The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Pittsburgh, is a vibrant membership based program for people 50 and better who want to continue to learn and engage, but do not want to deal with the stress of tests, grades, and homework. OLLI has over 1300 members from across the greater Pittsburgh region who range in ages from 48 to 102. With over 80 courses per term and hundreds of undergraduate audit courses to choose from, special lectures, day trips, and social opportunities, there are multiple opportunities for adults 50 and better to continue learning throughout their lives. The University setting provides OLLI members with unique cultural, social, and intellectual experiences which allow them to learn, grow, and thrive.

In addition to the benefits of membership, OLLI members can also engage and support OLLI in a number of ways through serving on a committee, volunteering at events, and donating to the organization. There are five main OLLI committees that help support the program: Advisory, Curriculum, Fundraising, Marketing, and Membership. Members may also serve as OLLI Ambassadors, who speak about the benefits of OLLI to groups and individuals in the surrounding communities.

A Social Work Field Placement at OLLI provides a variety of learning experiences for the student. In addition to the weekly supervision meeting, students will work on program development, activity and event planning, and work with program logistics. Some additional examples of learning opportunities for students include:

- Develop curriculum, catalog, and schedule in concert with committee and OLLI staff
- Connect with potential partner agencies – resources for members, programs for students, etc.
- Conduct interviews with members, partner agencies, and instructors around issues facing OLLI and the clientele
- Observe classes and instructors, provide feedback on course
- Work with instructors to develop an instructor manual
- Participate in committees
- Identify barriers to participation for members and develop solutions to address those barriers
- Assist with the maintenance of the website, specifically the member resource section (both University and external resources)
- Conduct an audit of other OLLI programs nationally to determine trends around program, staffing, member issues, technology, registration, giving, etc.
- Identify basic outcome information we can determine, possibly develop a long term plan to increase the amount of data we collect
- Examine the potential causes of why the OLLI program has not been able to reach into other communities

Qualifications

This placement is for first year foundation students, primarily COSA students although Direct Practice students could be considered. Students should have knowledge of older adult issues and development, or at least an interest in learning more about them. Generally, our offices our open 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Must be comfortable and capable of speaking clearly and loudly in front of a group as large as 200 and interact with members on an individual basis.