

## **Interested in MEPN at UC Irvine, but looking for more information?**

You're in the right spot to learn more about applying to our  
Master's Entry Program in Nursing (MEPN) at UCI.  
We hope that you consider pursuing a career in Nursing with UC  
Irvine as your first stop!

**A few terms to  
clarify before  
we get  
started...**

**Pre-licensure Registered Nursing Program:**

Students wishing to obtain a license as a Registered Nurse (RN) must complete a pre-licensure nursing program which includes the required coursework, training, clinical hours, etc. needed to become eligible to take the NCLEX-RN exam. Pre-licensure nursing programs must be approved by the Board of Registered Nursing.

**California Board of Registered Nursing:**

Each state in the U.S. has its own Board of Registered Nursing. Among other things, the California BRN reviews and approves pre-licensure nursing programs in the State of California.

**NCLEX-RN Exam:**

The NCLEX-RN examination is a Computerized Adaptive Test (CAT) designed to test knowledge, skills, and abilities essential to the safe and effective practice of nursing at the entry level. Anyone wishing to obtain an RN license must pass the NCLEX-RN standardized exam.

**There are several different types of pre-licensure nursing programs available:**

*MEPN is this type of program*

**Associate's  
Degree in  
Nursing  
-  
ADN Programs**

**Bachelor's  
Degree in  
Nursing  
-  
BSN Programs**

**"Accelerated  
BSN" or 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Baccalaureate  
Programs**

**Master's Entry  
Programs**



**Each type of program prepares you to take the NCLEX-  
RN Exam**

**ADN Programs**

**BSN Programs**

**2<sup>nd</sup>  
Baccalaureate  
Programs**

**Master's Entry  
Programs**

**Test for the RN License**

NCLEX-RN EXAM

Each type of program prepares will also grant you an academic degree upon completion:



**Fast Facts  
about  
UC Irvine's  
MEPN  
Program**

**MEPN is a full-time, two-year program**

MEPN is in-person and doesn't have part-time options available. It requires students to attend classes at UC Irvine and complete clinical rotations at local hospitals and organizations in the greater Orange County area.

**MEPN is a general pre-licensure Registered Nursing program**

MEPN provides students with the education, training, and clinical hours to become Registered Nurses. It doesn't include Advanced-Practice RN coursework (APRN), but our graduates can apply to APRN programs, including Nurse Practitioner Programs.

**MEPN and Public Health Nursing**

Upon graduation from MEPN, students are eligible to take the NCLEX-RN exam and will receive a Master's Degree: a Master of Science in Nursing Science with a concentration in Community and Population Health Nursing. Graduates are also eligible for certification in California as a Public Health Nurse.

**It's an exciting time in  
the School of Nursing  
at UC Irvine!**



**In Fall 2022, we opened a brand-new building with a new, expanded simulation center and high-tech classrooms.**

## What courses do students take in MEPN?

- **MEPN has a specific sequencing of classes. All classes are taken in the order and in the term reflected on our curriculum plan:**
  - [https://nursing.uci.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/MEPN-Nursing-Science-Course-Planner\\_First-Year-2023.pdf](https://nursing.uci.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/MEPN-Nursing-Science-Course-Planner_First-Year-2023.pdf)
- **Students are only admitted to start the program in the Fall, we don't offer Spring admission to the program.**
- **We do not require summer session courses in MEPN.**
- **You can review MEPN course descriptions in UCI's Academic Catalogue:**
  - [https://catalogue.uci.edu/allcourses/nur\\_sci/](https://catalogue.uci.edu/allcourses/nur_sci/)



**Next, we'll focus more on how to  
apply to MEPN...**

All information needed to apply to MEPN is available on  
our website:

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



**Luckily, we have  
a guide to help**

We update our guide to applying each year with information relevant to that year's application. The guide outlines MEPN admissions requirements, application components, where to submit your materials in the UCI Graduate Application, and more.

You can access the Fall 2023 MEPN Guide to Applying on our website here:

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

## How do I apply to MEPN at UC Irvine?

- **MEPN is a graduate-level program at UC Irvine.**
  - Applicants to MEPN will submit their applications through the UC Irvine Graduate Application.
- **Start by reviewing information on the MEPN Admissions website for specific instructions for applying to the MEPN program.**
  - Pay special attention to required prerequisite courses, essay prompts, application requirements, deadlines for applying, etc.
- **When you're ready, you'll submit your application through the UC Irvine Graduate Application here: <https://apply.grad.uci.edu/apply/>**
  - MEPN is listed as a "Master's Degree" program under "Nursing Science – Community and Population Health Concentration" in the UCI Graduate Application system.

