What is “human services”?  
Human Services is interchangeable with the more commonly used term “social services”. It is a complex field of practice where you can work in a wide variety of areas, with a wide spectrum of clients, supporting marginalised people to have better opportunities and improve their quality of life. See the ‘career opportunities’ section below.

Programme structure  
The courses within this degree include compulsory (core) courses, courses specific to your major and some elective courses. Combined they give you a comprehensive understanding of human services in Aotearoa New Zealand and build your practical support skills through studies in theory, practice and policy. See the next page for the courses you will study.

Career opportunities  
Agencies increasingly seek a degree as a prerequisite for employment, and with a specialised degree in human services you will be well-prepared to enter into this field of work and may even be ready for leadership/management roles depending on your level of experience.

The areas you could work in are varied. You could work in a hands-on support situation, in a coordination, advocacy or assessment role, in training, management, or development projects. These may be government (eg, ministries of education, health or social development), private or community-based settings.

The clients you might work with include youth, people with disabilities, the elderly, people with mental health, addiction or health issues, migrants or refugees, and people in prison or on remand. You could also go on to create your own initiatives in terms of programmes and services.
Courses you will study in your first year

**HUMSERV 101**  
**Psychology for Human Services**  
An introduction to the study of psychology and its application to working in human services. Students will explore key theorists and theories of psychology. A particular emphasis on learning theory, developmental processes of social, cognitive, moral and personality interaction. A central theme is an understanding of human behaviour in social settings.

**HUMSERV 102**  
**Lifespan Development for Human Services**  
An introduction to the theories of lifespan development. Key issues affecting human development and its relevance and application to the work of human service practitioners will be explored. The consideration of social contexts of human development will be a central theme.

**HUMSERV 103**  
**Professional Communication Skills**  
An introduction into effective personal and professional communication in human services. An experiential and collaborative approach will be used to assist students to explore the place of self in the communication process, to understand the stages, purpose and task of the communication process, and to develop effective interaction.

**HUMSERV 104**  
**Introduction to Human Services**  
Introduces students to a wide range of human service organisations including government, social enterprise and voluntary. It examines the provision of service and support within human service contexts. The nature of professionalism and the role of ‘self’ in effective practice will be examined.  
Restriction: HUMSERV 103

**SOCWORK 111**  
**Treaty of Waitangi in Human Services**  
Examines the Treaty of Waitangi and its significance in regard to historical events, trends and theories of social, economic and political change in Aotearoa New Zealand society. Explores the implications of the Treaty of Waitangi in social service delivery practice and past, present and future significance in Māori development.

**SOCWORK 112**  
**Sociology for Human Services**  
How and what do we learn about sexualities in New Zealand? Learning about sexualities is viewed as occurring both formally (eg, through sexuality education) and informally (eg, through the media) in a diversity of social sites. Schools are examined as one significant site where students are offered sexual meanings. The historical derivation and current context of contemporary education about sexuality along with its social effects are investigated.

**SOCWORK 113**  
**Professional Communication**  
An introduction to the study of communication and its application to working in human services. Students will explore key theorists and theories of communication. A particular emphasis on learning theory, developmental processes of social, cognitive, moral and personality interaction. A central theme is an understanding of human behaviour in social settings.

**SOCWORK 114**  
**Learning Sexualities**  
An introduction to the theories of lifespan development. Key issues affecting human development and its relevance and application to the work of human service practitioners will be explored. The consideration of social contexts of human development will be a central theme.

**SOCWORK 115**  
**Professional Communication Skills**  
An introduction into effective personal and professional communication in human services. An experiential and collaborative approach will be used to assist students to explore the place of self in the communication process, to understand the stages, purpose and task of the communication process, and to develop effective interaction.

**GEN ED**  
**General Education course**  
A particular emphasis on learning theory, developmental processes of social, cognitive, moral and personality interaction. A central theme is an understanding of human behaviour in social settings.

For course descriptions for Year 2 and 3 courses, refer to the University of Auckland Calendar, which can be viewed online at www.auckland.ac.nz/calendar