



**Department of  
Higher Education**

Mike DeWine, Governor  
Randy Gardner, Chancellor

## INITIAL INQUIRY REQUEST TO OFFER A NEW PROGRAM

**Date of submission:** 10 February 2020

**Name of institution:** Kent State University

**Primary institutional contact for this request:** Therese E. Tillett  
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**Name of program:** Social Work major, Bachelor of Social Work degree

**Classification of Instructional Program (CIP):** 44.0701 Social Work: A program that prepares individuals for the professional practice of social welfare administration and counseling, and that focus on the study of organized means of providing basic support services for vulnerable individuals and groups. Includes instruction in social welfare policy; case work planning; social counseling and intervention strategies; administrative procedures and regulations; and specific applications in areas such as child welfare and family services, probation, employment services, and disability counseling.

**Proposed start date:** Fall 2021  
*Start date is contingent upon final approval from the Ohio Department of Higher Education and the Higher Learning Commission.*

**Type of request:**  New degree designation at Kent State  
 New major within an existing degree at Kent State

**Delivery options:**

- Campus-based (Ashtabula Campus, Salem Campus, Tuscarawas Campus)
- Online/hybrid delivery
- Flexible or accelerated delivery
- Offering the program at a new offsite location
- Offering the program at an existing offsite location
- Program contains off-campus experiences (e.g., internship, clinical, student teaching)

**The institution will be seeking specialized accreditation for the program:**

- No       Yes

Kent State will seek program accreditation from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). An accredited B.S.W. degree will allow students to enter the Master of Social Work degree with an advanced standing status and, thereby, complete their master's in less time than students with a non-accredited B.S.W. degree.

**Provide a brief description of the request.**

Kent State University seeks to establish a Bachelor of Social Work (B.S.W.) degree. The degree will be administered by the College of Applied and Technical Studies and offered on-ground at the Ashtabula, Salem and Tuscarawas campuses. This degree is designed to address the needs of rural Ohio for additional licensed social workers.

**Explain the academic unit's rationale for making the request.**

Many fields feed into what are traditionally known as the "helping professions." Social work, however, is one of the few to successfully combine the practical with the academic due to a solid academic foundation and broad-based practical skills developed in an internship and field practicum.

Graduates of a B.S.W. degree are eligible sit for the examination to become a licensed social worker. Licensed social workers are employed in hospitals, schools, mental health clinics, correctional facilities, nursing homes and child welfare and human service agencies, in addition to agencies that advocate for policy change on local, state and federal levels. A licensed social worker is able to do assessment and behavioral health counseling (under the supervision of someone with a higher level of social work licensure) and has the capacity to work with community organizing, work as grant writers or provide specialized case management services at larger organizations. The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services currently includes licensed social workers—but excludes licensed counselors—as in-network providers for Medicare-covered services.

Despite these job opportunities, many agencies report difficulty in finding licensed social workers to employ in many rural areas of Ohio. A B.S.W. degree offered at Kent State's Salem, Ashtabula and Tuscarawas campuses will provide a workflow stream to agencies (see next page). As displayed on the map on the last page, accredited B.S.W. degrees offered by public institutions in Northeast Ohio are primarily located in cities (e.g., Cleveland, Akron, Youngstown).

**Indicate whether additional resources (e.g., faculty, staff, facilities, technology) will be needed to support the proposed request.**

A representative from the College of Applied and Technical Studies will attend a candidacy workshop offered by the Council on Social Work Education in September 2020. The college currently employs two administrators with a M.S.W. degree, who will provide preliminary guidance along with an (unofficial) advisory board from Ashtabula agencies.