## What are the admissions requirements for MEPN?

- **Completion of a non-nursing Bachelor's Degree from a regionally-accredited institution**
- **A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher in your Bachelor's Degree**
  - Unsure what your final GPA was? Check your final transcript and reach out to the Registrar's Office of your university if you're still unsure.
- **Completion of all prerequisite course requirements with a letter grade of "C" or higher.**
  - This is the requirement that we receive the most questions about. Don't worry, we will cover them in much more detail in later slides.

## **Understanding the GPA Requirement**

- **UC Irvine's Graduate Division requires a 3.0 GPA in your Bachelor's Degree for admission.**
- **Students applying to MEPN with a Bachelor's GPA under 3.0 require an exception from the School of Nursing in order to be admitted.**
  - This exception process is completed by the School of Nursing after you submit your application. It does not require any additional submission from the applicant.
- **Factors considered for an exception include: GPA in a graduate degree, healthcare volunteer experience and work activities, leadership, etc.**
- **Exceptions are rare. However, if you feel you are an exceptional candidate, you are welcome to apply.**

## Understanding deadlines & requirements

- **You must complete your Bachelor's Degree by December 31<sup>st</sup> in the year that you submit your application to MEPN.**
  - Check your final degree date as posted on your final degree transcripts.
  - If you plan to graduate in Spring, please wait until the following Fall application to apply.
- **You must complete all prerequisite courses by December 31<sup>st</sup> in the year that you submit your application to MEPN.**
- **You must submit your UC Irvine Graduate Application and have all your letters of recommendation submitted by your recommenders by our application deadline.**
- **The Fall 2023 MEPN Application deadline is November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**
  - If you finish your bachelor's degree or prerequisite courses in the Fall 2023 term (after the application deadline), you still need to submit your application on time.

## **A note about Fall 2023 coursework**

**If you are completing your Bachelor's Degree or any of your final remaining prerequisite courses in the Fall 2023 term and you're applying to MEPN in Fall 2023:**

- Submit your complete application (the UC Irvine Graduate Application) for MEPN by our stated application deadline. For Fall 2023, it is November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- List any courses that you're finishing in Fall 2023 as "In-Progress" on your prerequisite checklist that you submit with your application.
- Submit your final transcripts for Fall 2023 coursework and degrees as "post-submission" documents to your UC Irvine Graduate Application (as soon as they're available).
  - Note: You can access the "post-submission" document submission section of your application after you submit your application.

**We are unable to make any exceptions to our deadlines.**

If you have prerequisites that you're finishing in 2024 or if you plan to graduate in 2024, you are not eligible to apply in Fall 2023.



## What are the application materials required for MEPN?

- **A statement of purpose essay response**
  - Following the Fall 2023 MEPN Application Essay Prompt Instructions posted on our website
- **Three letters of recommendation submitted on your behalf**
  - Letters should come from a combination of most recent clinical employer/supervisor & college faculty member.
- **A current resumé**
- **A completed Prerequisite Checklist**
  - Applicants must fill out the prerequisite checklist form linked on our website.
- **Unofficial transcripts from all universities/institutions**
- **Some applicants may need to supply TOEFL or IELTS English test scores**
  - The English Proficiency requirement is managed by UC Irvine's Graduate Division. Please review English Language Proficiency information here: <https://grad.uci.edu/admissions/applying-to-uci/>

## Fall 2023 Statement of Purpose Essay

MEPN applicants are required to submit one essay response, the Statement of Purpose, in the UC Irvine Graduate Application according to the instructions below:

Please response to the following prompt in 1000 words or less:

The MEPN program has a concentration in Community and Population Health. Please describe how your experiences and education have:

- Provided you with unique perspectives that will contribute to the richness of the MEPN program?
- Prepared you to enter the nursing profession with focus on addressing the barriers to healthcare among underserved populations?
- Influenced your future career goals?

*When reflecting on your previous experiences, examples that you may choose to address include, but are not limited to, those relevant to your:*

- o Education*
- o Residency and citizenship*
- o First-generation college status*
- o Cultural, economic, or other social identities*

**Fall 2023  
Statement of  
Purpose Essay**

MEPN applicants are **ONLY** required to submit a Statement of Purpose essay response per the specific prompt instructions listed in this presentation and on the MEPN admissions website.

MEPN applicants are **NOT** required to submit a Personal History Statement essay response. Please do not submit anything in the Personal History Statement essay section. Essay submissions in the Personal History Statement section of the UC Irvine Graduate Application will not be read nor considered in the admissions review process.

