

## **Considerations in Choosing Social Work as a Profession and Professional Preferences of Retraining Students Compared to Regular Program Students**

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The current study examines differences between 56 retraining program students of social work, and 69 regular program students, in their final year of studies. Retraining program students attributed greater importance to the contribution of the choice of profession to personal development, satisfaction, and interest in treating people, while for regular program students working conditions were more important. The retraining program students also preferred to engage in individual therapy and policy practice. In addition, there were several differences between the groups' preferences regarding types of populations, services and sectors. Correlations were found between various preferences of populations, services and field work training. In addition, a higher percentage of retraining program students compared to regular program students, expressed their intention to work as social workers when they completed their studies. The main conclusion of the study is a recommendation to review the retraining program curriculum and adapt theoretical studies and practical training to the needs of contemporary social work.

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