



The *California Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health* (Cal-SEARCH) program is a partnership between the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD), the California Area Health Education Center (AHEC), and the California Primary Care Association (CPCA). This program is funded by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration.

Frequently Asked Questions for Cal-SEARCH Students and Residents

Q. How do I apply?

A. You must fill out an online application located on the Cal-SEARCH website at:

<http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/Cal-SEARCH/> and provide the following supporting documents:

- Biography or resume including education and volunteer experience
- 2 letters of recommendation from advisors and instructors
- Cal-SEARCH Student Enrollment and Residency Confirmation forms can be located on the Cal-SEARCH website at: <http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/Cal-SEARCH/>.

Q. I'll be graduating soon, am I eligible?

A. You must be enrolled in order to participate in Cal-SEARCH. If you graduate before your rotation, you are not eligible.

Q. I am already scheduled to begin a rotation at a site, but I'm not yet part of Cal-SEARCH. Am I eligible to participate?

A. In order to participate in Cal-SEARCH, both you and the clinical site must fill out an application. Students and residents must also submit additional supporting documents, as listed above, in addition to the online application.

Q. Is housing or transportation provided?

A. Students and residents are responsible for their own housing and transportation. Once all rotation requirements are met, you will receive a stipend of \$700, which can be used to cover housing and transportation needs.

Q. Are there a minimum number of hours required?

A. Cal-SEARCH participants are required to spend at least 80 hours on their clinical rotation. This is in addition to the community project.

Q. How long are the rotations?

A. Rotations are from 4 - 8 weeks, with a minimum of 80 hours. Your community project can be developed and implemented either during or immediately after the rotation. Community project time is in addition to the rotation.

For more information about Cal-SEARCH, visit the website at:

www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/Cal-SEARCH/ or call (916) 326-3711 or email Cal-SEARCH@oshpd.ca.gov



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Q. What is the Community Project?

A. All Cal-SEARCH participants are required to develop and implement a community project based on a local population health issue and to submit a report once the project is complete. Projects are developed with the support of your clinic mentor, who will also review and sign off on your report. Examples of past Cal-SEARCH Community Projects can be located on the Cal-SEARCH website at: <http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/Cal-SEARCH/>.

Q. What types of students are eligible?

Students and residents must be enrolled in one of the following programs in order to be eligible to apply:

- Certified Nurse-Midwives
- Clinical Psychologists
- Clinical Social Workers
- Dental Hygienists
- Dentistry
- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Marriage and Family Therapists
- Medicine
- Nurse Practitioners
- Ob/GYN
- Pediatrics
- Physician Assistants
- Psychiatric Nurse Specialists
- Psychiatry

Q. Where are the clinics located?

A. Clinic sites are located throughout California, in both rural and urban areas. They are all in Health Professions Shortage Areas (HPSAs) or Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs). A list of currently approved sites is listed on the Cal-SEARCH website at: <http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/Cal-SEARCH/>. Sites listed on the approved list might not currently be accepting students at the time of your match.

Q. What if a clinic I'm interested in isn't on the approved list?

A. If the clinic is located in a HPSA or MUA, they are eligible to apply. They may apply online at the Cal-SEARCH website: <http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/Cal-SEARCH/>.

Q. How are students and residents matched?

A. Information from both student or resident and site applications is used to find a site that matches both the student's and site's specific criteria such as geographic location, services offered, student academic background, site needs.

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