## Fall 2023: Letters of Recommendation

- **You must have all three letters of recommendation submitted on your behalf by the application deadline: November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**
  - It is your responsibility to communicate with your recommenders about this deadline. We encourage you to have recommenders submit at least a week before the application deadline.
- **We require three letters; we do not consider letters beyond the first three submitted.**
- **Letters should be from those who can speak to your academic and/or professional readiness to start a graduate-level program in Nursing.**
  - Ideally, letters should come from a combination of a recent clinical work or volunteer supervisor and a professor/faculty member that taught you in college-level coursework. However, if you're unable to secure either option, please use your best judgement to secure letters from those who can speak to your academic and/or professional readiness for MEPN.
- **UC Irvine's Graduate Division can assist with technical issues: [gradapplicant@uci.edu](mailto:gradapplicant@uci.edu)**
  - UCI School of Nursing staff cannot assist with letters of recommendation.

## **Fall 2023 Resumé**

### **MEPN applicants should include the following on their resume:**

- academic honors/recognition
- both healthcare and non-healthcare volunteer and work activities
- leadership positions
- bilingual/multilingual abilities

**We encourage applicants to review our “MEPN Resume/CV Guide” posted on our website: <https://nursing.uci.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/22-MEPN-Resume-CV-Guide.pdf>**

## Fall 2023: Prerequisites & Prerequisite Checklist

- **Applicants must complete all prerequisite courses with a letter grade of C or higher.**
  - All courses must be completed by December 31st preceding the program start date. For example, those applying in Fall 2023 to join the 2024 cohort must complete all prerequisites by December 31st, 2023.
  - AP test scores are not accepted for prerequisite course requirements.
  - We accept online courses, for both lectures and labs, for prerequisites.
  - We do not calculate a separate prerequisite GPA in our review.
- **Applicants must submit a completed Prerequisite Checklist in the UCI Graduate Application.**
  - You must use the **checklist** provided on our website: [https://nursing.uci.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/MEPN-Prerequisite-Checklist\\_wUCICourses\\_Updated-Spring-2021-Fillable.pdf](https://nursing.uci.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/MEPN-Prerequisite-Checklist_wUCICourses_Updated-Spring-2021-Fillable.pdf)
  - You must follow the **instructions** provided on our website: <https://nursing.uci.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Prerequisite-Sheet-Instructions.pdf>

## Fall 2023: Prerequisites & Prerequisite Checklist

- **There are seven prerequisite requirement categories:**
  - Chemistry
  - Microbiology with lab
  - Physiology with lab
  - Anatomy with lab
  - Statistics
  - Psychology
  - Sociology/Cultural Anthropology
- **Prerequisite requirements can only be satisfied with college/university-level coursework from a regionally-accredited institution. We do not accept test scores for these requirements.**

**Next, we'll provide more detail  
about each required prerequisite.**

As a reminder, this information is also available on our  
website under "Required Prerequisite Courses":  
<https://nursing.uci.edu/admissions/mepn-admissions/>





## Prerequisite Requirements: Chemistry

- A General Chemistry course OR a Chemistry course which includes a combination of inorganic (general), organic and biochemistry (must contain all 3). No lab required.
  - Sample acceptable UCI Course: General Chemistry: CHEM 1A-1B-1C
- Some schools may expand their Chemistry course into a series of two or more courses. We prefer that applicants complete the entire course series. For example, at UC Irvine, this would include CHEM 1A, CHEM 1B, and CHEM 1C.
- We do not accept introductory/fundamental-level General Chemistry courses for this requirement. “Combined” chemistry courses may be introductory/fundamental-level courses.
- Course(s) must total a minimum of 5 quarter units or 3 semester units.

## **Prerequisite Requirements: Microbiology**

- **Microbiology course(s) must include a lecture with a lab component.**
  - **Sample acceptable UCI Courses:** BIO SCI M122 and BIO SCI M118L
- **Some schools may separate these into two separate courses, while others may combine lecture and lab components into a single course. Both formats are acceptable.**
- **Course(s) must total a minimum of 5 quarter units or 3 semester units.**
- **You must take this requirement within 5 years of applying.**

Students applying in Fall 2023 must take Microbiology lecture/lab in the Fall 2018 or later. Courses taken in the Summer 2018 term (or earlier) will not be accepted.

