

TO: Randy Smith, Vice Provost for Academic Programs

FROM: Graduate School Curriculum Services

DATE: 1/13/2026

RE: Proposal to Revise the 4+1 Program in Social Work in The College of Social Work

The College of Social Work is proposing an Expansion to Include the Regional Campuses in the 4+1 BSSW Program option.

The proposal was received by the Graduate School on 11/3/2025. The combined GS/CAA subcommittee first reviewed the proposal on 11/12/2025 and requested revisions. Revisions were received on 11/24/2025 and the proposal is supported for review by the Council on Academic Affairs.



November 24, 2025

Dr. Maria Miriti  
Graduate School  
250 University Hall  
230 N. Oval Mall  
Columbus, OH 43210

Re: BSSW 4+1 Program Regional Campus Expansion

Dear Dr. Miriti,

Please find attached the College of Social Work's BSSW Program proposal to expand our 4+1 option to include regional campus students. Based on your feedback, I have revised the first paragraph to clearly define the acronyms used throughout the document. Additionally, I removed the final statement regarding a deposit for the ASAP program, as this no longer appears to be a requirement.

I have also included letters from our Assistant and Associate Deans of Academic Affairs expressing their support for this expansion.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need further clarification.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Seas, MSW, LISW  
Director of Undergraduate Studies  
OSU College of Social Work



***4 + 1 BSSW/MSW Program  
 Regional Campus Extension Proposal***

In the fall of 2019, the College of Social Work began offering the 4+1 program allowing New First Year students (NFYS) the option to apply to the Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BSSW) and Master of Social Work (MSW) Advanced Standing Alternative Program (ASAP) programs in a single application and admission process. The goal of this initiative was to assist the BSSW program’s goal of increasing enrollment of first-semester freshmen to the social work major. Making a commitment to educate students through the duration of their undergraduate and graduate education appeals to both students and their parents, and the College will benefit from a long-term relationship with these students.

Admitted students are required to maintain specific performance standards to remain eligible for the program, and students in this program must satisfy all requirements for both degrees. There is no double-counting of credits and students do not take graduate courses concurrently with their undergraduate program. Students are provisionally accepted as graduate students, pending successful completion of all undergraduate requirements.

To date, we have admitted 7 cohorts in Columbus to the 4+1 program. Below are the number of students admitted to the program and the status of the cohorts:

YEAR	NFYS ADMITTED TO 4+1	4+1 STUDENTS ADMITTED TO ASAP	4+1/ASAP GRADUATES	# of STUDENTS ELIGIBLE	STOPPED OUT/CHANGED MAJORS
2019	21	11	11	15	1 – Major change
2020	23	12	9 (3 still enrolled)	17	1 – Major change 5 – Leave of Absence (LOA)
2021	24	6	2 (4 still enrolled)	14	4 – Major change 1 – LOA 5 – AU’25+ grad
2022	16	4	Many still in progress with BSSW degree		4 – major change
2023	24		Still in progress with BSSW Degree		2 – major change 1 – Univ dismissal
2024	43		Still in progress with BSSW Degree		3 – major change
2025	26		Still in progress with BSSW Degree		

It is important to note that students have 5 years after their date of graduation to enroll in ASAP program. Students, for various reasons, delay graduate school until such time it is a better fit in their lives.

### **Rationale for Extension to the Regional Campuses**

We are requesting permission to expand the 4+1 Program to all regional campus students. With the introduction of the Campus Commitment Program, which enables low-to middle-income NFYS to attend regional campuses tuition-free, we anticipate that some students, who would otherwise qualify for admission to the Columbus campus may opt for a regional campus instead. To ensure these students do not miss the opportunity to participate in the 4+1 program, we seek to maintain accessibility to this pathway regardless of their campus choice. Additionally, many Columbus-eligible students select a regional campus closer to home to reduce the financial burden associated with room and board expenses at the Columbus campus. As previously noted, many parents express enthusiasm when learning about the opportunity for their student to earn both a bachelor's and master's degree within five years. This accelerated pathway serves as a compelling recruitment tool and significantly enhances the appeal of the social work degree and our regional campus programs.

