

Thank you for your interest in Nursing at the Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing at UC Irvine. This guide is intended to assist applicants in creating a complete application to our MS in Nursing Science with a Community and Population Health Nursing Concentration program (also known as the Master's Entry Program in Nursing or "MEPN" program). Applicants should also review the MEPN Admissions website in its entirety when preparing to apply:

<https://nursing.uci.edu/admissions/mepn-admissions/>

Please note that admission to our program is extremely competitive. Space is limited to a small cohort of approximately 20 students and we receive significantly more qualified applications than we are able to admit. While following this guide may be helpful, it does not guarantee admission to our program.

## Minimum Admissions Requirements for the MEPN Program

In order to qualify for admission to the MEPN program, applicants must have:

- A non-nursing baccalaureate (Bachelor's degree) from a regionally accredited institution
  - Degree must be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup> preceding the program start date.
  - Unofficial transcripts uploaded in the application must have degree conferral date.
  - Degree standards must be equivalent to that of the University of California.
  - For Bachelor's degrees earned in countries outside of the United States, we require that applicants provide professional transcript evaluations by an independent educational evaluating service. Please see our FAQs at the end of this document for additional information.
- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher in your Bachelor's degree
  - Additional prerequisites taken after degree conferral are not calculated in this GPA during our review.
- Completion of all prerequisite courses by December 31<sup>st</sup> preceding the program start date.
  - Prerequisites must be completed with a letter grade of "C" or higher.
  - Prerequisite courses must be offered at the college or university level through an accredited institution and must be taken for college or university units/credit.
  - AP test scores are not accepted in place of prerequisite courses.
  - Prerequisites include the following courses:
    - General Chemistry course OR a combined Chemistry course which includes a combination of inorganic (general), organic and biochemistry (must contain all 3)
    - Human Anatomy with lab (can be a single combined course or two separate courses)
    - Human Physiology with lab (can be a single combined course or two separate courses)
    - Microbiology with lab (can be a single combined course or two separate courses)
    - One Statistics course
    - One Intro to Psychology or Lifespan Development Psychology course
    - One Intro to Sociology or Cultural Anthropology course

All of the components listed above are required for admission to the MEPN program. Our program is unable to accommodate exceptions to any of the deadlines listed above. Please review our website and this guide carefully for more information about these requirements.

Due to the high volume of applications that our program receives, we are unable to make individual appointments with prospective applicants. If you have any additional questions please contact our School of Nursing Graduate Student Affairs Office via email at [gnsao@uci.edu](mailto:gnsao@uci.edu).

## Components of the MEPN Application

Students applying to the MEPN program submit their application through the Online Application for UCI Graduate Admissions (the current application can be found here: <https://apply.grad.uci.edu/apply/>). A complete application includes and adheres to the components below that we will review in detail in subsequent sections. We recommend having all of these materials prepared in advance when submitting your application.

- A personal history statement (following the specific prompts and guidelines from the School of Nursing)
- A statement of purpose (following the specific prompts and guidelines from the School of Nursing)
- Three letters of recommendation submitted on your behalf
- A current resume
- A completed Prerequisite Checklist (using the form from the UCI School of Nursing website only)
- Unofficial transcripts from all universities/institutions
  - Transcripts must include Bachelor’s degree GPA and degree conferral date
- TOEFL or IELTS English test scores (if needed)

## Where to Upload Materials in the Online Application

The Online Application for UCI Graduate Admissions (<https://apply.grad.uci.edu/apply/>) is used by most graduate programs at UC Irvine, not just Nursing Science programs. The information below will help you which sections of the Online Application you will upload your required materials:

<b>MEPN Application Requirement</b>	<b>Where to Upload on Online Application</b>
A personal history statement (following the specific prompts and guidelines from the School of Nursing)	“Essays” Section
A statement of purpose (following the specific prompts and guidelines from the School of Nursing)	“Essays” Section
Three letters of recommendation submitted on your behalf	“Letters of Recommendation” Section
A current resume	“Additional Information” Section, under <i>Curriculum Vitae</i>
A completed Prerequisite Checklist (using the form from the UCI School of Nursing website <u>only</u> )	“Nursing Science - Community and Population Health Concentration Program” Section
Unofficial transcripts from all universities/institutions	“Transcript Upload” Section
TOEFL or IELTS English test scores (if needed)	“Test Scores” Section (in addition to sending official test scores to UCI)

## Personal History Statement & Statement of Purpose

The Online Application for UCI Graduation Admissions will prompt applicants to upload responses for two essay sections: the Personal History Statement and the Statement of Purpose. While the Online Application includes examples of prompts, MEPN applicants should respond to each section according to the instructions below.

