

**Nursing Enrollment Levels, FY 2011-12**

May 2012

Legislative Report



UNIVERSITY *of* CALIFORNIA

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This report is submitted by the University of California (UC) in response to language contained in the 2011 Budget Act, which states:

*“10.(c) The University of California shall report to the Legislature and the Governor by May 1, 2012, on the total enrollment in the 2011-12 academic year in the baccalaureate nursing degree programs, the entry-level clinical and master’s degree nursing programs, and the master’s of science in nursing degree programs.”*

It should be noted that no additional State General Funds were provided in 2011-12 for baccalaureate or entry-level master’s and traditional master’s degree level nursing students. Notwithstanding \$3 million in appropriations in the 2011-12 enacted budget for federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds to temporarily support a limited number of nursing enrollments (consistent with a five-year plan with the State), the University was informed in October 2011 that as a result of reductions in federal funding to the State, UC would not receive any of the promised nursing funding for 2011-12. This unanticipated action created a \$3 million shortfall for UC nursing programs in 2011-12.

#### I. ENROLLMENT LEVELS IN THE 2011 ACADEMIC YEAR

Although the 2011 Budget Act requires UC to update the Legislature and the Governor on baccalaureate and master’s degree enrollments only, this report provides nursing enrollment data for all UC nursing programs (including doctoral programs). This information is included in order to provide a more comprehensive view of UC efforts to address statewide nursing needs and increase educational opportunities for students.

Currently, nursing programs are offered at four UC campuses – Los Angeles, San Francisco, Irvine, and most recently Davis. UC remains focused on its role to train new nursing faculty and to help to rebuild the pool of baccalaureate-prepared students who can continue on to graduate study in nursing.

**Doctoral Program Enrollments.** The UCLA, UCSF, and UCD Schools of Nursing offer research-focused nursing doctoral programs which grant a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree. A total of 199 students are enrolled in UC doctoral nursing programs in 2011-12. UCLA enrolled a total of 45 doctoral students, UCSF enrolled 138 doctoral students, and UCD enrolled 16 students in the second year of their doctoral program.

**Master’s Program Enrollments.** UCLA, UCSF, UCI and UCD offered master’s level nursing programs. In 2011-12, UC enrolled a total of 802 students in master’s programs. UCLA enrolled a total of 306 students—112 students in their Master’s Entry Clinical Nursing (MECN) program, and an additional 194 students in the traditional master’s program. UCSF enrolled 415 students in their Master of Science program. Students enter into this program either through the Master’s Entry Program in Nursing (MEPN) or the traditional master’s program. At UCI, 32 master’s level students were enrolled in 2011-12, the third year of their recently opened program. UCD enrolled 49 students in the second year of their master’s program in nursing (MS).

**Baccalaureate Program Enrollments.** Both UCLA and UCI began new four-year undergraduate nursing programs in Fall 2006. In 2011-12, these campuses had a total of 408 undergraduate students enrolled across all years of study, 159 at UCI and 249 at UCLA.

**Enrollments in UC Nursing Programs (2010-11 - 2011-12)**

<b>Program</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)	199	199
Master's Entry Clinical Nursing Program (MSN)	106	112
Master's – Traditional (MSN/MS)*	714	690
Bachelor's of Science (BS)	406	408
<b>Total UC Enrollments</b>	<b>1,425</b>	<b>1,409</b>

\* Includes students entering after one year in the UCSF Master's Entry Program in Nursing

**II. STATE FUNDING**

While no permanent state funding for nursing enrollment growth has been provided since 2007-08, because of the strong demand for UC-educated nurses, the University and the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (CLWDA) worked in 2009 to put forth a proposal in which, beginning in 2009-10, new, one-time federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding provided over five years (approximately \$12 million dollars in total) would be provided to UC through participation in the Governor's Nursing Education Initiative. These funds—which require annual approval by the Legislature—were to be used for UC to train and graduate approximately 350 new California nurses.

