WHO ARE THE CALSWEC FACULTY?

CalSWEC at UCLA is led by:

- Mary Kay Oliveri, L.C.S.W., Project Coordinator
- Todd Franke, Ph.D., Department Chair
- Gerry Laviña, L.C.S.W., Director of Field

All UCLA Faculty are involved in the training of CalSWEC students. The Public Child Welfare Curriculum Planning Committee assures that the specialization requirements reflect practice needs. The Faculty who teach the Public Child Welfare Curriculum Committee include:

- Mary Kay Oliveri, L.C.S.W., Diplomate
- Laura Alongi Brinderson, L.C.S.W.
- Michelle Talley, L.C.S.W.
- Jené Moio, Ph.D., L.C.S.W.
- Rosina Becerra, Ph.D.
- Todd Franke, Ph.D.
- Alfreda Iglehart, Ph.D.
- Bridget Freisthler, Ph.D.
- Brenda Blackburn, MSW
- Richard Miyake, L.C.S.W.
- Monica McCurdy, MSW

WHAT HAVE FORMER STUDENTS SAID ABOUT CALSWEC?

- Jamie Briskin, MSW (2011) “I learned during my time in the MSW program that I cannot change a person’s behavior and choices, that responsibility belongs to them alone, I can, however, assist in facilitating their change.”

- Stephanie Montez, MSW (2009) “I gained a lot from my education at UCLA and my CalSWEC experience. It gave me a solid foundation and the knowledge to provide best practice social work to children and families. I am able to see the whole picture and utilize my assessment skills to see what services and types of interventions will best help our clients.”

- Candace Hernandez, MSW (2010) “During the program I learned how to empathize while still having healthy boundaries which is why I am able to continue this work today. I was also offered guidance and supervision from the field staff and the professors at school.”

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS REGARDING CALSWEC AT UCLA?

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The California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) is a statewide partnership among:

- 21 graduate schools of social work in California
- 58 county departments of social services in the state of California
- California Department of Social Services
- National Association of Social Workers
- California Mental Health Directors Association
- Private Foundations

CalSWEC’s mission is to increase the availability and retention of professionally-trained social workers and child welfare staff in public social services in California. With federal Title IV-E funding, CalSWEC provides stipends for 24 MSW students in the full-time program at UCLA.
The following are a series of frequently asked questions about CalSWEC.

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE CALSWEC?

If you are an MSW candidate with a strong interest in pursuing a career in public child welfare, then CalSWEC is an opportunity to subside your education.

CalSWEC is a two-year stipend program that offers $18,500 per year. Students who receive this assistance “payback” the stipend with two years of employment at any public child welfare (PCW) agency in the state of California. Students interested in working with Native American populations have more payback options.

CalSWEC attempts to recruit students who reflect the needs and ethnic makeup of the public child welfare client base. A preference is given to candidates who are current public social services and public child welfare employees.

HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR CALSWEC?

Candidates must first be admitted into the UCLA MSW program. Candidates who indicate an interest in Children and Youth Services are encouraged to apply. All students are sent an application to consider.

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

There is a two part application process which includes a written application and then an interview. Generally, this is a rolling process, in which applications are processed as they are received, that begins in April and ends in June.

The application includes questions about your understanding of CalSWEC requirements and public child welfare goals. The statewide CalSWEC website is: http://calswec.berkeley.edu

The interview panelists are CalSWEC faculty and a public child welfare supervisor.

The preliminary selections are confirmed by the CalSWEC UCLA-DCFS (Department of Children and Family Services) Partnership. Official CalSWEC award notifications are typically made in July.

WHAT OPTIONS DO I HAVE AND WHAT ARE THE COURSE REQUIREMENTS?

CalSWEC students can choose to be either in the Social Work with Individuals, Families, and Groups (SWIFG) or Social Work with Organizations, Communities, and Planning (SWOCP) concentration.

Many elective courses are available to enhance your education.

- Social Work and the Law
- Advanced Research with a focus on child welfare
- Public Child Welfare Integrative Seminar
- Advanced practice: public child welfare
- Policy seminar: child welfare focus
- Adult and child psychopathology
- Public Child Welfare Practice Series

WHAT ARE THE PLACEMENTS?

CalSWEC has taken traditional second year placements and modified them for first year CalSWEC students.

Students are introduced to service delivery by a cadre of carefully selected field instructors. Together with the CalSWEC field liaison and the student, an individualized instruction program that parallels classroom learning is developed. These agencies emphasize direct clinical services to children and families at risk for PCW intervention. They include:

- Augustus Hawkins Community Mental Health Center
- Aviva Family and Children’s Services
- California Hospital Pico Union Family Preservation
- Coastal Asian Pacific Mental Health Center
- Covenant House
- El Nido Family Centers

Generally, in the second year, students choose in which public child welfare agency they want to be placed. Many of our students are placed with Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services in one of their regional offices. Both SWIFG and SWOCP students work with a preceptor to develop clinical case management skills. SWOCP students may be assigned to work on a specific macro project. For SWOCP students who are former DCFS employees, DCFS offers placements with MSW managers. Some of those settings have included:

- DCFS Agency Director
- Emergency Response
- Family Maintenance/Reunification
- Medically Placement Unit
- Regional Administrators
- Permanency Programs
- Policy Bureau
- Team Decision Making Unit
- Foster Family Agency Contract Monitoring
- Training Section
- Independent Living Programs
- Points of Engagement Programs
- Parents in Partnership (PIP)
- Child Death Review Team

In addition, a wide variety of placements are available in San Bernardino and Ventura County Private and Public Child Welfare agencies.

DO YOU HAVE A PART-TIME PROGRAM?

At this time, we only offer a full time program.