### Personal History

1200 word maximum; applicants should respond both prompts listed below in their response:

- Challenge and Resilience: Describe a major challenge or experience you have encountered in your life and write a brief description of how you handled it.
- Anticipating Life Change: Describe your personal characteristics that will contribute to successful completion of the Master's Entry program.

### Statement of Purpose

1200 word maximum; applicants should respond both prompts listed below in their response:

- Background and Career Goals: Describe how your prior education and experience have contributed to your future nursing career goals.
- Health Equity and Diversity: Describe experiences you have had that demonstrate your commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.

## Letters of Recommendation

Applicants must include three letters of recommendation in their application. Any additional letters beyond the first three received will not be reviewed or considered in your application.

All letters must be received by the application deadline; we are unable to accept incomplete applications with any late letters of recommendation. We strongly recommend that applicants contact their recommenders as soon as possible and plan to submit letters as early as possible to avoid any late submissions.

Letters of recommendation are intended to help application reviewers better understand your professional and academic readiness for the MEPN program. Letters must be from a combination of professional and academic recommenders. Specifically, at least one letter should be from a recent clinical employer or supervisor, at least one letter should be from a college professor or instructor, and the third letter can be from either a professional or an academic recommender. If you do not have a clinical employer/supervisor or professor/instructor who is able to write you a letter of recommendation, choose someone who can best speak to your academic and professional readiness.

Letters of Recommendation are collected through the Online Application. Applicants will provide email contact information for their recommenders in the application. For more information about the Letter of Recommendation process in the Online Application, please refer here: <https://grad.uci.edu/admissions/applying-to-uci/letters-of-recommendation.php>

If students have any questions about letters of recommendation in their application, they should contact the Graduate Admission team at [gradapplicant@uci.edu](mailto:gradapplicant@uci.edu). The School of Nursing Student Affairs Office cannot assist with technical issues related to the letter of recommendation system in the Online Application.

## Current Resume

Applicants should include a current resume in their application that is clear, easy-to-read, and informative. We recommend that you include:

- Academic honors, recognition, and/or scholarships
- Volunteer and work activities, including both healthcare-related and non-healthcare-related activities
- Leadership positions
- Bilingual abilities (Please clearly state whether or not you are fluent. Fluency in this case would mean that you would be qualified and comfortable speaking to and assisting patients in this language.)

While the list above covers general items that you should include on your resume, it is not exhaustive and you may include additional details and experiences that you feel are relevant to your application. We strongly recommend that you utilize career services and resources available through your universities and colleges to assist you in creating a professional, comprehensive resume.

## Prerequisite Checklist

Applicants are required to fill out a “Prerequisite Checklist” (available at <https://nursing.uci.edu/admissions/mepn-admissions/>) and upload it in their application. Applicants may only use the Prerequisite Checklist form on the website linked above. Any other versions of this form (e.g. lists of courses in a Word document) will not be accepted.

All prerequisites must be completed with a letter grade of C or higher by December 31st preceding the program start date. For applicants applying in Fall 2020 (to join the Summer 2021 cohort), prerequisites must be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Checklists with courses planned for the Winter 2021 and/or Spring 2021 terms will not be accepted. The following is a list of required prerequisites and a list of example courses at UC Irvine that would satisfy those requirements. UC Irvine courses listed below are examples only.