In its 2011-12 budget request, the University requested continuation of \$3 million in WIA funding, consistent with the multi-year plan with CLWDA, as well as \$1.1 million in permanent State funding for unfunded nursing enrollment growth requested in 2008-09 and 2009-10, but not included in the WIA agreement. The 2011-12 enacted budget did not provide new General Fund resources for nursing, but included \$3 million in appropriations to reflect WIA funding pursuant to an agreement between the University and the CLWDA.

In 2011-12, UC nursing programs enrolled graduate nursing students (for which there were no State General Funds), consistent with the plan approved by CLDWA. Without the short-term WIA funds for support of 230 nursing students, UC would have likely decreased enrollments.

CLWDA notified UC in October 2011 that \$3 million in WIA funds would not be provided for students in the current fiscal year, and that there was considerable uncertainty regarding the availability of any future WIA funding for the remaining two years of the approved plan. The rationale provided was that the federal government had substantially reduced WIA discretionary funding to the State. All four UC nursing campuses had budgeted for 2011-12 WIA resources and were relying on this funding to support faculty salaries and related teaching costs. This unexpected elimination of funds immediately placed the University in an exceptionally difficult position as nursing students were already admitted and enrolled in classes, and therefore UC was committed to educate and graduate these students. Senior University leaders attempted to remedy the situation, including approaching Administration officials, legislative leadership, and private foundations, for their support. Despite those efforts, the State was unable to provide \$3 million in 2011-12 to honor WIA commitments to the University.

Though budgetary circumstances remain difficult in the foreseeable future, the University intends to continue to seek State General Fund support for these students through the regular budgetary process. Without new workload support, the University will need to develop plans to align enrollment levels with available resources.

**III. FUTURE UC NURSING PLANS**

UC recognizes the importance of addressing California's shortages of nurses and nursing faculty, and remains committed to assessing the feasibility of future enrollment growth. However, the absence of permanent State support for the required increase in workload jeopardizes the expansion that has already occurred and that UC would plan to continue if support were provided. Plans for future nursing growth will be contingent upon the availability of core State support. Given uncertainties associated with both the 2012-13 budget and likelihood of future WIA funding, UC is not yet able to project nursing enrollments for 2012-13 or beyond.

**IV. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**The need for continued expansion of nursing programs is discussed below, followed by a more detailed description of the nursing programs UC currently operates.**

**California’s Nursing Workforce:** Virtually all Americans will require nursing care at some time in their lives. Whether this care involved maintenance of health, episodic care of a highly technical or less complex nature, care for a chronic condition or illness, or long-term supportive care, it is important to ensure that appropriate nursing care will be available. Therefore, continuing reports of nursing shortages raise concerns that must be addressed in California and nationwide.

Notwithstanding recent efforts by the Governor’s Nurse Education Initiative to increase the state’s capacity to train nurses, California remains one of the states with the lowest number of registered nurses per capita (644 vs. the U.S. average of 860 nurses per 100,000). Causes of the nursing shortage include rapid population growth (especially of those over age 65), an aging nursing workforce (the national average age of nurses is 47 years, and nearly 45% of RNs are over age 50), increasing mean age of nursing faculty nearing retirement, and limited nursing school enrollment capacity and insufficient funding for education. Current nurse staffing ratios for California hospitals and national accreditation standards limiting the number of hours medical residents can work have created further demand.

In January 2007, UC completed a multi-year health sciences planning effort, resulting in the report “*A Compelling Case for Growth: Special Report of the Advisory Council on Future Growth in the Health Professions.*” For nursing, the Council recommended “substantial enrollment growth, with a focus on graduate education in nursing and the need to train increased numbers of future nursing school faculty.” The Council also recommended that new programs at the undergraduate level be developed to increase educational opportunities for undergraduates and to help build the pool of students who will go on to graduate study, stating “...[t]his should include growth in existing nursing schools and programs and creation of new ones at new locations.”

