



Dean, Fielding School of Public Health
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California

THE SEARCH

The [University of California, Los Angeles](#) (UCLA) seeks a passionate and exceptional leader to serve as the dean of the [UCLA Fielding School of Public Health](#) (UCLA Fielding or FSPH). The incoming dean will have the opportunity to build upon the School's deep traditions of excellence and community engagement to ensure the School fully delivers on the moral imperative of building and ensuring healthy communities in greater Los Angeles, California, the nation, and the world.

Founded in 1961, UCLA Fielding was founded to drive positive change for all people. Over the past six decades, FSPH has developed an international reputation and become deeply respected for its impactful work: research and direct engagement, educating scores of public health professionals, and tackling major public health crises, including HIV/AIDS, poor air quality, impacts of natural disasters, and health inequities. One of UCLA's 12 professional schools, FSPH consistently ranks among the top 10 such schools in the nation. The school is comprised of five departments that represent the core disciplines in public health — biostatistics, community health sciences, environmental health sciences, epidemiology, and health policy and management — and is also home to 18 research centers that lead innovative efforts in health equity, infectious diseases, nutrition, environmental genomics, health policy, climate change, global and immigrant health, social policy, population and reproductive health and more. FSPH also has 19 memoranda of understanding with institutions in countries that include Cambodia, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Germany, Mexico and the Philippines. Of its 210 faculty members, 76 of whom are full time, 17 are members of the National Academy of Medicine.

UCLA Fielding has reached many milestones in recent years. Newly developed self-supporting, hybrid and online master's programs in Data Science in Health and Healthcare Administration have broadened the School's offerings and a new undergraduate degree program in public health—which graduated its first cohort in May 2025—has risen in popularity on campus. In this context, UCLA Fielding is well-positioned to further activate its potential within one of the very best public universities in the nation, while being surrounded by the most diverse communities in Los Angeles.

In 2025, UCLA welcomed [Julio Frenk](#), an internationally renowned public health scholar and leader, as its new chancellor. Chancellor Frenk also serves as a distinguished professor of health policy and management at UCLA Fielding. Under his leadership, the University continues to advance its 2023-2028 strategic plan, "[Creating the Future](#)," and its goals are intimately tied to the School's priority areas for

development and investment. Looking forward to 2028 and the city's [LA28 initiative](#), UCLA's centrally-located campus will serve as the Olympic and Paralympic Village for the summer Olympic Games, which will be hosted in Los Angeles. As such, the dean will join UCLA at a moment of great opportunity, as it positions itself as a nexus for positive and lasting impact in Los Angeles, the nation, and around the world.

In this context, the UCLA Fielding community seeks a dean who will advance the School's standing as an inspiring leader in public health and health equity scholarship and practice during a time of transition in higher education and healthcare. To ensure the success of the School, the dean will lead this community with an entrepreneurial mindset, charting the path forward during a time of funding uncertainty; uphold and advance the School's commitment to inclusive excellence; and demonstrate a strong dedication to shared governance and advocacy both on campus and beyond. To that end, the dean will address the following opportunities and challenges, outlined in greater detail on page five of this document:

- Guide a vision for UCLA Fielding that propels forward its academic mission, research excellence, and community engagement
- Fortify external relationships and community partnerships to cement UCLA Fielding's influence and impact within the region;
- Ensure a robust resource base and diversify funding streams to realize the School's ambitious objectives;
- Foster greater collaboration across the UCLA campus and the UC system;
- Recruit, develop, retain, and inspire a dynamic and world-class faculty and staff; and
- Serve as an important presence and voice in local, regional, and national public health discourse and current events.

A full list of desired qualifications and characteristics of the dean can be found at the conclusion of this document, which was prepared by the search committee with the assistance of Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm. All applications, inquiries, and nominations should be directed in confidence to the parties listed at the conclusion of this document.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Widely recognized as one of [the top public universities](#) in the country and one of the world's top research institutions, UCLA is an international leader in breadth and quality of academic, research, health care, wellness, cultural, continuing education, and athletic programs, with more than 6,550 faculty members who teach approximately 48,000 students in [the UCLA College and 12 professional schools](#). This vibrant community comprises world-renowned faculty, scholarship, and resources, including 16 Nobel Laureates and 15 MacArthur Fellows, a preeminent medical center, and a Division I athletics program that boasts 120 NCAA championships. An effective engine for social mobility, UCLA ranked first among the top 25 national universities for social mobility in 2024, and nearly one-third of UCLA undergraduates are first-generation students. The university also consistently ranks among the top institutions for research funding, having generated nearly \$1.6 billion in research grants and contracts in the last fiscal year alone.

With a 419-acre campus in Westwood and recent site acquisitions in Downtown and West Los Angeles, UCLA is enriched by the cultural diversity of the dynamic greater Los Angeles area and the geographic advantages of Southern California. Civic engagement is fundamental to the University's mission as a public university. Located on the Pacific Rim in one of the world's most vibrant cities, UCLA reaches beyond campus boundaries to establish partnerships locally and globally. The university seeks to serve society through both teaching and scholarship, to educate successive generations of leaders, and to pass on to students a renewable set of skills and commitment to social engagement. UCLA endeavors to integrate education, research, and service so that each enriches and extends the others. This integration promotes academic excellence and nurtures innovation and scholarly development.

ABOUT THE FIELDING SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

UCLA Fielding aims to build health and equity, and to drive positive change for all people. UCLA Fielding acts on this mission through initiatives in three core areas: education, discovery, and service. In each of these realms, the School affirms its commitment to developing leaders and evidence-based solutions, and to working in partnership with communities to promote health and well-being in ways that are innovative, respectful, and inclusive.

FSPH is home to one of the brightest and most diverse public health student bodies in the United States, with more than 1,000 students hailing from 25 countries. FSPH has five academic departments — [Biostatistics](#), [Community Health Sciences](#), [Environmental Health Sciences](#), [Epidemiology](#) and [Health Policy and Management](#) — and [18 research centers](#), and offers seven degree types: B.S., B.A., M.P.H., M.S., M.H.A., MDSH and Ph.D. Students can also combine an M.P.H. with an M.D., J.D., M.B.A., M.S.W., M.P.P. or MURP, or with M.A. programs in African, Asian American or Latin American studies. Multidisciplinary collaboration is encouraged and enhanced by FSPH's presence on UCLA's unified Westwood campus. The school is co-located with UCLA's world-renowned hospital and schools of medicine, dentistry, nursing, engineering, law, management and public affairs; cross-campus initiatives in biosciences, data science and global studies; and access to dedicated biomolecular, genetic, environmental, and other science teaching and research facilities.

Amid increasing interest and understanding of public health's central role in addressing society's most pressing challenges – including the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, and health inequities fueled by factors that include structural racism – the School expanded its degree offerings to include two undergraduate bachelor's degrees since spring 2023: UCLA undergraduates could pursue a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science in public health. In 2025, 34 students graduated from one of these two undergraduate programs and enrollment has almost doubled from the initial cohort in 2023. In particular, students appreciated the capstone program which has an emphasis on practical, real-world projects, which has led to a surge in interest in these degree programs. Despite financial and political uncertainties, the School benefits from stable state-funded faculty positions and these growing undergraduate and graduate programs.

As a leader in innovative transdisciplinary multi-sectoral public health research, UCLA Fielding is known for partnering with state and local government agencies; informing decision-makers by providing evidence and evidence-based policy recommendations; and training the future leaders of public health agencies across the globe. It is especially known for its long-standing and strong partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, one of the largest and most innovative county health departments in the country and is known for the UCLA/Fogarty AIDS International Research and Training Program through which more than 3,000 health professionals from China have received training in the last three decades. In addition, its strong partnerships with private health foundations and organizations such as the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Kaiser Permanente have led to efforts to improve population health while at the same time promoting health equity in underserved and at-risk communities.

UCLA Fielding was named after Dr. Jonathan Fielding and his wife Karin Fielding. An innovator, leader, and public health visionary, Dr. Fielding was the founding director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and is a distinguished professor of health policy and management and of pediatrics at UCLA. UCLA Fielding's [Board of Advisors](#) is comprised of recognized community leaders who understand the importance of public health education, have a commitment to the field of public health, and who devote their time and energy to advance the strategic initiatives of the School.

UCLA Fielding has held continuous accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) since 1960 and is officially accredited through the end of 2028.

ROLE OF THE DEAN

As the chief executive and academic officer for the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, the dean provides strategic vision for and operational leadership of the School, which has an annual operating budget of approximately \$68 million.

The dean works to advance scholarship, education and civic engagement; encourage distinctive programmatic innovation; enhance excellence through diversity in educational programs and faculty and student recruitment; and link the work of the School's faculty and students to other disciplines, communities and interests within and outside of the academy. Supporting the University's research mission, the dean advances the faculty's scholarly activities, including opportunities afforded by interdisciplinary approaches. The dean serves as the School's public voice, articulating its contributions to local, state, regional, national and international communities, and pursuing an ambitious development program to build the School's resources.

Reporting to the executive vice chancellor and provost Darnell Hunt, the dean serves on the deans council and the council of professional school deans, collaborating with leadership across UCLA and the UC system as well as local, national and international leaders in public health. The dean has oversight of 210 faculty members, 76 of whom are full time. Direct reports include nine assistant/associate deans, five department chairs, and an executive assistant.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE DEAN

Guide a vision for UCLA Fielding that propels forward its academic mission, research excellence, and community engagement

UCLA Fielding stands at a transformative moment, ready to shape the next chapter of its vision and focus. With all departments ranked among the top ten nationally, the School is uniquely positioned to become the top-ranked public health institution in the country within the next decade. To achieve this, the dean will work closely with a unified FSPH community to further articulate and define the vision and direction of the School. Embodying the School's commitment to shared governance and transparency, the dean will openly and regularly consult with the School's stakeholders to develop, communicate, and implement this plan to maintain and increase a culture of excellence. In particular, the dean must continue an emphasis on expanding its academic programs across departments and centers, investing in infrastructure to support research, and driving interdisciplinary excellence and innovation that propels the academic mission forward. An effective communicator, collaborative visionary, and persuasive advocate, the dean must have the ability to navigate complex university and system dynamics, create buy-in and stakeholder support, and promote inclusive excellence to elevate UCLA Fielding's national prominence.

Fortify external relationships and community partnerships to cement UCLA Fielding's influence and impact within the region

FSPH's location in Los Angeles – one of the largest and most vibrant cities in the world – is an extraordinary asset to the intellectual vitality of the School. The Dean must deeply understand this, building upon existing community-engaged research and partnerships to contribute to the healthcare landscape of the city, region, and state. Further, FSPH is known for its long-standing partnerships with state and local government agencies—such as the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health—to provide evidence-based policy recommendations and supply the field with a future workforce equipped to engage in cutting-edge research and practice. The Dean will be instrumental in developing, strengthening, and amplifying local and regional ties to complement existing and future relationships and partnerships with various communities, organizations, and government agencies.

Ensure a robust resource base and diversify funding streams to realize the School's ambitious objectives

Given the complex financial and societal challenges facing higher education—and schools of public health—today, there is an urgent need for the dean to ensure that FSPH generates sufficient and diverse sources of revenues to support continued growth and program improvement. This endeavor will require a combination of skillful enrollment management, fundraising, and grant acquisition from new and diverse sources, and the continued development of distinctive, revenue-driving academic programs. The Dean will lead the School in cultivating diverse donors, promoting entrepreneurial enterprises, and initiating partnerships that could bring additional resources to the School. It is important that the dean is a responsible and vigilant steward of its resources, as well as being open and transparent about assessing the operational and administrative infrastructure in order to enhance the School's operational efficiency.

and effectiveness. Additionally, the dean will have the skills necessary to successfully advocate for the School with campus and UC leadership.

Foster greater collaboration across both the UCLA campus and the UC system

Co-located with the rest of a vibrant health sciences enterprise, UCLA Fielding has a history of impactful cross-disciplinary collaborations across the University. Going forward, there are tremendous opportunities to leverage the intellectual strengths of a variety of disciplines at other schools and departments on campus to foster collaborative and innovative interdisciplinary research, drive new educational offerings, and find opportunities for community engagement. Now more than ever, the UC's network of new and long-established public health schools will serve as a significant asset: the dean will establish stronger ties to pave the way for more UC system-wide partnerships, such as public health initiatives, research, joint programs, and collaborations.

