

HCAI Fellowship & Application FQA

- Q. I began filling out my HCAI Fellowship application online. It's asking me to provide 3 references. Where should I ask my references to send their letters of recommendation to?
- A. Applicants are asked to submit the contact information of their 3 professional references. You are not required to submit letters or forms when submitting the application. The HCAI Faculty Team may contact the references if they need more information.
- Q. I would like to include my friends and family members as my references as they know me well. Am I allowed to do so?
- A. Friends and family members are not considered as professional references. As such, we kindly request you to provide us with all 3 references from someone who has a professional relationship with you. Examples of professional references can be supervisors at work, professors, colleagues who maintain professional relationships with you, academic advisors, etc.
- Q. Can I add my counselor or a social worker who worked with my family as my reference?
- A. We do not recommend listing them as your professional references.
- Q. I forgot to attach my resume but already submitted my application. What should I do?
- A. If the deadline has not passed and the application site is still open, you can make changes and resubmit your application all over again. Please note that you cannot make changes or resubmit the application once the application deadline is over. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.
- Q. Will the School of Social Work assign me to an agency where I could be trained in behavioral health?
- A. Yes. For the 1st year practicum experience, you will be matched/placed by the practicum department, who will ensure the appropriateness of the placement for the HCAI fellowship requirements.
- For your 2nd year practicum experience, students select 3 agencies, and each will conduct an interview with you to get to know each other. Students are provided with a list that will indicate which agencies would be appropriate and meet the HCAI fellowship requirements. There are over 100 agencies to choose from and most would qualify. Please note, you would not be able to have a macro-based practicum experience, it would be micro-based, that would be the only limitation of the HCAI fellowship, otherwise, you will have the opportunity to have a wide range of practicum experiences for both years of the program.
- Q. What if I am not accepted by the agency I was referred to for a possible internship?
- A. The student will receive a maximum of three (3) agency assignments and interviews with one agency at a time, until the student is successfully placed. Please note: the three-agency assignment includes the original referral. The practicum department will request

feedback from the agency representative and will discuss with you to help prepare for the next interview.

If after three (3) attempts, a student is unable to obtain an internship for non-agency related issues, then the student must meet with the Practicum Education Director and HCAI Project Coordinator to discuss concerns and available options. The student may be required to defer their practicum placement and relinquish the stipend. In cases where a student cannot be successfully placed, they may need to drop the program entirely. However, it would be very unlikely.

Q. Can I apply to multiple stipend programs offered by the School of Social Work (SSW)?

A. Applicants are allowed to apply for two stipend programs within the same stipend category only (please refer to the SSW Stipend Programs Chart). For example, an applicant may apply to both HCAI and PBH stipend programs but *not* to HCAI and the LA DCFS Stipend.

Also, if you have accepted a stipend from another stipend program, you are not eligible to apply for the HCAI Fellowship.

Q. If I am accepted into both CalSWEC PBH stipend program and HCAI Fellowship, could I receive stipends from both programs?

A. No. Due to the program specific requirements and expectations of various stipend programs at our SSW, students cannot receive both. Students must choose one, and immediately notify both stipend program coordinators about their decision.

Q. Do I have to work at DMH or other agencies appointed by the HCAI upon earning my MSW degree if I am selected as the School of Social Work HCAI Fellow?

A. No. There are no specific designated agencies HCAI Fellows must work for. However, HCAI Fellowship requires that the selected Fellows provide direct services to underserved communities with the focus on behavioral health through five years post-graduation.

Please note that your name, contact information, and the number of hours served in underserved communities will be reported to HCAI if you become the Fellow as part of the funding requirement.

Q. Am I obligated to pay back the stipend after I finish my MSW education?

A. No. There is no such obligation with the HCAI Fellowship. However, you are expected to 1) maintain a good standing in the HCAI Fellowship Program and the MSW Program and 2) work in underserved communities in the fields of behavioral health for 5 years providing direct services after graduating from the program.

Q. For how long does HCAI Fellowship provide financial support to the Fellows?

A. The HCAI Fellowship will fund you \$10,000 per year until you finish your MSW education as long as you meet the Fellowship requirements. For 2-YR MSW fulltime students, the

Cal State LA-SSW- HCAI Fellowship Q & A (2-YR MSW Program)

total stipend amount will be \$20,000. For ASP MSW full-time students, the total stipend amount will be \$10,000.

Q. What should I do to maintain my HCAI Fellow status?

A. You will have to fulfill and demonstrate the following.

- Attend a mandatory HCAI Fellow orientation.
- Maintain a good academic standing, including practicum (GPA 3.0 or higher and pass Practicum-SW 5950A, SW 5950B, SW 5950C, and SW 5950D for students in 2YR MSW Program).
- Meet and complete all the stipend requirements, including training/workshops and related events.
- Be in a behavioral practicum setting during the entire MSW program.
- Make and demonstrate a commitment to work in behavioral social work direct practice settings in underserved communities through five years upon graduating from the Cal State LA MSW program.
- Complete thesis/project in the broad spectrum of behavioral health (i.e., mental health and/or substance use).
- Must take two elective courses directly relating to behavioral health as the required elective course (SW 5802: Empowerment and Recovery in Mental Health and SW 5804: Trauma, Substance Abuse & Violence).
- Leave contact information upon graduation to maintain communication with the HCAI Team.

Reminder: The HCAI Fellowship application deadline is Friday, June 10, 2024, 11:59 PM.

Thank you for your interest in the School of Social Work HCAI Fellowship.