The Council called for development of new educational models involving interdisciplinary training and team-based approaches to patient care, and redoubled efforts to significantly increase the diversity of all UC health professions faculty and students, with stable funding provided to support best practices and model programs. The Council also encouraged innovative approaches to teaching, including telemedicine, distance learning, and use of new technologies.

**UC Nursing Programs:** UC currently operates three Schools of Nursing (UCLA, UCSF, and UCD), and a Program in Nursing Science (UCI). Until Fall 2006, UCLA and UCSF offered only graduate nursing education, with the exception of a small 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year baccalaureate program offered at UCLA for students who are already licensed as a Registered Nurse. The graduate programs play a critical role in preparing advanced practice nurses and future faculty. Faculty shortages in nursing exist statewide and are a major known barrier to increasing enrollments at UC, the California State University, and California Community College campuses.

**Overview of UC’s Nursing Schools and Programs**

<b>Campus</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Year established</b>	<b>Degrees offered</b>
UC San Francisco	School of Nursing	1907	MS, PhD
UC Los Angeles	School of Nursing	1949	BS, MSN, PhD
UC Irvine	Nursing Science Program*	2005	BS, MS, [PhD]**
UC Davis	School of Nursing	2009	[BSN, MSN, PhD]**

\* UC Irvine plans to seek School of Nursing status

\*\* Anticipated degree offerings; first cohorts of students have not yet graduated

### **A. Baccalaureate Degree Programs**

UC currently offers two baccalaureate nursing programs – one at UC Irvine (launched Fall 2006) and the other at UCLA (re-established in Fall 2006). College-bound high school graduates interested in nursing, but strongly committed to a UC undergraduate education, once again have the opportunity to do both. The BS programs at both campuses are four year programs. These programs continue to draw strong interest from undergraduates with highly competitive applicant pools.

**UC Irvine.** The Baccalaureate in Nursing Science offers talented and highly motivated undergraduates the opportunity to enter the healthcare environment with an education founded upon the theory and practice of nursing. Completion of the program's curriculum leads to a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Nursing Science, a key asset for today's nurses, who must provide care to a diverse group of patients through evidence-based practice. Graduates of the Program in Nursing Science are prepared to serve as generalists in professional nursing practice and to collaborate with other healthcare providers in clinics, hospitals, and community health settings. The undergraduate program prepares students for success in academia as well; graduates are poised to attain advanced degrees in nursing science and to significantly contribute to the field through original research.

**UC Los Angeles.** The Nursing prelicensure program for undergraduate study leading to the Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Nursing was re-established in Fall 2006. The traditional BS program is designed to prepare students for a career in nursing and focuses on managing both individuals and population-based cohorts within an acute care hospital or medical center. Conceptually, the curriculum has been developed according to the principles of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention; moving from a systems, population-based approach to a cohort-based or unit-based perspective, and culminating with an intense focus on the individual-level of care. Graduates of the program will be well-prepared to deal with the demands of present day high-acuity patient populations and sophisticated technological environments. The program provides a BS degree with a major in Nursing and eligibility to take the National Council Licensing Examination (NCLEX) to be certified as a registered nurse (RN) after completion of the program.

### **B. Entry-Level Clinical and Entry-Level Master's Degree Programs in Nursing**

UC offers two master's entry nursing programs: the Master's Entry Clinical Nurse Program (MECN) at UCLA, and the Master's Entry Program in Nursing (MEPN) program at UCSF. The two programs differ in curriculum, length of program, fee structure and objectives, but both are master's level professional nursing programs in which the students enter without having a baccalaureate degree in nursing or having completed the requirements for RN certification.

**UC Los Angeles Master's Entry Clinical Nurse Program – MECN.** The School of Nursing at UCLA offers an entry-level master's degree program, called the Master's Entry Clinical Nurse Program (MECN). The MECN is a two-year program that enrolled its first students in 2006, in which students enter without an undergraduate degree in nursing and earn both a master's degree and satisfy the requirements for RN licensing concurrently. The students are prepared for careers as bedside nurses with additional skills in managing a unit in a hospital (e.g., having the ability to deal with administrative and cost issues), as well as more skills in using, and helping to conduct, research than RNs who have not had graduate level instruction. Students in the MECN program pay the same tuition and fees as those paid by other nursing master's students.

