

**Academic Mentor - Overview**

The Los Angeles Schweitzer Fellowship is a health leadership program for graduate and professional degree students in Greater Los Angeles Area. The Fellowship addresses LA’s social determinants of health through Fellow-led community-based projects that solve unmet health gaps and leverage crucial opportunities towards achieving health equity. The Fellowship also develops graduate and professional degree students into visionary health leaders through dynamic, hands-on training. The Fellowship launched in 2007 and is one of 13 chapters across the US. The Los Angeles Fellowship is a nonprofit, currently lead by health professionals who volunteer their time. You can read more about the fellowship at [www.laschweitzerfellowship.org.](http://www.laschweitzerfellowship.org.)

Each Fellow identifies a community agency to partner with (along with a site mentor), to support their community project implementation and leadership development. The academic mentor is a faculty member in the Fellow’s program of study.

Faculty Mentor Roles and Responsibilities:

* Assist Fellow in shaping the objectives and implementation plan of their Schweitzer project;
* Be available over the course of the Fellowship year to discuss the project's implementation and to help solve any problems that arise;
* Meet with the Fellow as needed;
* Provide general guidance in the personal and professional development of the Fellow including assisting the Fellow in balancing their academic obligations with their Fellowship responsibilities;
* Act as a resource to the Fellow for resources and contacts that may assist the Fellowship with their project implementation and/or leadership development; and
* Report any concerns to the Fellowship director.

Some faculty mentors wonder if Schweitzer Fellowship projects require IRB approval. This decision is up to the faculty mentor and the Fellow. The Schweitzer project is a service project, not a research project. Fellows are required to set goals for their project and evaluate outcomes.

The time commitment for the Faculty Mentor will on average be 1-2 hours per month, though can vary depending on the needs and interests of the Fellow and the mentor. Please discuss the frequency of regular meetings with the Fellow and then plan to adapt over the course of the year according to the emerging needs and interests of the project, Fellow and mentor.

Do not hesitate to be in touch with the Fellowship Director [jenniferkwon@laschweitzerfellowship.org](mailto:jenniferkwon@laschweitzerfellowship.org) anytime.

The Fellowship is grateful for your partnership.