

ISSUE: UC NURSING PROGRAMS

University of California nursing programs play a significant role in UC's efforts to meet California's most pressing health care needs. In 2000, UC committed to develop new nursing programs and expand existing programs. These efforts continue as UC addresses the nursing shortage that is exasperated by an increasing nursing faculty shortage. Other issues contribute to these challenges, including recent health care reform, the current state of the economy, an aging and rapidly growing population, the aging of nursing faculty, and other demographic changes. The 2010 Institute of Medicine report on the "Future of Nursing" provides a blueprint for optimizing nursing's contribution to the health of the population. Together, these elements provide a critical opportunity for UC nursing programs to help improve both access and quality of health care.

UC NURSING EDUCATION

Nursing education is an integral part of UC Health, which functions as the nation's largest health sciences educational system. For more than 100 years, UC has prepared nursing leaders to meet health care needs in nursing education, administration, advanced clinical practice and research. UC is committed to not only preparing nurses to work in hospitals and other clinical settings, but to ensuring nursing classrooms are led by well-qualified instructors and professors and to apply the nursing perspective to research.

The development of graduate nursing programs within the UC system reflects national trends establishing nursing as a scientific discipline. In tandem with expanding graduate programs, UC re-established and added new undergraduate nursing programs as a strategy to rebuild the pool of nurses eligible to pursue graduate work to become nursing faculty, as well as allow college-bound high school graduates interested in nursing the opportunity to pursue such a degree at UC. Today, UC nursing is a valuable resource in the state, enrolling approximately 1,500 undergraduate and graduate students each year. Nursing leaders from UC Davis, UC Irvine, UCLA and UC San Francisco work closely to advance nursing education, research and practice collectively to ensure UC nursing contributes significantly to meet the growing health care needs in California and beyond.

UC DAVIS

Fueled by the landmark \$100 million commitment from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis was established in March 2009. Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Science classes in the Nursing Science and Health Care Leadership Graduate Degree Program began in September 2010. The Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing cultivates academic excellence and addresses urgent societal needs through:

- Leadership development
- Interprofessional/interdisciplinary education
- Innovative technology
- Cultural inclusiveness
- Transformative research in two areas:
 - Health systems—including health policy and systems, leadership and informatics
 - Healthy people—including rural, aging and minority populations

The doctoral program prepares nurses as leaders in health care, health policy and nurse faculty and researchers at the university level. The master's degree program prepares graduates for health care leadership roles in a variety of organizations and as nurse faculty for community colleges and prelicensure programs, where they are desperately needed. Additional programs will be considered in the coming years.

Health care today requires collaborative and interprofessional education that will lead to team-based delivery of care and a shift from acute care (reaction to health care crises) to promoting optimal health, function and prevention. Nurse leaders, educators, administrators, researchers and policy experts are needed to meet the challenges of the health care system, now and in the future. The vision for the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing positions nurses to lead the changes that improve health care for generations to come. <http://nursing.ucdavis.edu>

UC IRVINE

Established in 2005, the UC Irvine Program in Nursing Science admitted its first class of undergraduate students in fall 2006. The first class of master's level students was admitted in 2009. The undergraduate and graduate programs prepare students for educational, administrative and clinical positions across the health care delivery system. The program continues to grow and graduates approximately 50 undergraduate students each year. These graduates are prepared to take positions in various clinical settings and are poised to attain advanced degrees in nursing. The master's degree program graduated its inaugural class of students in June 2011. A Ph.D. degree program in UC Irvine's Nursing Science Program is proposed to open in fall 2012.

The program received generous support from numerous community health care organizations in the surrounding area. Many alumni are employed at these various health care organizations and contribute to alleviating the acute nursing shortage in California.

The program is committed to community engagement and the development of strong community collaborations. Through a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), school leaders anticipate opening the first nurse-managed clinic at El Sol charter school in collaboration with Share Our Selves (SOS) clinic in Santa Ana, serving a predominantly Hispanic community. www.nursing.uci.edu

UCLA

Since 1949, the UCLA School of Nursing has reimagined and redefined nursing. The school is ranked among the top nursing schools in the country and is No. 4 in nursing research funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and No. 1 in NIH stimulus funding.

Research is at the core of its mission—not only as a primary component of a comprehensive education, but as a critical investment in the future of nursing. The school has a rich history of innovation in nursing research and is continually pushing the boundaries to improve health. Its findings are about advancing health and they are often relevant for other health disciplines.

UCLA offers undergraduate (B.S.), postgraduate (M.S.N.) and doctoral (Ph.D.) degrees. A B.S. in Nursing prepares students to become registered nurses (R.N.) who can provide quality care in complex health care systems and environments. The Master of Science in Nursing includes a pathway (Master's Entry Clinical Nurse) for prelicensure students with degrees in other disciplines to become R.N.s and to provide clinical leadership. The Advanced Practice Nursing (APN) program is for post-licensure R.N.s who wish to practice as clinical nurse specialists, nurse practitioners or nurse administrators to promote health, address the complex health care needs of diverse patient populations and manage complexity, quality and safety in a variety of health care settings. The Ph.D. program prepares nurse scholars to conduct original research, generate new knowledge and build the scientific basis for practice. Doctoral students may enter the program after completion of either a Bachelor of Science or Master of Science program in Nursing. <http://nursing.ucla.edu>

UC SAN FRANCISCO

Founded as a nursing hospital and nursing training program in the wake of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, the UCSF School of Nursing is a vital part of UCSF's world-renowned health sciences campus and its mission to advance health worldwide.

The UCSF School of Nursing provides comprehensive graduate education (offering M.S. and Ph.D. degrees) and prepares its students for leadership roles in clinical practice, administration, teaching and research. Students receive technology-enabled, interprofessional instruction in the UCSF Teaching and Learning Center, conduct pioneering research alongside faculty scholars, and benefit the public with individual and group involvement in service activities. Since the establishment of the U.S. News & World Report rankings, the UCSF School of Nursing has consistently earned either the first or second positions in its assessments of professional nursing graduate programs.

The school is nationally and internationally recognized for its commitment to innovative health science education, discovery and patient care. In the past decade, it has remained firmly in the first two spots in NIH research funding awarded to schools of nursing; in 2010, it was again first. Substantiating its global influence, the school has been named a World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Research and Clinical Training in Nursing.

With the growing demand for advanced practice nurses and the increasing national focus on health care reforms, the UCSF School of Nursing will remain a leader.

<http://nursing.ucsf.edu>

UC NURSING PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

Campus	Type	Year Established	Degrees Offered
UC San Francisco	School of Nursing	1907	M.S., Ph.D.
UCLA	School of Nursing	1949	B.S., M.S.N., Ph.D.
UC Irvine	Nursing Science Program ¹	2005	B.S., M.S., (Ph.D.) ²
UC Davis	School of Nursing	2009	M.S., Ph.D.

¹ UC Irvine plans to seek School of Nursing status

² (Anticipated degree offering)