

GSWEC FAQs

What is GSWEC

GSWEC is an informal affiliation of 8 Schools of Social Work and 11 community agencies. GSWEC works to encourage Social Workers to enter the area of social work practice with older adults. Each GSWEC placement is structured to provide the student with a very well-rounded experience of social work with older adults, plus GSWEC provides students with additional geriatric social work training seminars during the placement year.

What advantage is there for me to be in GSWEC?

- GSWEC is well recognized among employers and GSWEC graduates are sought after.
- GSWEC provides supplemental training in the specific skills required in Geriatric Social work.
- GSWEC exposes the student to both micro and macro placement. Micro students have a macro project & macro students have an opportunity for clinical learning.
- GSWEC placements offer a stipend.
- GSWEC students have opportunities to network with other GSWEC students at the GSWEC training sessions.
- GSWEC wants students to have a broad understanding of social work with older adults so encourages Associate Site rotations.

What are the differences between GSWEC placements and placement at a non-GSWEC agency that serves older adults?

- Field instruction is guided by nationally recognized Geriatric Social Work competencies.
- Advanced geriatric social work seminars are provided for GSWEC students.
- GSWEC students have opportunities to network with other GSWEC students as well as other sites and field instructors.
- Associate Site rotations are encouraged.

What opportunities are there in GSWEC if I don't want to work with old people who are dying?

Sometimes students hesitate to work with older clients because they assume the services focus on decline, death and dying. However, GSWEC agencies address broad social concerns and work with older adults and their families to improve their health, mental health, coping skills or living situation with the goal of optimizing functioning and helping people remain in their homes. The services of GSWEC agencies are primarily targeted at community dwelling older adults. Settings include community based geriatric case management, mental health, medical, health promotion, family support, substance abuse, services for homeless older adults, and more.

How do I get in to GSWEC?

1. Get a GSWEC Application Form from the GSWEC field liaison at your campus.
2. Attend the GSWEC Orientation on **February 14, 2018 from 1:00pm – 4:00pm at Huntington Hospital, Braun Auditorium**, 100 W. California Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91105 . For parking information: <https://www.huntingtonhospital.org/documents/Maps/012317-HH-Parking-web8.pdf>

GSWEC FAQs

3. Work with your GSWEC Liaison to arrange interviews with GSWEC agencies that interest you.
4. Turn in the GSWEC Application to your campus GSWEC Liaison by the deadline set on your campus. On the Application indicate the GSWEC agencies you would like for placement.

Do I have to schedule an interview with each GSWEC agency I am interested in? Most GSWEC sites require an interview. Some agencies may hold an agency Open House rather than individual interviews. Check in the *GSWEC Student Guide* for specific requirements for each agency/site.

Can I interview at more than one GSWEC agency/site? Yes, you can interview at three GSWEC agencies/sites. Before you do though, review the *GSWEC Student Guide* to get basic information about the agency and site.

Should I “dress up” for the agency visit? A professional appearance will help you present a positive image.

What should I take with me to the agency interview? Please bring a copy of your GSWEC Application and your resume.

Do GSWEC placements offer stipends? Most GSWEC agencies provide stipends of \$4,000 and a few offer more. At least one agency (Pacific Clinics) has mental health placements that may be eligible for Cal-SWEC II stipends.

If I am in GSWEC can I still be eligible for a CAL-SWEC II Mental Health stipend?

- Pacific Clinics has some GSWEC placements that meet the criteria. If you receive the CAL-SWEC stipend it will be in lieu of the GSWEC stipend.

I can't afford to pay for extra gas for a lot of field work. Do GSWEC agencies reimburse for mileage related to placement activities ?

Most GSWEC agencies pay mileage for agency-related work.

How can I get more information about GSWEC? Talk with your school's GSWEC Liaison, and read the *GSWEC Student Guide*.