Prerequisite	Course Title at UC Irvine
<b>General Chemistry OR Combined Chemistry</b> <i>(“combined” courses include general/inorganic chemistry, biochemistry, and organic chemistry)</i>	General Chemistry: Chemistry 1A, Chemistry 1B, and Chemistry 1C
<b>Microbiology (Lecture)</b>	Biological Sciences M122
<b>Microbiology (Lab)</b>	Biological Sciences M118L
<b>Human Physiology (Lecture)</b>	Biological Sciences E109
<b>Human Physiology (Lab)</b>	Biological Sciences E112L
<b>Human Anatomy (Lecture)</b>	Biological Sciences D170*
<b>Human Anatomy (Lab)</b>	Biological Sciences D170*
<b>Statistics</b>	Statistics 7 or 8
<b>Intro to Psychology OR Lifespan Development Psychology</b>	Intro to Psychology: Psychology 7A or 9A
<b>Intro to Sociology OR Intro to Cultural Anthropology</b>	Intro to Sociology: Sociology 1 Intro to Cultural Anthropology: Anthropology 2A

\*At UC Irvine, Human Anatomy lecture and lab are included in a single course, Biological Sciences D170

You may use the prerequisite checklist course examples from UC Irvine to help find equivalent courses at community colleges through [assist.org](http://assist.org) or by comparing course descriptions using UC Irvine’s General Catalogue (<http://catalogue.uci.edu/allcourses/>).

It is critical that applicants submit a clear, complete Prerequisite Checklist in their application. This is a sample of how the Prerequisite Checklist should be filled out:

Prerequisite Required <i>Example courses offered at UC Irvine</i>	College/University Where Fulfilled	Course Department/ Number and Course Title	Quarter Units or Semester Units	Semester/Quarter Term and Year Completed	Letter Grade
<b>Intro to Psych OR Lifespan Development Psych</b>  <i>PSYCH 7A OR 9A PSCI 9 OR 11A</i>	Irvine Valley College	PSYC 1 Introduction to Psychology	3.0 Semester Units	Fall 2018	B+

**NOTE:** Some schools combine the lecture and lab components of Microbiology, Human Physiology, and/or Human Anatomy. If this is the case for your prerequisite(s), please fill out course information in the “lecture” row and write “see above” in the “lab” row. As a reminder, we do not require a lab for the Chemistry requirement.

## Unofficial Transcripts

Applicants must upload unofficial copies of transcripts from all college and universities attended in their application. Applicants do not need to submit official transcripts to UCI when they submit their application. Admitted students who accept their offers of admission will be prompted to submit their official transcripts at a later date.

Applicants must include their transcripts from their Bachelor’s Degree in their application. The Bachelor’s Degree transcripts should clearly list final GPA and the degree conferral date.

Students who received their Bachelor’s Degree outside of the United States should upload a copy of evaluations and translations in their application. All graduate programs at the School of Nursing require professional transcript evaluations by an independent educational evaluating service from any member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services or the Association of International Credential Evaluators, Inc. Applicants should note that foreign transcript evaluation services may take several weeks to process and should plan accordingly. The report uploaded to the application must include a degree-equivalent evaluation and course-by-course equivalent evaluation for any prerequisites.

The School of Nursing and the University of California do not endorse or have a formal partnership with any specific transcript evaluation agencies. However, some applicants have used the following services:

- World Education Services, Inc. (<http://www.wes.org/>)
- International Education Research Foundation (<http://www.ierf.org/>)

## English Language Proficiency

International students applying to the MEPN program should consult the UCI Graduate Admissions page on English Language proficiency requirements before applying to determine if a TOEFL or IELTS test score is required for admission: <https://grad.uci.edu/admissions/applying-to-uci/english-proficiency.php>

The School of Nursing does not waive TOEFL or IELTS English test scores for applicants.

## Application Submission

Applicants must pay an application fee in order to successfully submit their application. More information about the fee and potential fee waivers for eligible students can be found here: <https://grad.uci.edu/admissions/applying-to-uci/application-fee-information.php>

The School of Nursing does not collect and does not process graduate application fees. The School of Nursing does not manage the application fee waiver process. All questions about application submission fees should be directed to UCI Graduate Division via their admissions website.

The MEPN application deadline for students applying to join the Summer 2021 cohort is December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Any applications submitted after this deadline will not be accepted nor will they be reviewed. A complete application submission includes all of the components listed in this guide, including all three letters of recommendation and successful payment of the application fee.

Applicants will be notified of admissions decisions in late Winter or early Spring 2021 via email. Applicants should monitor the email address that they provide on their Online Application carefully; if the Graduate Student Affairs Office needs additional clarification regarding your application, you will be contacted via email.