The MECN program assumes that students have completed a comprehensive undergraduate curriculum that will have satisfied some of the BSN licensing requirements. Prerequisites for the program include statistics and anatomy and physiology, as well as chemistry, epidemiology, psychology, communications, and microbiology. Other RN licensure requirements are completed as part of the two-year intensive master's curriculum.

**UC San Francisco Master's Entry Program in Nursing – MEPN.** Students in UCSF's 3-year MEPN enter with a BS or BA degree in any field other than nursing. In the initial 12 months of the program, students complete coursework to satisfy the requirements for RN licensure, and then move into the two-year Master's of Science in Nursing (MS) program. Graduates of the program graduate as "advanced practice nurses" and are prepared for one of three advanced practice roles: nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, or clinical nurse specialist. As such, they are

prepared to work independently (although often in close collaboration with physicians) in both primary and specialty health care.

The intensive initial segment of the MEPN program is self-supporting, that is, supported by a student fee for the 12-month period. During this self-supporting year, the MEPN students are not included as part of State-funded enrollments because no State General Fund support is provided for this initial year. After the first year, however, the students enter the MS program and are included in the State reportable enrollments and do receive State support at the same level as other graduate nursing enrollments. During the MS program years, these students pay the same tuition and fees as other nursing master's students.

### **C. Master of Science in Nursing Programs - Traditional**

**UC Los Angeles.** The UCLA Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program is a two-year course of graduate study that prepares advanced practice nurse administrators, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists. Students in the MSN program contribute to improving nursing care through research, which includes analysis, articulation, and documentation of the nursing process. The curriculum is designed for students to obtain theoretical and practical knowledge of the foundations for specialized practice, as well as an opportunity to implement that knowledge through advanced clinical practice. Each area of specialization has requirements over and above the minimum core requirements for the degree.

**UC San Francisco.** The UCSF Master of Science (MS) program is a two-year course of graduate study that prepares leaders in the roles of nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, nurse-midwife, administrator, teacher, and consultant. Most applicants applying to this program are experienced registered nurses who have successfully completed a bachelor's degree. Upon graduation, all have a base of knowledge in a specific area of nursing, can participate knowledgeably in research activity and application, and are capable of contributing to the formulation of theory and to the application of theory to nursing practice. The Master of Science program is ordinarily a two-year program during which many undertake part-time paid work concurrently with their study schedule. Each student must select an area of specialization, with opportunities in a number of fields ranging from midwifery to critical care, and health policy to family nurse practitioner training. For many of these specialty areas, the UCSF School of Nursing is acknowledged to be the leading, or the only, nursing school for that particular specialization area at the master's level.

**UC Irvine.** The UCI Master of Science (MS) in nursing program is a two-year course of graduate study that prepares nurse practitioners. Students select an area of specialization – either the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) track or the Adult Geriatric Nurse Practitioner Track (A/GNP). Graduates of the NP tracks will be eligible for certification by the California Board of Registered Nursing. The NP Program is designed to prepare nurses to deliver primary health care to families in a variety of settings. NPs take health histories and provide complete physical examinations, diagnose and treat many common acute and chronic problems, interpret laboratory results and X-rays, prescribe and manage medications and other therapies, provide health teaching and supportive counseling with an emphasis on prevention of illness and health maintenance, and refer patients to other health professions as needed.