Additionally, extending this option to our regional campus students significantly enhances the equity and inclusivity of our program across all delivery formats. Many students at our regional campuses are not only the first in their families to attend college but also come from marginalized and underserved communities throughout Ohio. By offering this opportunity, we help level the playing field and ensure that all students, regardless of their campus location or background, have access to the same educational experience. The potential cost savings for students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds are substantial, reducing financial barriers and supporting their ability to persist and succeed in not only the BSSW program, but also in the MSW/ASAP program.

### **How the Program Works and Modifications to Accommodate Regional campus students**

New First Year Students who plan to pursue their graduate degree in social work may complete both their BSSW and MSW program in five (5) years by applying to the *4 + 1 Program*. The *4 + 1 Program* allows students to apply for admission to both the BSSW and MSW program in one streamlined process.

- Admitted first-year students to Ohio State who selected social work as their intended major on their application will receive an email invitation to their OSU email with the 4+1 opt-in form.
- Acceptance to the *4 + 1 Program* is contingent on admission to one of Ohio State's five campus and submission of the opt-in request.
- Students have until the first Friday of the first week of Fall semester to opt into the 4+1 program.

- Students will be notified of their *4 + 1* status as soon as possible after their acceptance to The Ohio State University and the receipt of their opt-in request.
- All SWK majors, across all campuses, have access to professional advising for academic planning. Regional campuses also offer Program Coordinators for additional mentorship, and all campuses provide academic support services like tutoring or academic mentors.

### Admission Requirements

- Applicants must be accepted for admission to one of Ohio State's five campuses as a New First Year Student.

### Program Requirements

- To remain eligible for the program, students must:
  - Earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 at Ohio State
  - Complete the following courses with a "B" grade or higher:
    - Social Work 3101
    - Social Work 3201
    - Social Work 3401
    - Social Work 3402
    - Social Work 3501
    - Social Work 3502
    - Social Work 3503
    - Social Work 3600
    - Social Work 4188.01, .02 or .03
    - Social Work 4501
    - Social Work 4502
    - Social Work 4503
  - Successfully complete the Social Work 4189 Field Placement
- During the senior year, students must submit their intent to continue to the MSW Advanced Standing Alternative Plan program prior to the application deadline for the semester they intend to begin the ASAP program.
- A positive recommendation from the BSSW Program Director is required in the senior year to continue on to the MSW ASAP program. The BSSW Program Director has final say on a student's eligibility for the *4+1* Program.
- Participation in a College of Social Work Student Performance Review disqualifies students from the *4 + 1 Program*.
- The MSW Program application fee will be waived for *4 + 1* students.



November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

To: The Ohio State University Graduate School

Please accept this letter in support of expanding the College of Social Work's 4+1 Program to the Lima, Mansfield, Marion, and Newark campuses. This expansion will promote equitable access to the program while strengthening enrollment across the regional campuses.

This proposal has successfully completed the college's curricular approval process, and has received endorsement from both the BSSW and MSW Program Committees, as well as our Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [babcock.79@osu.edu](mailto:babcock.79@osu.edu).

Sincerely,

Jennie Babcock, MSW, LISW-S  
Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs  
Sincerely,



Nov 14, 2025

To the Graduate School at the Ohio State University,

I am writing to support the College of Social Work's proposal to expand the 4+1 program to all four regional campuses. I strongly believe it will help attract students to the social work program at the regional campuses.

Additionally, this initiative has received approval from both the BSSW Program Committee and the Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs at the College of Social Work.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions at [karandikar.7@osu.edu](mailto:karandikar.7@osu.edu).

Thank you

Sincerely,

Sharvari Karandikar



January 16, 2025

Dr. Randy Smith  
Vice Provost for Academic Programs  
University Square South

Dear Randy,

I am writing to express my strong support for the College of Social Work's proposal to expand the existing 4 + 1 program to Ohio State's regional campuses. Implementing this expansion will help address critical workforce needs in the regions served by our campuses and will enhance access to high-quality educational opportunities for even more Ohio residents. In addition, approval of this proposal will advance the regional campuses' efforts to strengthen and grow their enrollments.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Eric M. Anderman, PhD  
Vice Provost for Regional Campuses