



The State University  
of New York

## Office of the Chancellor

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**June 2, 2026**

**TO: Members of the Board of Trustees**

**FROM: Dr. John B. King Jr., Chancellor**

**SUBJECT: Degree Authorization for the State University of New York at Oneonta**

### **Action Requested**

The proposed resolution authorizes the State University of New York at Oneonta to offer the Master of Social Work degree, subject to approval by the New York State Board of Regents.

### **Resolution**

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

**Resolved** that the Chancellor be, and hereby is, directed to seek the authorization of the New York State Board of Regents for the State University of New York at Oneonta to confer the Master of Social Work degree.

### **Background**

Approval of this resolution will authorize the State University of New York at Oneonta ("SUNY Oneonta") to offer the Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) degree, subject to approval by the Board of Regents. Degree authorization is necessary as the award represents SUNY Oneonta's first use of the M.S.W. degree.

The M.S.W. degree is a specialized graduate degree widely recognized by prospective students and employers. M.S.W. programs prepare graduates for professional practice in social work.

The proposed M.S.W. at SUNY Oneonta was developed through input from external healthcare and social services partners and is designed to provide students with the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills to address social issues in a variety of settings, including in rural and underserved communities. Completion of the program will support students in their pursuit of licensure as a clinical social worker or a master social worker. SUNY Oneonta will seek programmatic accreditation from the Council on Social Work Education. The curriculum will be offered fully online and is completable in two years of full-time study, or one year for those with advanced standing due to holding a Bachelor of Social Work degree. The proposed M.S.W. complements SUNY Oneonta's existing portfolio of baccalaureate programs in Human Development and Family Studies, Sociology, Human Ecology, Criminal Justice, and Psychology. Additionally, at the graduate level, SUNY Oneonta offers related master's degrees in Counseling and School Counseling.

Projected enrollment in the first year of the program is 10 full-time and 5 part-time students, increasing in year five to 40 full-time students and 8 part-time students.

The M.S.W. will not require new instructional facilities. Existing faculty will contribute to the new program, and a program director/field director and one additional faculty member, as well as an administrative assistant, will need to be hired.

According to the labor market analytics tool Lightcast, through 2031, for master's programs in social work, there is modest demand for target occupations with a projected increase of 5% in the Mohawk Valley region and a projected increase of 7% for both the state and nation. Additionally, most of the specialized skills developed through master's degrees in social work are growing in demand, including in the areas of mental health, crisis intervention, and behavioral health. Further, the Health Resources and Services Administration has designated Otsego County and other counties in the region as Health Professional Shortage Areas for mental health disciplines.

The external evaluators highlighted multiple strengths of the program, including the program's responsiveness to the regional need for more social workers who have specialized training in supporting rural and underserved communities. The evaluators also noted that existing faculty with relevant expertise will bring interdisciplinary strengths to the program and that it will fit well within the School of Education, Human Ecology, and Sports Studies' established

portfolio of programs. The online format is noted as another strength as it provides a flexible and accessible program.

Offering the Master of Social Work fits well with the mission of State University of New York at Oneonta. The program has been carefully reviewed by the System Provost's Office and Budget Office and found to be sound, both academically and fiscally.