



According to the National Institute of Health, more than **60 percent*** of rural Americans live in areas with a shortage of mental health workers and only **20 percent** of social workers nationwide are employed in rural areas.



BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK

Meeting a growing need in our region – and in rural communities in general – the Bachelor of Social Work degree at Kent State University is designed for the development of skilled and licensed social work, behavioral and mental health professionals to support underserved areas.

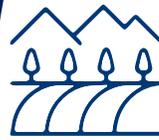
With courses offered in a hybrid format, the Bachelor of Social Work program is designed to **offer students flexibility between online and in-person classes** that fit your schedule. Students at any Kent State Regional Campus can enroll in the program, which is housed in the College of Applied and Technical Studies and offered at the Ashtabula, Salem and Tuscarawas campuses.



TO LEARN MORE

Scan the QR code
or visit www.kent.edu/cats/BSW

COURSES OFFERED WITH
FLEXIBLE
ONLINE AND IN-PERSON
OPTIONS AT THREE
CONVENIENT
ON-CAMPUS LOCATIONS



USDA research[^] shows the poverty level to be **four percent higher** in rural areas than metropolitan ones, leading to higher cases of disparities in needed social services.

^{*} 2018 U.S. Department of Agriculture study

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

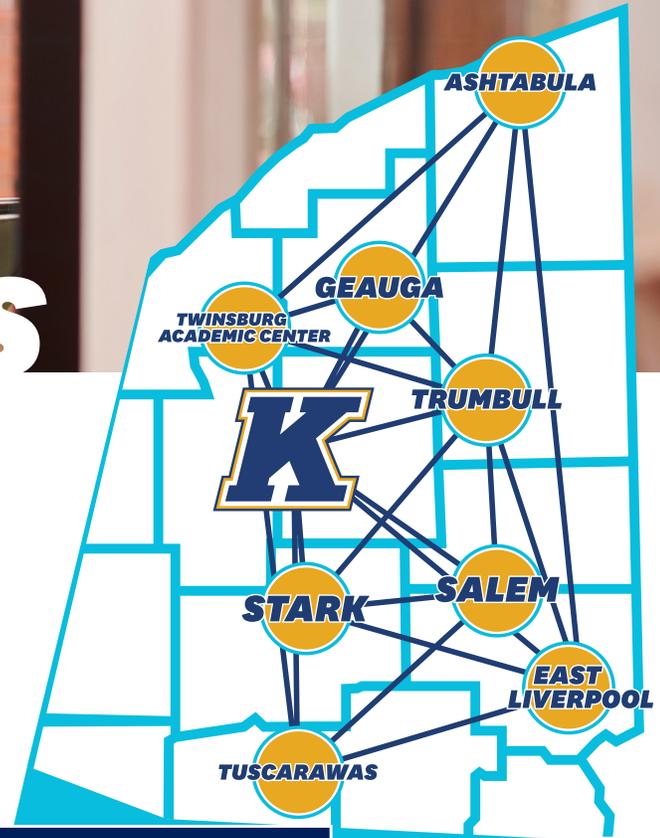
Social work positions are currently in great demand.

This was the case before the COVID-19 pandemic, but nearly all social service agencies are now struggling even more to find qualified employees. This trend is projected to continue for the foreseeable future. Other highlights include:

- » Students who graduate from an accredited BSW program will be eligible to test and become Licensed Social Workers in the state of Ohio, which opens up even more job opportunities.
- » Graduates from accredited BSW programs are also permitted to enter Master of Social Work programs in Advanced Standing status, which typically cuts the time to attain an MSW by one third to one half.
- » Social work is an extremely broad-based and versatile profession.
- » Social workers may work in mental health and substance use disorder settings, child welfare agencies, medical settings, general social service agencies, criminal justice entities, governmental agencies, advocacy or public policy roles, elder-serving organizations, and many other types of settings or roles.
- » The BSW program at Kent State will have an emphasis on rural social work.

“Social work is an extremely broad-based and versatile profession. This is the perfect fit for those who want to make a difference in their communities and in people’s lives.”

– Program Director Matt Butler, MSSA, LISW-S, LICDC-CS



CLASSES CLOSE TO YOU

- Mostly online or in-person
- Conveniently located at Ashtabula, Salem and Tuscarawas campuses

GREAT CAREER PREP

- 64,000 projected social worker job openings by 2031, a rate of nine percent growth^{*}.
- Field experience and internships at social service agencies located near you.
- Graduates are qualified to sit for the ASWB and state licensure exams.

^{*} 2021 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics