

Pre-Nurse Practitioner Academic & Career Information

NATURE OF THE WORK, EARNINGS AND OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK

Nurse practitioners, also referred to as advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), provide primary and specialty health care under the supervision of a physician, but the physician does not need to be present. The scope of practice varies from state to state and by specialty, but common duties include conducting physicals, making diagnoses, treatments and consultations with patients, ordering tests and prescribing medications, with more specific duties being similar to those of physicians working in the same specialty.

Following are the duties and responsibilities for five APRN specialties:

1. **Primary Care Nurse Practitioners** are generalists who work in family health clinics or hospitals. They provide general and preventative care, conduct check-ups, treat illnesses, order lab tests and prescribe medication for children and adults.
2. **Pediatric Nurse Practitioners** often work in consultation with doctors in a children's ward. Some deal exclusively with neonates, while others concentrate on older children, up to age 18, in the pediatric ward. In some work situations, pediatric nurse practitioners maintain their own patients and make decisions about necessary treatment.
3. **Geriatric Nurse Practitioners** provide care, treatment and counseling for elderly patients and their families. Often, after assisting doctors in determining appropriate treatment, geriatric nurse practitioners are responsible for designing an exercise program for recovering patients.
4. **Oncology Nurse Practitioners** diagnose and consult on the treatment regimen of cancer patients, and may advise patients about possible participation in clinical trials. The follow-up, monitoring and recording of the process is one of the main responsibilities of the oncology nurse practitioner. Results of trial participation are entered into research conclusions and are often published.
5. **Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners** often hold a Ph.D. They may act as therapists and also prescribe appropriate medications. Although not authorized to conduct psychological testing, they regularly work closely with psychologists and psychiatrists in reviewing test results and determining a course of action.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the projected job growth for nurse practitioners will be much faster than average at 45% from 2020-2030. In 2021 the national median salary was \$117,670. According to California Labor Market Information (LMI), in 2021 entry level pay was \$120, average pay was \$138,229, and top pay was >\$145,600.

NURSE PRACTITIONER PREPARATION

Nurse Practitioners are registered nurses who have completed additional training in an approved program. Nurse Practitioner programs are commonly two to three years in length. Most advanced practice registered nursing programs (APRN) prefer candidates who have bachelor's degree in nursing. However, some schools offer bridge programs for registered nurses with an associate's degree or diploma in nursing. Graduate-level programs for those without a bachelor's degree in nursing (but in a related health field) prepare students for the RN licensure exam in addition to the APRN curriculum ([Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2018](#)).

MAJOR

A Bachelor's of Science in Nursing is required for admission to most nurse practitioner programs. Coursework includes all or most of the following: anatomy and physiology, basic nutrition, chemistry, emergency medical care, psychology for nurses, geriatric care, maternal-child care and nursing science.

APPLICATION:

Because enrollment is limited, admissions is highly competitive. It is common for students to apply for admission to both the college and to its school of nursing. Admission requirements may require an interview, aptitude test, and a strong academic background.

SOURCES:

<http://nursejournal.org/nurse-practitioner/what-to-know-to-become-a-nurse-practitioner/>

<http://www.learnhowtobecome.org/nurse/nurse-practitioner/>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR CALIFORNIA NURSE PRACTITIONER SCHOOLS

Listed below are the prerequisite admission requirements for a few programs in California. Also, please note that some California nurse practitioner programs will require students to have a bachelor's degree and/or to have a California registered nurse license as part of the admissions process.

This is NOT a comprehensive list of prerequisites for all programs. Students maintain responsibility for verifying course selection with individual programs, especially for the Biology requirements.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD

http://www.csub.edu/nursing/_files/MSN%20FNP%20Program-Factsheet.pdf

CSU Bakersfield Prerequisites	IVC Courses
One course in Statistics	MATH 10 or ECON 10/10H or MGT 10/10H
One course in Pathophysiology	No courses equivalent at IVC
One course in Nursing Research	No courses equivalent at IVC

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

http://catalog.csulb.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=5&poid=2120

CSU Long Beach Prerequisites	IVC Courses
One course in Statistics	MATH 10 or MGT 10/10H or ECON 10/10H
One course in Pathophysiology	No courses equivalent at IVC
One course in Physical Assessment course with a lab	No courses equivalent at IVC

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES

<https://www.calstatela.edu/hhs/nursing/graduate-and-certificate-programs>

CSU Los Angeles Prerequisites	IVC Courses
One course in Statistics	MATH 10 or ECON 10/10H or MGT 10/10H or PSYC 10/10H
One course in Health Assessment	No courses equivalent at IVC
One course in Nurse Research	No courses equivalent at IVC

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

*This program is designed for students with a non-nursing Bachelor's degree

UC Irvine Prerequisites	IVC Courses
One course in Statistics	MATH 10
One course in Psychology	PSYC 1/1H
One course in Sociology/Cultural Anthropology	SOC 1/1H or ANTH 2/2H
One course in Anatomy w/lab	BIO 11
One course in Physiology	BIO 12
One course in Microbiology w/lab	BIO 15
One course in General Chemistry or Inorganic, Organic and Biochemistry	CHEM 1A or CHEM 1B or CHEM 12A or CHEM 12B and BIO 83

UC LOS ANGELES<https://www.nursing.ucla.edu/admissions/graduate/msn-advanced-practice-registered-nurse-aprn>

UCLA Prerequisites	IVC Courses
One course in Statistics	MATH 10 or PSYC 10
One Upper division course in Nursing Research	No courses equivalent at IVC
One course in Physical Assessment	No courses equivalent at IVC
One course in Human Physiology	BIO 12