Each of the three campuses (Ashtabula, Salem, Tuscarawas) will be requesting the hire of one qualified faculty member who meets the following accreditation standards:

*The baccalaureate social work program identifies no fewer than two full-time faculty assigned to the baccalaureate program, with full-time appointment in social work, and whose principal assignment is to the baccalaureate program. The majority of the total full-time baccalaureate social work program faculty has a master's degree in social work from a CSWE-accredited program, with a doctoral degree preferred.*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Council on Social Work Education (2015). Educational policies and accreditation standards for baccalaureate and master's social work programs. Accreditation Standards 3.2.–Faculty (B3.2.4, p. 16). Retrieved from [www.cswe.org/getattachment/Accreditation/Accreditation-Process/2015-EPAS/2015EPAS\\_Web\\_FINAL.pdf.aspx](http://www.cswe.org/getattachment/Accreditation/Accreditation-Process/2015-EPAS/2015EPAS_Web_FINAL.pdf.aspx).

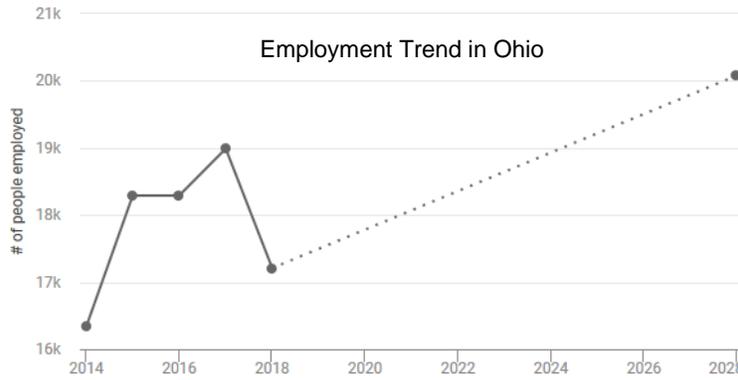
**Number of people employed as social workers in Ohio is expected to grow over the next 10 years\***

For the social worker position, there were

**1,560**

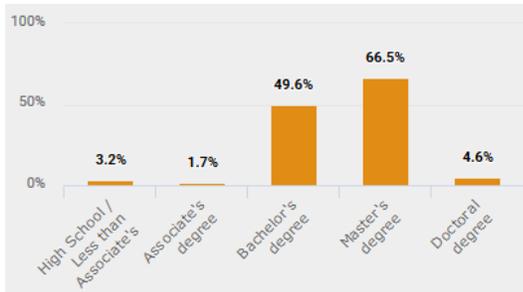
job postings in Ohio in the past 12 months

	Social Worker	Total Labor Market	Relative Growth
Ohio	16.68%	3.51%	High
Nationwide	16.23%	5.78%	High



\* Source: Employment and employment projections data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**All Advertised Educational Levels**



**Top Employers Hiring\***

Employer	#	%
Cleveland Clinic	79	6.59
National Youth Advocate Program	41	3.42
Firelands Regional Medical Center	39	3.26
Mercy Health	36	3.01
OhioGuidestone	35	2.92
Department of Veterans Affairs	31	2.59
Bellefaire JCB	22	1.84
HCR ManorCare	22	1.84
Netcare Corporation	20	1.67
Tri-Health	19	1.59

