

NURSING (MS)

Visit program website. (<https://nursing.ucsf.edu/admissions/welcome-ucsf-nursing/master-science-program/>)

Degree Offered: MS

Program Leadership:

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Admissions Inquiries:

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New admissions to the Master of Science program are closed and current enrollees are expected to complete their program of MS study in 2025.

The UCSF School of Nursing is expanding its doctoral programming to meet the growing demand for doctorally prepared nurses who will lead innovative change in an increasingly complex health care environment.

The BSN Entry to the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) – Advanced Nursing Focus (<https://nursing.ucsf.edu/bsn-entry-dnp-advanced-nursing-focus/>) pathway, launched in Summer of 2024, is a track in the DNP program and is currently pending approval by the California Board of Registered Nursing.

Program Description

The Nursing Master of Science program prepares leaders in the advanced practice roles of clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner, nurse-midwife, administrator, faculty, and consultant. Courses from nursing and other disciplines provide advanced theoretical knowledge, assessment skills, leadership development, advanced clinical practice in a selected specialization and opportunity to critique and apply nursing theory and research as a scientific base for nursing practice.

The UCSF School of Nursing takes pride in its graduate programs, which represent a century of pioneering leadership that has produced many of the country's – and the world's – nursing leaders. Among schools of nursing nationwide, the UCSF School of Nursing is one of the top recipients of research funding from the National Institutes of Health. The School's graduate students have many opportunities to capitalize on the symbiotic relationship between the Nursing PhD, MS, and MEPN programs and the other basic, clinical, and social and populational science programs offered by the Graduate Division.

Faculty

There are over 100 faculty members in the four School of Nursing departments. See a list of Nursing faculty research (<https://nursing.ucsf.edu/research/overview/research-themes/>) areas.

Sub-Disciplines

The Nursing MS program offers 10 areas of specialization and 7 elective areas of focus. See the MS program website (<https://nursing.ucsf.edu/academics/programs/master-science-advanced-practice-programs/>) for details.

Career Outcomes

The Master of Science program prepares leaders in the advanced practice roles of nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, nurse-midwife, health

policy expert, community/population health expert, administrator, teacher and consultant.

Upon completion of the Master of Science Program, students will be eligible to apply for certain certifications. More detailed certification information for each specialty is outlined on each specialty webpage.

Admission Requirements

- New admissions to the Master of Science program are closed.

Learning Outcomes

Courses from nursing and other disciplines provide advanced theoretical knowledge, assessment skills, role/leadership development, and advanced clinical practice in a selected specialization. The curriculum offers an opportunity to critique and apply nursing theory and research as a scientific base for nursing practice. Most applicants applying to this program are experienced registered nurses who have successfully completed a bachelor's degree.

Graduates of the master's program will have:

- Knowledge and skills in providing care that promotes health and prevents illness.
- Knowledge concerning current and projected health care systems and the economic, political and philosophical base.
- Knowledge of research methodologies, research critique and outcomes research.
- Knowledge and skills to manage client care needs across the health/illness spectrum.
- Knowledge and skills to coordinate client care needs across institutional boundaries. This may be as a generalist, a specialist or an administrator. Coordination of care must be done in partnership with client and lay caregiver.
- Knowledge concerning health care issues for ethnically and culturally diverse populations as the basis for practicing cultural humility and providing culturally competent care.
- Knowledge required to be proactive in the health care system. This will necessitate knowledge of the legal, legislative and regulatory issues for advanced practice nursing, consumer rights, systems management and change theory.
- Knowledge and skills to participate in the ethical decision-making process.
- Theoretical knowledge and some experience in role development as an advanced practice clinician, consultant, educator, administrator, researcher and coordinator.

Degree Requirements

- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Minimum 36 units of didactic coursework and eight units of professional/clinical coursework
- All core courses and required activities taken and passed
- Pass comprehensive examination **or** complete and submit a master's thesis (students should consult with their program for specific requirements).
- For additional details, please see Master's Degrees (<https://graduate.ucsf.edu/masters-degree/>)
- Master's specialties will have their own specific requirements for curriculum, practica, and residencies for the program as well as state licensure and national certification.

- Advanced practice registered nursing students, (e.g., nurse practitioner students, nurse midwifery students, and clinical nurse specialist students) have a specific number of required clinical practicum hours that must be met in order to take national certification examinations.
- Students enrolled in advanced nursing specialties that are not focused on direct patient care (e.g., Health Policy, Advanced Public Health Nursing), are required to complete a minimum number of units focused on fieldwork or residency in their focus area.

Core Courses

| Code | Title | Units |
|---|--|--------------|
| Graduate Core Courses ¹ | | |
| NURSING 234C | Evidence-Based Project Proposal Development | 2 |
| NURSING 245A | Clinical Prevention and Population Health A | 1-2 |
| NURSING 262 | Foundation in Nursing Scholarship | 3 |
| NURSING 294D | Essentials of Human Genomics for Nurses | 1 |
| Clinical Core Courses ¹ | | |
| NURSING 270 | Advanced Health Assessment | 2 |
| Primary Care Core Courses ¹ | | |
| NURSING 246 | Symptom Assessment & Management | 3 |
| NURSING 247 | Management of Complex Health Problems | 3 |
| NURSING 257 | Assessment & Management of Common Psychiatric Symptoms | 2 |
| NURSING 288D | Clinical Nurse Specialist Seminar | 1 |
| NURSING 288F | Management of Acute and Chronic Illness | 2 |
| NUTRITION 218 | Nutrition Therapy: Diet and Disease | 2 |
| Total Units | | 22-23 |

¹ May vary depending on specialty

Electives

All MS students are required to complete Graduate Core and Clinical Core Courses. In addition to completing the Graduate Core Courses and Clinical Core Courses, each specialty has a unique curriculum that contains coursework necessary to fulfill national standards in that specialty area. Please visit the master's program website (<https://nursing.ucsf.edu/academics/programs/master-science-advanced-practice-programs/>) for more information regarding the additional curriculum requirements for each specialty.

Non-course Core Requirements

Structural Inequities Course Requirement: Completion of two units of structural inequities coursework is part of the required core curriculum for all master's students.