

PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

Institution: Kentucky State University
Program Name: Social Work
Degree Destination: Master of Social Work

CIP Code: 44.0701

Credit Hours: 60

Implementation Date: 8/1/2025

Program Description

The proposed Master of Social Work in Social Work (MSW) at Kentucky State University will advance social work practice and focus on mental health services and policy development, implementation, and evaluation. Offering intentional engagement in urban areas, the program will provide graduates with professional experiences through interactions with clients, agencies, and policy makers, allowing graduates to promote social work theories for a variety of populations.

As a result of this program, graduates will be able to:

- apply ethical decision-making frameworks and professional values in diverse social work practice settings;
- evaluate social work problems, formulate solutions, and apply appropriate interventions based on evidence and theory;
- integrate knowledge of human behavior theories and frameworks to understand the complex interaction between individuals and their social environment; and
- develop proficiency in social work research methods and will critically assess and apply research findings in practice.

Connection to Other Programs

A Bachelor of Social Work in Social Work is already offered by Kentucky State University, which will provide a ready pipeline for the proposed program. While similar MSW programs exist at Eastern Kentucky University, Northern Kentucky University, University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, and Western Kentucky University, student and market demand are strong, both in the region surrounding Kentucky State University and throughout the state. Due to accreditation requirements, curricula tend to be similar from institution to institution. However, institutions are supportive of the proposed program.

Student Demand

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

Year 1 – 25

Year 2 – 35

Year 3 – 45

Year 4 – 50

Year 5 – 60

Employment Demand

Bureau of Labor Statistics data indicates market demand is in the 99th percentile, demonstrating ample job availability for graduates. KSU's survey of healthcare providers and social service agencies in its region showed a 15% annual growth rate in demand for social workers, particularly in rural areas where social work professionals are in short supply. Data from Kentucky Labor Market highlights a projected increase in job openings for social workers over the next five years.

Budget

Two faculty will need to be hired to offer the program. The budget for the program is predicated upon 20 students enrolled per year, although enrollment is projected to start at 25 students per year.

Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$):	\$ 3,891,250
Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$):	\$ 1,216,208