

Nursing Science, M.S.

The Master of Science (M.S.) in Nursing Science at the University of California, Irvine is a graduate degree program that prepares students to lead innovations in health care delivery and elevated nursing care across practice settings. The program course work is designed to prepare graduate-educated nurses with: (1) research and evidence-based practice competency; (2) expertise in specialized concentrations of nursing practice; (3) leadership role preparation, including collaborative inter-professional team building; and (4) leadership skills in health policy to become advocates for health promotion and disease prevention efforts supporting population health. The M.S. provides students with a foundation for seamless progression into a research or practice-focused doctoral program.

All students interested in the M.S. in Nursing Science should be aware that they will be required to do the following: (1) meet the physical and mental requirements necessary to perform nursing practice functions as outlined in Chapter 6, Article 2, Item 2725 of the *Business and Professions Code of California*; (2) provide required clinical onboarding documentation such as current health records, proof of immunizations, and up-to-date certifications (e.g. CPR/BLS); (3) complete and pass screenings such as a criminal background check and drug test prior to entering the clinical portion of program as required by health care facilities in which students will have clinical experiences; (4) purchase required equipment such as stethoscopes; (5) have access to transportation for off-campus clinical experiences.

Concentration in Community and Population Health Nursing (CPHN)

The Master's Entry Program in Nursing (MEPN) Program offers graduates of non-nursing baccalaureate programs direct entry into an accelerated master's degree program, with the ability to autonomously practice nursing as an M.S.-prepared nurse upon graduation. Graduates of the program will qualify to take the national licensing examination (NCLEX) for registered nurses, be eligible for certification as a Public Health Nurse, and earn a Master of Science. The master's degree program also prepares students for future research or practice-focused doctoral studies.

Consistent with the Sue and Bill Gross School of Nursing's mission to provide strong research-based academic and professional programs, the program aims to prepare excellent researchers, educators, and clinicians. Goals of the CPHN concentration are to prepare graduate nurses to lead and expand care to under-served populations in the following areas:

- Generalist nursing practice across a wide variety of healthcare settings, from acute care to community, home, and transition management;
- Nursing scholarship and evidence-based practice;
- Leadership in interprofessional health care teams;
- Innovative advancements in health care delivery, quality improvement, and improved access to care in our underserved communities.

The CPHN curriculum was designed to ensure that the nine essential core areas delineated by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) – the umbrella organization that provides national accreditation through their Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) – are met throughout the program. In addition, the Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations and the Core Competencies for Public Health Professional's competencies for public health practice are incorporated throughout the curriculum.

Community and Population Health Nursing concentration applicants must have earned a bachelor's degree in a non-nursing university program and have a 3.0 cumulative grade point average (on a 4.0 scale). In addition, they must have completed courses in the following subjects with a C or better: statistics, psychology (preferably human development lifespan), sociology/cultural anthropology, anatomy, physiology, and microbiology with labs, and chemistry. Courses in anatomy, physiology, and microbiology with labs are required to be completed within the last 5 years prior to application. Applicants must meet the general requirements of the UCI Graduate Division. The GRE and letters of recommendation are not required for admission to the Sue and Bill Gross School of Nursing.

Core Curriculum	
A. Complete the following:	
NUR SCI 200	Research Methods and Evaluation for Evidence-Based Practice
NUR SCI 201	Introduction to Nursing Informatics
NUR SCI 202	Compassion, Communication, and Care of Underserved Populations
NUR SCI 208	Frameworks for Professional Nursing Practice
NUR SCI 215	Health Promotion/Disease Prevention
NUR SCI 284	Scholarly Concentration

Community and Population Health Nursing Concentration Courses:	
NUR SCI 209A	Physical Assessment
NUR SCI 209B	Nursing Skills
NUR SCI 217	Applied Pharmacology
NUR SCI 219	Pathophysiology
NUR SCI 221A	Medical Surgical Nursing 1

NUR SCI 221B	Medical Surgical Nursing 2
NUR SCI 228	Human Behavior and Mental Health Care
NUR SCI 271	Community-Based Health Care
NUR SCI 272	Pediatrics: Care of Children and Families
NUR SCI 273	Maternity and Women's Health Care
NUR SCI 274	Critical and Specialty Health Care
NUR SCI 275	Clinical Preceptorship
NUR SCI 276	Leadership and Management in Health Care

Successful completion of required course work will advance students to M.S. candidacy the quarter prior to scheduled completion of the program. All M.S. concentration students complete a Scholarly Concentration project in an area of interest culminating in a major paper and oral presentation. Full-time M.S. students are expected to complete the program within two years.