## Understanding MEPN Program Requirements & Costs

Students applying to the MEPN program at UC Irvine are required to enroll in two years of coursework outlined below:

Year One				Year Two			
Summer Session (10 Week Session)	Fall Quarter	Winter Quarter	Spring Quarter	Summer Session (Session II)	Fall Quarter	Winter Quarter	Spring Quarter

Required Summer Session tuition and fees differ from tuition and fees applied during the regular academic year (fall, winter, and spring quarters).

Applicants can find current program tuition and fees for the MEPN Program on the UCI Registrar’s website (refer to current year under the “Charts” section and then find “Master of Science in Nursing” on the following page): <https://www.reg.uci.edu/fees/>

## Additional Nursing Student Costs

There are certain costs, such as the cost to purchase scrubs, associated with Nursing School beyond posted tuition and fees. Applicants can learn more about these costs here: [https://nursing.uci.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Nursing-Science-Supplemental-Costs\\_MEPN\\_SP20.pdf](https://nursing.uci.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Nursing-Science-Supplemental-Costs_MEPN_SP20.pdf)

## UC Irvine Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships

UC Irvine's Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships can help provide applicants with information about potential sources of funding. Applicants can find important information for entering students here: <https://www.ofas.uci.edu/content/GraduateEntering.aspx>

The School of Nursing does not provide MEPN students with the opportunity to TA in the Nursing Science department. However, students may find opportunities independently with other departments on campus at UC Irvine. The School of Nursing does not coordinate those opportunities and students are responsible for seeking out those positions.

UC Irvine's Graduate Division also offers resources for graduate students to learn about funding opportunities: <https://grad.uci.edu/funding/index.php>

## Frequently Asked Questions about MEPN

### Is the Master's program at UCI an online, hybrid, or on-campus course?

All of the lecture courses in the Master's program curriculum are on-campus.

### When will the program start?

The first course will start during the 10-week summer session (near the end of June).

### When are the lecture courses offered?

Lecture courses will be scheduled at least twice a week during the day. There are no evening classes.

### When are the clinical rotations scheduled?

The number of hours required each quarter varies. They are scheduled approximately 2 days a week and may include evening and weekend shifts. Clinicals begin in the Spring quarter of the first year.

### Is there a time limit on when I took my prerequisites?

No, there is no time limit, but it is recommended that you have completed your core science and statistics courses within the past 5 years.

### If I don't have a 3.0 GPA in my bachelor's degree, can I still apply?

The MEPN program is highly competitive. UC Irvine's Graduate Division requires a 3.0 GPA in your bachelor's degree for admission. Students applying to the program with a GPA under 3.0 require an exception from the School of Nursing in order to be admitted. One factor taken into account for the exception is the GPA in a graduate degree. We are also looking at healthcare volunteer and work activities, leadership, etc. While exceptions are rare, if you feel you are an exceptional candidate, you are welcome to apply.

## **I did not receive a 3.0 GPA during my undergraduate studies. If I retake my prerequisites, will this increase my chances of admission?**

We will be looking at your cumulative GPA from your bachelor's degree. We do not calculate a cumulative GPA of all college courses you've taken (including the prerequisite courses you might take at a community college).

## **I'm planning to complete all my prerequisite courses by the end of Spring prior to the Summer start of the program, can I still apply?**

No, you must complete all prerequisite courses, as well as your non-nursing bachelor's degree, by the end of December before submitting your application for the following Summer cohort.

## **Can I apply while my courses are in progress?**

Yes, but we encourage you to wait until you have your final grades to submit your application. Your prerequisites and your undergraduate degree must be completed by the end of December prior to Summer entry.

## **Is there a repeat limit on prerequisite courses?**

No.

## **How long should my Statement of Purpose and Personal History be?**

Both the Statement of Purpose and the Personal History sections of the application have a 1200 word maximum, for a total of 2400 words. You must answer both questions within both the Statement of Purpose and the Personal History within the 1200 word maximum.

## **Does your program require the TEAS test or GRE test?**

No, we do not require these tests for admission. If an applicant includes these test scores on their application, the scores are not taken into consideration during application review.

