masters and 88 doctoral in 2016

- GRADUATES: 20,348
- Average of 79.6% had loan debt at graduation
- \$28,283.65 average loan debt of graduates
- Many have debt toping \$60,000
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Total enrollment/degrees awarded in Nevada 2016

-310 bachelors

-108 MSW degrees awarded in state

38th in MSW graduates by state

Enrollment incentives

Both UNLV and Reno has received the 1.4 million HRSA grants to increase integrated behavioral health social workers

Hartford Scholars

Aging disincentive may be pay:

According to Payscale, geriatric social workers on average earn **\$41,484** per year, as of July 2015. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average salary for healthcare social workers and social workers in general is **\$51,930** and **\$59,100** respectively. **This counts social workers who have been doing social work for over 30 years.**

****Most Social Workers start out with incomes that are near poverty level especially for families.**