## **Prerequisite Requirements: Human Physiology**

- **Human Physiology course(s) must include a lecture with a lab component and be human-focused only.**
  - **Sample acceptable UCI Courses:** BIO SCI E109 and BIO SCI E112L
  - Plant/Animal Physiology courses are not accepted.
- **Some schools may separate these into two separate courses, while others may combine lecture and lab components into a single course. Both formats are acceptable.**
  - Some schools may offer a combined “Anatomy and Physiology” year-long series. We accept this format if it includes lab components and applicants complete the full year-long series.
- **Course(s) must total a minimum of 5 quarter units or 3 semester units.**
- **You must take this requirement within 5 years of applying.**

## **Prerequisite Requirements: Human Anatomy**

- **Human Anatomy course(s) must include a lecture with a lab component and be human-focused only.**
  - **Sample acceptable UCI Course:** BIO SCI D170
  - Plant/Animal Anatomy courses are not accepted.
- **Some schools may separate these into two separate courses, while others may combine lecture and lab components into a single course. Both formats are acceptable.**
  - Some schools may offer a combined “Anatomy and Physiology” year-long series. We accept this format if it includes lab components and applicants complete the full year-long series.
- **Course(s) must total a minimum of 5 quarter units or 3 semester units.**
- **You must take this requirement within 5 years of applying.**

## **Prerequisite Requirements: Statistics**

- **A statistics course containing descriptive and inferential statistics topics.**
  - **Sample acceptable UCI Courses:** Stats 7 OR Stats 8

## **Prerequisite Requirements: Psychology**

- **An Introduction to Psychology OR Developmental Psychology course.**
  - **Sample acceptable UCI Courses:** Psych 7A OR Nur Sci 116
- **Course must either be introductory/general/fundamental courses that broadly cover the field of psychology or a developmental psychology course.**
- **Courses in other subfields of Psychology (e.g. Social Psychology) will not be accepted.**

**Prerequisite  
Requirements:  
Sociology/  
Cultural  
Anthropology**

- **An Introduction to Sociology or Cultural Anthropology course.**
  - **Sample acceptable UCI Courses:** SOCIOL 1 OR ANTHRO 2A
- **Course must either be introductory/general/fundamental courses that broadly cover the field of sociology or a cultural anthropology course.**
- **Courses in other subfields of Sociology or Anthropology (e.g. Medical Anthropology) will not be accepted.**

## Resources for Finding and Checking Prerequisites

Applicants may review and compare the sample UCI courses (including their course descriptions, units, etc.) listed in UC Irvine's Course Catalogue with courses they've taken.

<https://catalogue.uci.edu/allcourses/>

Applicants who take prerequisites at California Community Colleges may utilize [assist.org](https://assist.org) to determine which courses are acceptable. Use UC Irvine's "Nursing Science, B.S." major as a search term to find relevant prerequisite courses.

<https://assist.org/>



**Now, we'll review details and  
resources for preparing your  
application**



## Resources and Links for Applying

- **MEPN Admissions:** <https://nursing.uci.edu/admissions/mepn-admissions/>
- **UC Graduate Division Admissions:** <https://grad.uci.edu/admissions/applying-to-uci/>
  - Learn more about University requirements for graduate admission to UC Irvine, the UCI Graduate Application, English Language Proficiency, submitting transcripts, and more.
- **MEPN FAQs Page:** <https://nursing.uci.edu/faq-items/mepn-faq/>
  - Review answers to the most common questions we receive from applicants. If you have a situation that wasn't covered in this self-guided session, please check this page first before emailing.

## Reminders for Fall 2023

- **The application opens October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 with a strict deadline of November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for MEPN.**
  - Get your letters of recommendation in on time and ensure you're communicating with your recommenders. We don't make any exceptions for late letters of recommendation.
  - Submit with plenty of time to spare to avoid technical issues close to the deadline.
- **UC Irvine Graduate Application Fee Waiver:**  
**<https://grad.uci.edu/admissions/application-fee-fee-waivers/>**
  - If you need an application fee waiver, apply ASAP with UC Irvine's Graduate Division.
  - They will not be considered within 5 days of the deadline (any later than November 25th).
  - UCI School of Nursing Staff have no involvement in the fee waiver, application fees, payment questions.

## After you submit your application...

- **Check your email regularly for communication from our office or UC Irvine's Graduate Division.**
  - If you need to submit transcripts from Fall 2023 coursework, please be proactive and submit them as "post-submission" documents.
- **Please be patient! We know that you've put a tremendous amount of time and effort into your application. We want to ensure that we review each and every application received thoroughly.**
  - Given the high volume of applications that we receive, we cannot provide applicants with individual application updates via email.

**Some applicants may receive admissions updates as early as Winter 2024, but other applicants may receive updates at later times in Spring 2024.**



Questions?



For technical questions  
about the application and  
fee waiver information:

UCI Graduate Division  
Admissions Staff  
[gradapplicant@uci.edu](mailto:gradapplicant@uci.edu)

For questions about the  
MEPN program and  
requirements:

UCI School of Nursing Graduate  
Student Affairs Staff  
[gnsao@uci.edu](mailto:gnsao@uci.edu)