

“The Schweitzer Fellowship allowed me to meet some of the most like-minded and loving people in my professional career. It reemphasized the fact that no career is worthwhile without being able to improve the quality of life of others.”

*-- Claire Reuter – New Orleans Schweitzer Fellow
Xavier University of Louisiana College of Pharmacy*

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THE ALBERT SCHWEITZER FELLOWSHIP®

Improving Health • Developing Leaders • Creating Change

The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship is improving the health of vulnerable people now and for the future by developing a corps of Leaders in Service—professionals skilled in creating positive change with and in our communities, our health and human service systems, and our world.

Through community-based, mentored direct service and a multidisciplinary, reflective leadership development program, ASF is building community capacity and training a professional workforce that is:

- skilled in addressing the underlying causes of health inequities;
- committed to improving the health outcomes of underserved communities; and
- prepared for a life of continued service.

Through a one-year interdisciplinary, mentored program, Fellows:

- Use their skills and knowledge in real-life situations
- Become culturally sensitive and compassionate caregivers
- Understand the impact of social and environmental determinants of health
- Build capacity for and commitment to improving the health status of individuals and communities as well as contributing to social change
- Work collaboratively and across disciplines in pursuit of a common goal
- Learn how to exercise leadership skills to work with and influence community based organizations, community leaders, and academic institutions to embrace holistic, service-oriented approaches to health

ELIGIBILITY

Students enrolled in a New Orleans degree-granting graduate program in any field may apply. Past Fellows have been students in such fields as dentistry, education, medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and social work. Applicants must be enrolled throughout the Fellowship year (April 2017-April 2018). Applicants scheduled for a December graduation should contact the Program Director to determine if they are eligible for a waiver to this requirement.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

The community service projects should provide direct service to an underserved population in New Orleans, eliminate health disparities, and improve quality of life. The majority of service hours must be spent in face to face contact with the population you are serving. Fundraising and policy based projects are not considered eligible. Please contact the Program Director if you need assistance identifying a project site.

Proposed projects should seek to:

- Address an unmet health need in New Orleans.
- Provide a direct service that meets a community defined need. Applicants should consult with area agencies and reflect on how their project would meet area/population health needs. Think about the impact you want your project to have on the targeted population, i.e., what kind of behavior change or change in condition do you wish to see. Think about ways to verify if your project has been successful.
- Be of an enduring value to the community/agency served including plans for sustainability.

Fellows can choose to propose new projects that are of interest to an agency and community, or to continue an existing project. You may build upon, but not simply duplicate, a past project. For inspiration, visit our website to see the diverse projects Fellows have conducted.

REQUIRED ACTIVITIES OF FELLOWS

Service Project: Fellows design and carry out a health-related direct service project of at least 200 hours in collaboration with a local community agency under the leadership of a site supervisor and academic mentor of the student's choice. A minimum of 100 hours will be spent in face to face direct contact with the population they are trying to reach. The remaining 100 hours can be spent for planning time, and other project activities. The 200 hours is separate from any school course requirement.

Retreats: Fellows attend an overnight orientation in the spring of 2017. This is a mandatory requirement. Fellows also attend a mid-year retreat. Partners in a paired project are both required to be present at the events.

Celebration of Service: Fellows attend a Celebration of Service honoring current Fellows and introducing new Fellows in the spring of 2016. Fellows also attend the event in the spring of 2017. Partners in paired projects are both required to be present at the events.

Reports & Evaluations: Fellows submit monthly one-page reports about their activities; a written final report; a poster summarizing their project to be displayed at the Fellow's school; and an evaluation about the Fellowship experience. Fellows also need to develop a verification strategy into their project design to determine if their project is successful and on target in meeting their goals.

Recruitment: In the fall of 2017, Fellows organize an information session on their Fellowship experience at their school.

DEADLINE

Applications must be submitted online by 5 pm on February 1, 2017. For complete application guidelines or to apply online, visit www.schweitzerfellowship.org

Applications chosen to interview will be notified in mid-February.