# Middle School Career Investigations: Human Services Pathways

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Within the Human Services Career Cluster, there are five pathways: Consumer Services, Counseling and Mental Health Services, Early Childhood Development and Services, Family and Community Services, and Personal Care Services. Click on the buttons to learn more about each pathway. Make sure to visit each one.

## Consumer Services Description

Professionals in the Consumer Services Pathway assist individuals with decisions and problems relating to finance, real estate, insurance and consumer goods.

## Consumer Services Sample Careers

Sample careers in the Consumer Services Pathway include Consumer Advocate and Debt Counselor.

## Consumer Services Education and Salaries

There is a range in educational requirements and salaries in the Consumer Services Pathway. A Consumer Advocate requires a Master’s Degree, and if they will represent consumer interests in court, they will also need a J.D. or law degree. They have an average salary of $40,703. A Debt Counselor requires a high school diploma and has an average salary of $35,000.

## Counseling and Mental Health Services Description

Professionals in the Counseling and Mental Health Services Pathway assist people with personal, family, educational, mental health, and career decisions and problems. Mental health care may be provided in hospitals, clinics, schools, or private settings.

## Counseling and Mental Health Services Sample Careers

Sample careers in the Consumer Services Pathway include Career Counselor, Dietitian or Nutritionist, Educational/School Counselor, Health Educator, Marriage and Family Therapist, Mental Health Counselor, Nutritional Counselor, Rehabilitation Counselor, Social and Human Service Assistant, and Volunteer Coordinator.

## Counseling and Mental Health Services Education and Salaries

Many of the careers in the Counseling and Mental Health Services Pathway require advanced degrees. A Marriage and Family Therapist requires a Master’s Degree and possible a Ph.D. They have an average salary of $51,210. A Nutritionist requires a Master’s Degree and may require a M.D. or Ph.D., depending on whether or not they prescribe medication. They have an average salary of $61,590.

## Early Childhood Development and Services Description

Professionals in the Early Childhood Development and Services Pathway nurture and teach children. They provide services in childcare centers, nursery schools, preschools, public schools, private households, family childcare homes, and before- and after-school programs.

## Early Childhood Development and Services Sample Careers

Sample careers in the Early Childhood Development and Services Pathway include Child Care Worker, Director of Early Childhood Education Center, Elementary School Teacher, Nanny, Parent and Family Educator, Preschool Teacher, and Teacher Assistant.

## Early Childhood Development and Services Education and Salaries

There is a range in educational requirements and salaries in the Early Childhood Development and Services Pathway. A Child Care Worker requires an Associate Degree, as well as a certification in his or her field and on-the-job training. They have an average salary of $23,820. A Preschool Teacher requires an Associate Degree, on-the-job training, and technical training. They have an average salary of $39,180.

## Family and Community Services Description

Professionals in the Family and Community Services Pathway help the homeless, housebound, and unwell cope with circumstances of daily living. They also counsel troubled and emotionally disturbed individuals; train or retrain the unemployed or underemployed; care for the elderly and the physically and mentally disabled; and help the needy obtain financial assistance.

## Family and Community Services Sample Careers

Sample careers in the Family and Community Services Pathway include Adult Day Care Coordinator, Educational or School Counselor, Grief Counselor, Medical or Public Health Social Worker, Personal and Home Care Aide, Rehabilitation Counselor, Social and Community Service Manager, Social and Human Service Assistant, and Volunteer Coordinator.

## Family and Community Services Education and Salaries

There is a range in educational requirements and salaries in the Family and Community Services Pathway. A Home Care Aide requires an Associate Degree, as well as on-the-job training and technical training. They have an average salary of $22,980. A Social and Community Service Manager requires a Bachelor’s Degree and has an average salary of $88,200.

## Personal Care Services Description

Professionals in the Personal Care Services Pathway assist individuals with their personal appearance, including shampooing, cutting, coloring and styling hair; giving manicures, pedicures, and scalp and facial treatments; providing makeup analysis; cleaning and styling wigs and hairpieces; and providing personal fitness training. Also, within Personal Care Services, funeral directors and attendants make funeral arrangements for grieving families.

## Personal Care Services Sample Careers

Sample careers in the Personal Care Services Pathway include Barber, Cosmetologist, Embalmer, Funeral Attendant, Funeral Director, Funeral Service Managers, Mortician, Nail Technician, Personal and Home Care Aide, and Personal Trainer.

## Personal Care Services Education and Salaries

There is a range in educational requirements and salaries in the Personal Care Services Pathway. A Cosmetologist requires a license in the state in which he or she practices, as well as on-the-job training and technical training. They have an average salary of $37,070. A Funeral Director requires an Associate Degree and a certification in his or her field and has an average salary of $54,610.