

Human Services

The Human Services Career Cluster includes careers in which you help families and individuals with life services. You can assist people through early childhood care, mental health services, or personal care services. This diverse cluster requires individuals to have superior communication and problem-solving skills to provide various levels of support [careertech.org].

Sometimes a little extra effort goes a long way. That's Victoria McGee's career approach. She's pursuing her dreams of becoming a kindergarten teacher by studying full time at Liberty University and working part time at The Goddard School, an early childhood center in Virginia Beach.

"Always do more, even when you don't have to," advises Victoria, who logs about 26 hours a week at The Goddard School on top of her university studies. Victoria is earning an Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education from Liberty University Online and eventually plans to earn a bachelor's degree.

As an assistant teacher at The Goddard School, Victoria works with infants to kindergarteners. She decided to pursue teaching in high school when she took Early Childhood Education at the Virginia Beach Technical and Career Education Center, where she got hands-on teaching experience and earned a certificate in Early Childhood Education.

In high school, Victoria also participated in Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), a student organization that addresses personal, occupational, and societal issues through Family and Consumer Sciences education.

by Veronica Garabelli



Photo by Mark Rhodes

What they make

Occupation	Employed in Va. ¹	Median wage ²	Predominant level of education
Personal care aides	32,418	\$18,420	High school diploma
Childcare workers	28,524	\$19,120	High school diploma
Hairstylists	21,829	\$28,020	High school diploma
Fitness trainers and aerobics instructors	8,908	\$40,080	Bachelor's degree or more
Mental health counselors	7,644	\$43,030	Bachelor's degree, certification
Child, family, and school social workers	7,791	\$43,220	Bachelor's degree
Supervisors of personal service workers	7,226	\$35,870	Associate degree
Human service assistants	6,229	\$29,530	Bachelor's degree
Rehabilitation counselors	3,904	\$38,070	Bachelor's degree
Massage therapists	3,500	\$37,620	Associate degree
Mental health and substance abuse social workers	3,193	\$43,270	Bachelor's degree
Healthcare social workers	2,737	\$50,940	Bachelor's degree
Substance abuse and behavioral disorder counselors	2,387	\$40,290	Bachelor's degree, certification
Residential advisors	2,294	\$28,350	Associate degree
Marriage and family therapists	1,877	\$43,840	Bachelor's degree, certification
Skincare specialists	1,222	\$20,160	High school diploma
Tailors, dressmakers, and custom sewers	1,785	\$23,680	High school diploma, certification
Health educators	1,145	\$49,860	Bachelor's degree
Clergy	1,019	\$40,350	Bachelor's degree, certification

¹2012 ²2013

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia Employment Commission, Trailblazers

Victoria McGee

Assistant Teacher, The Goddard School, Virginia Beach

High school: Ocean Lakes High School and Virginia Beach Technical and Career Education Center, Virginia Beach City Public Schools

CTE studies: Early Childhood, Education, and Services



For more information about career planning, visit the CTE Resource Center's Web site.