**UC Davis.** The new UCD Nursing Science and Health Care Leadership Master of Science (MS) program is a full-time, professional degree program that prepares graduates for health care leadership roles in a variety of organizations and as nurse faculty at the community college level. The program is ideal for students with experience or interest in transforming health care through nursing education and research, and those who want to focus on important societal health issues through the work of advancing health and improving the systems that provide health services. It is expected that graduates will exercise leadership through scientific thinking, responsibility, initiative, cultural inclusiveness, knowledge of organizations and system change, teamwork, and a commitment to healthy communities. Required courses for the master's degree program include a combination of core courses and electives. Six graduate-level core courses – Health Status and Care Systems, Implementation Science, Leadership in Health Care, Quantitative Skills for Change, Community Connections and an Informatics course – as well as the Master's Degree Seminar are required. Students work with their advisors to select electives appropriate to their areas of interest. A minimum of 31 quarter units of upper-division and graduate courses and a thesis are required for graduation. The first MS graduates are expected in Spring 2012.

#### **D. Doctor of Philosophy Programs**

**UC Los Angeles.** The UCLA Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program is research-oriented with a focus on clinical nursing research and designed to provide the theoretical and scientific knowledge necessary for scholarly pursuit in nursing. Students will show competence relevant to their major area of study by completing theory courses in nursing and related disciplines. The purpose of the PhD program is to educate scholars who, through the conduct of original research, and the generation of theory, will build the scientific knowledge base for the advancement of nursing practice, research and health care policy. This research focuses on the individual, family, community, and organizational systems within the context of cultural diversity and across the lifespan to optimize health outcomes. The program emphasizes specific areas of study in the context of the interdisciplinary resources available at the academic and health sciences campus and the local, national and international community.

**UC San Francisco.** The UCSF Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing program prepares scientists to conduct research in nursing and to contribute to the body of knowledge in nursing over approximately four years. Graduates of this program focus their careers on generating the knowledge base of the nursing discipline through positions as academic or clinical researchers. The curriculum is designed to develop habits of scholarly thinking. The initial segment of the curriculum provides coursework in the areas of research, nursing science and theory development. The emphasis in the middle segment expands to include, among other things, research residencies, and independent studies that provide a basis for the student's projected dissertation focus and the subsequent final program of research. The final segment of the program, preceded by the qualifying examination and advancement to candidacy, entails development of a dissertation research proposal, data collection and analysis, and the writing of the dissertation. The dissertation is a work of independent research that makes an original contribution to knowledge in nursing. A key element of the program is faculty consultation and advising. The program entails approximately four years of academic work.

Additionally, the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences in the UCSF School of Nursing offers a doctoral program which leads to the PhD in Sociology. The substantive focus of the program lies in the sociology of health, illness, biomedicine, and health care systems. Four areas of specialty concentrations are available: 1) aging, chronic illness, and disability; 2) health policy (including health organizations and economics); 3) science, technology, and medicine studies; and 4) race, class, gender, and health. Additional areas of study include HIV/AIDS, women's health, health professions and occupations, and violence as a health issue, among others. Both qualitative research and analysis and quantitative methods are emphasized, along with social theory. To qualify for candidacy for the doctoral degree, students must satisfactorily complete qualifying examinations in social theory and in sociology of health and illness at the end of the first and second years. Additionally, the student must prepare a scholarly paper on a relevant problem leading to the dissertation, which usually addresses selected specialty areas. The dissertation is expected to be based on original research.

**UC Davis.** The UCD Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing Science and Health Care Leadership is a four year academic program that prepares graduates as leaders in health care, health policy, and education/research at the university level. The program seeks students with experience and/or interest to carry out the research and leadership to transform health care through nursing education and research. Ideal students want to focus on important societal health issues through the work of advancing health and improving the systems that provide health services. Graduates from the doctoral program will be prime candidates for formal leadership positions. It is expected that graduates will exercise leadership through scientific approaches, vision, initiative, cultural inclusiveness, teamwork, and a commitment to assuring health care is highly effective, compassionate, and accessible. Required courses for the doctoral degree program include five graduate-level core courses – Health Status and Care Systems, Implementation Science, Leadership in Health Care, Research Design in Nursing and Health Care, and an Informatics course – as well as the Doctoral Seminar. A series of courses in research methods is also required. In addition, students work with their advisors to select electives appropriate to their areas of interest, and a doctoral dissertation is required. The first graduates from UCD's doctoral program are expected in Spring 2014.

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