## **How do I know whether a course I have taken fulfills the prerequisite requirement?**

Generally, if the prerequisites were taken at a 2-4 year regionally accredited institution and have the following requirements, it will be acceptable:

- Combined Anatomy & Physiology courses: year-long sequence required
- Anatomy, Physiology & Microbiology must have a lab component and must be human-related (no animal or plant-related topics). Combined lecture/lab courses are acceptable – please list the combined course under both the lecture and lab spaces on the prerequisite sheet and make a note that it is combined.
- Chemistry prerequisites: 1 course in General Chemistry OR a combination Chemistry course (must contain inorganic (general), organic & biochem). Generally, no introduction or fundamental chemistry courses are allowed (unless it's a combination course).
- Statistics prerequisite: 1 course containing descriptive & inferential statistics will be acceptable
- Sociology: the course must be either an Introduction to Sociology or Cultural Anthropology course. Courses that are too specific will not be accepted (i.e. Economic Sociology or special topics courses).

## **Is it possible to see when all of my recommendation letters have been received?**

You should be able to see any updates on your application status page. If you have specific questions regarding navigating the application, please email [gradapplicant@uci.edu](mailto:gradapplicant@uci.edu).



## **Do I have to have a Professor and Clinical Employer/Supervisor write my letters of recommendation?**

We require at least one letter of recommendation from a Professor who can attest to your academic readiness for your graduate level work, and one letter from a clinical employer/supervisor (even volunteer work counts!) who can speak to your professional work experience. If you do not have a clinical employer/supervisor or Professor who is able to write you a letter of recommendation, choose someone who can best speak to your academic and professional readiness.

## **Can I submit more than 3 letters of recommendation?**

No, you may only submit 3. Any extra letters will not be reviewed.

## **I received my previous degree from a school outside the United States. What do I need to include in my application?**

All graduate programs at the School of Nursing require professional transcript evaluations by an independent educational evaluating service from any member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services or the Association of International Credential Evaluators, Inc. Students should upload a copy of evaluations and translations in their application.

Applicants should note that foreign transcript evaluation services may take several weeks to process and should plan accordingly. The report uploaded to the application must include a degree-equivalent evaluation and course-by-course equivalent evaluation for any prerequisites.

The School of Nursing and the University of California do not endorse or have a formal partnership with any specific transcript evaluation agencies. However, some applicants have used the following services:

World Education Services, Inc.  
<http://www.wes.org/>

International Education Research Foundation  
<http://www.ierf.org/>

## **I opened the Graduate Application and did not see MEPN listed. Where is it?**

The MEPN program is listed on UCI's Graduate Application as Master's Degree program "Nursing Science with a Concentration in Community and Population Health."

## **If I'm admitted to the program, will I need my own transportation for clinical rotations?**

Yes, students will need their own transportation to our partner hospitals, clinics, and community sites.

## **Can I still work while enrolled in the program?**

Part-time work may be possible. However, please keep in mind that MEPN is a full-time, accelerated program, and the pace and intensity are demanding.

## **How many times a year do you admit students? Does your program admit students on a rolling basis?**

We admit students once per year. We do not do rolling admissions. All applications are reviewed after the deadline. Applicants are notified of their admission status in the Spring.

## **Will I be able to become a Nurse Practitioner after finishing this degree?**

The MEPN program is a pre-licensure nursing program and not an advanced nursing degree. After graduating from the MEPN program, you'll be eligible to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) to become licensed as an RN. If you're interested in becoming an NP, you will need to apply to an advanced nursing program.

## **Do you accept international students?**

Yes, we accept international students into the program. However, please keep in mind in order to sign up for the NCLEX, students are required to either have a Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer ID Number (ITIN). Getting an ITIN or SSN beforehand will prevent any delays with the BRN.

## **How do I know if I'm eligible to waive the TOEFL exam?**

In order to be eligible, your entire degree must be earned at an English-speaking institution. US citizens are automatically waived. Please refer to UCI Graduate Division's Academic Qualifications or contact [gradapplicant@uci.edu](mailto:gradapplicant@uci.edu) if you have any questions regarding international application requirements.

## **How much is the program?**

View the Registrar's Office website for information about fees. Note: These fees are for the academic year only. They do not include summer session.