Recruit, develop, retain, and inspire a dynamic and world-class faculty and staff

In partnership with department chairs, the dean will strategically work to recruit, retain, and support faculty members to UCLA Fielding. Given an expansion of tenure lines that came as a result of the School's new undergraduate programs, FSPH leadership has successfully recruited several full-time faculty members in recent years. Moving forward, the dean will continue to focus on attracting new faculty while at the same time finding opportunities—through development and endowed chairs, and through collaborations with other academic units—to mentor and retain top talent by developing and promoting policies, practices, and programs that encourage faculty professional growth. Despite broader uncertainties, morale in the School remains high; the dean will continue to serve as an effective role model and leader for faculty and staff, embracing the University of California's strong culture of shared governance and serving as an engaged, accessible, and visible leader who is committed to ensuring a healthy environment for the FSPH community.

Serve as an important presence and voice in local, regional, and national public health discourse and current events

The Dean, as the intellectual leader of UCLA Fielding, must be a powerful public presence, representing the School and its capabilities to the University, to Los Angeles, and to those external audiences externally for whom it provides knowledge, training, and expertise. FSPH is known as a valued resource on public health matters, such as local pandemic preparedness and wildfire response, public mental health in Los Angeles, addressing the needs of unhoused populations, creation of accessible public health communication strategies within local communities, and supporting the infrastructure of the upcoming global events such as the Olympics. The Dean must be comfortable leading on such matters, offering an informed perspective that amplifies FSPH's role in crucial conversations at the local, national, and international level.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The search committee enthusiastically welcomes applicants from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. Ideal candidates will be nationally and/or internationally recognized with demonstrated leadership and substantial administrative experience; strong scholarly visibility within the public health research community; and the capacity to exercise policy leadership at the local, state, national and international levels.

Minimum requirements include:

- A strong commitment to research, teaching and public service;
- Administrative leadership experience;
- A record of distinguished scholarly accomplishment;
- Demonstrated intellectual leadership in the area of public health;
- Proven success in — or aptitude for — external and alumni relations and development;
- An established record of advancing inclusive excellence; and
- Credentials that merit appointment at the rank of full professor.

In addition, the successful candidate will possess many, if not all, of the following characteristics and experiences:

- A record of developing professional relationships and partnerships across a variety of disciplines;
- Experience interfacing with the public on a variety of public health-related matters;
- The ability to deepen an institution's engagement with its surrounding communities;
- Experience managing large budgets in a complex organization;
- Exceptional oral and written communication skills;
- Strong interpersonal skills, including collegiality and collaboration;
- High standards of professional integrity and a strong sense of professional ethics;
- A strong commitment to academic norms, including shared governance.

LOCATION

Los Angeles is the epicenter for the global entertainment industry and one of the major economic centers of the State of California, which boasts one of the largest economies in the world. Los Angeles County has the largest population of any county in the United States and is one of the most populous metropolitan areas in the world. Its nearly 10 million residents represent more than 140 cultures and speak an estimated 224 languages. Located five miles from Santa Monica beach, UCLA enjoys an average of 292 sunny days each year. Home to one of the largest city parks in the country, countless hiking trails, and some of the nation's most renowned museums, Los Angeles is internationally recognized as one of the most livable cities in the world. Learn more at www.discoverlosangeles.com.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Confidential review of applications, nominations, and expressions of interest will begin immediately and will continue until an appointment is made. Submit applications, inquiries, and nominations through the Isaacson, Miller website: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/ucla-fielding-school-public-health/dean>. To be ensured full consideration, please submit a letter of interest and curriculum vitae by November 24, 2025. Electronic submission of materials is required.

The anticipated salary range for this position is \$475,000–\$595,000 and is commensurate with experience.

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity Employer advancing inclusive excellence. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, protected veteran status, or other protected categories covered by the UC nondiscrimination policy – <https://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4000376/DiscHarassAffirmAction>.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by UCLA. The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by UCLA would supersede any conflicting information in this document.