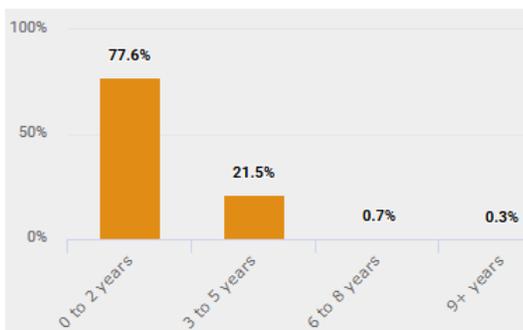
**Top Industries Hiring**



**Top Position Titles\***

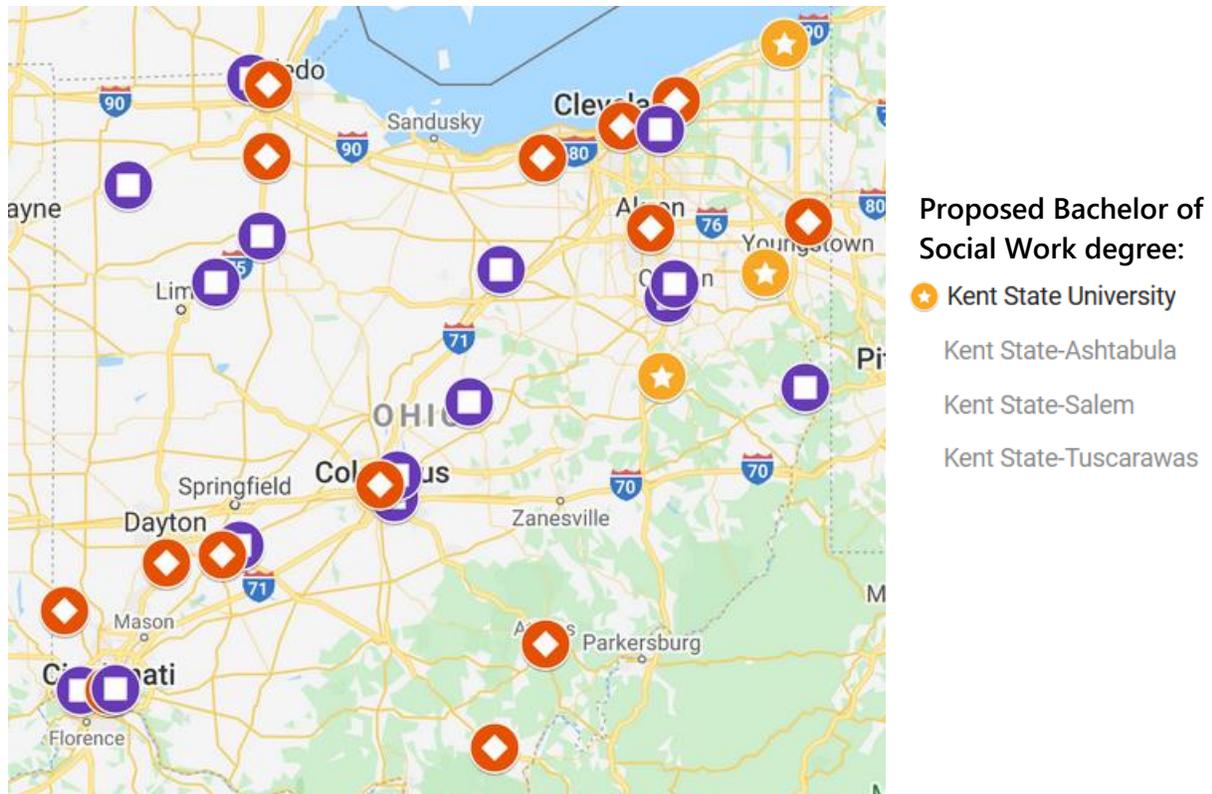
Title	#	%
Social Worker	812	67.78
Family Advocate	40	3.34
Social Service Assistant	38	3.17
Youth Specialist	21	1.75
School Therapist	17	1.42
Case Manager	16	1.34
Family Support Specialist	12	1.00
Family Intervention Specialist	11	0.92
Community Mental Health Worker	9	0.75
Afterschool Youth Specialist	8	0.67

**Experience Level**



\* All experience

## Accredited Social Work Degree Programs in Ohio



**Public (14) and private (16) Ohio colleges and universities that offer a bachelor's degree in social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education:**

◆ Public

- Bowling Green State University
- Central State University
- Cleveland State University
- Lakeland County Community College\*
- Lorain County Community College\*
- Miami University
- Ohio State University
- Ohio University
- University of Akron
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Rio Grande
- University of Toledo
- Wright State University
- Youngstown State University

\* Offered in partnership with Youngstown State University

■ Private

- Ashland University
- Aultman College
- Bluffton University
- Capital University
- Cedarville University
- Defiance College
- Franciscan University
- Lourdes University
- Malone University
- Mount St. Joseph University
- Mount Vernon Nazarene University
- Ohio Dominican University
- Union Institute and University
- University of Findlay
- Ursuline College
- Xavier University