



UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing Dean
The University of California, Los Angeles

THE SEARCH

The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) invites inquiries, nominations and applications for the position of dean of the [UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing](#). Founded in 1949, the school prepares nurses and scholars to lead and transform nursing care in a rapidly changing, diverse and complex health care environment through academic excellence, innovative research, superior clinical practice, strong community partnerships across Los Angeles, and global initiatives.

The dean will join UCLA at an exciting and pivotal moment, both in its history and as higher education at large undergoes a period of significant uncertainty. The university welcomed Chancellor [Julio Frenk](#) in January 2025, and is currently advancing [flagship initiatives](#) that support the goals of its 2023-2028 strategic plan, which emphasize health sciences as integral to UCLA's identity and seek to deepen the university's connection to the city of Los Angeles. In 2025, Southern California entrepreneur and UCLA alumnus Joe C. Wen and his family made a [\\$30 million commitment](#) to the UCLA School of Nursing that will ensure the school's excellence and impact for years to come by supporting nursing education, elevating student achievement, and driving innovation in nursing research. Looking forward to 2028, 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 as it embraces the opportunity to position itself as a nexus for positive and lasting impact in Los Angeles, across the nation, and around the world.

In this context, the UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing seeks a dean who will advance the school's standing as a preeminent leader in nursing scholarship and practice during a time of transition and increased dynamism in higher education. To ensure its success and sustainability, the dean will lead the school in addressing the following opportunities and challenges, outlined in detail on pages 5-7 of this document:

- **Develop and advance a clear, ambitious agenda for research, teaching, and service with actionable priorities and outcomes;**
- **Expand the school's research enterprise and scholarly distinction;**
- **Build a connected and inclusive community across the UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing;**
- **Recruit, retain, and inspire a world-class faculty and staff;**

- **Strengthen relationships across UCLA to fully leverage the university's broader assets, especially those of UCLA Health;**
- **Inspire philanthropic investment and build external partnerships that advance the school's reach and impact; and**
- **Grow, steward, and strategically align resources to ensure long-term financial sustainability.**

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

ABOUT UCLA

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 6,800 faculty members who teach approximately 49,000 students in the UCLA College and 12 professional schools. This vibrant community comprises world-renowned faculty, scholarship, and resources, including 17 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 more than \$1.6 billion in research grants and contracts in the last fiscal year alone.

With its 419-acre campus in Westwood, UCLA Downtown in the city's historic core and the UCLA Research Park under development in 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.

UCLA's community is guided by its [True Bruin Values](#) of Integrity, Excellence and Belonging. These values emphasize ethical and transparent conduct, the highest standards in teaching, research, and service, and an inclusive environment grounded in mutual respect. Together, they shape how faculty, staff, and students collaborate and advance the university's public mission.

ABOUT UCLA JOE C. WEN SCHOOL OF NURSING

UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing's mission is to improve health, wellness, quality of life, and nursing care for people locally and globally, through research, education, nursing practice, and community engagement. Through the school's curriculum, students learn relevant theory, acquire practical skills, and are socialized into the profession of nursing. With a less than 1% acceptance rate for qualified undergraduate prelicensure nursing applicants, the school is among the most competitive degree programs at UCLA and attracts world-class students who have become leaders in transforming the nursing profession.

In 2025, a \$30 million commitment from UCLA alumnus and entrepreneur Joe C. Wen and his family was made to support the school's educational programs, expand its innovative research, and ensure UCLA's role in meeting the healthcare needs of California and the nation. In recognition of the transformative investment, the school has been renamed the UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing, making it the first UCLA school named for an Asian American.

Research and scholarship aimed at advancing nursing science are critical components of the school's mission. The school has 84 faculty and 452 students (239 at the graduate level). In addition to teaching and research, the school has taken advantage of its location in the large and vibrant city of Los Angeles to make its outreach program a model in the field. As the first undergraduate nursing program west of the Mississippi and the first in California to confer a Master of Science in Nursing degree, the school has a proud legacy of leadership and innovation, with a robust research enterprise. Recognized for educating nurse leaders, the school actively works to address the national nursing shortage by preparing graduates to lead across diverse settings, drive innovation, improve patient care, and transform healthcare from hospital systems to national policy arenas.

UCLA offers a rigorous curriculum imparting students with the knowledge and skills to respond to the healthcare needs of an increasingly diverse population. The school awards four degrees – a Bachelor of Science, Master of Science in Nursing, a Doctor of Nursing Practice, and a Doctor of Philosophy:

- **Bachelor of Science:** The BS Prelicensure program is designed to prepare students for a career in professional nursing practice. This is a traditional, four-year program beginning in the freshman year. Students successfully completing the BS degree also acquire an educational foundation for entry into the master's program that prepares nurses for advanced practice roles such as nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists and administrators in primary and acute care.
- **Master of Science in Nursing – Master's Entry Clinical Nursing (MECN):** The UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing has an option within the Master of Science in Nursing degree program that is designed to prepare individuals with a baccalaureate degree in another discipline for a career in nursing. Graduates of the program may also apply for a Public Health Nursing Certificate from the California Board of Registered Nursing.

- **Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP):** The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program is designed to prepare registered nurses to become experts and leaders in advanced practice while completing a doctoral degree in nursing. The DNP Program provides a pathway for post-baccalaureate nurses who desire the role of a nurse practitioner (NP) with doctoral-level knowledge and skills in advanced nursing practice, organizational and systems leadership, quality improvement and evidence-based practice, healthcare policy, population health, ethics, interprofessional collaboration, and quality and safety of patient care.
- **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD):** The UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing offers a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree program with the goal of developing the foundation of knowledge upon which the practice of the profession is based. Doctoral graduates serve as leaders who educate, influence practice, advance science, optimize healthcare delivery and influence healthcare policy worldwide.
- **UC Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program:** The UC Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program curriculum is competency-based and aligned with the National Organization for Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) core and population specific competencies which include: scientific foundations, leadership, quality, practice inquiry, technology and information literacy, policy, health delivery system and ethics. Developed in collaboration with the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis, University of California, Irvine – Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing, and UCSF School of Nursing, this program responds to California's critical shortage of mental health professionals.

To learn more about the UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing, visit: <https://www.nursing.ucla.edu/>

ABOUT UCLA HEALTH

UCLA Health is one of the nation's leading academic health systems and a cornerstone of UCLA's broader health sciences enterprise. For more than 50 years, UCLA Health has advanced a mission of providing exceptional patient care, driving discoveries that improve human health, and educating future generations of healthcare professionals. The system encompasses nationally recognized hospitals, specialty facilities, and an extensive ambulatory care network serving patients throughout Los Angeles, California, and beyond. UCLA Health's commitment to innovation, quality, and academic excellence has established it as a global leader in healthcare delivery and biomedical research.

For the UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing, the relationship with UCLA Health is among its greatest strategic assets. The School benefits from close connections to world-class clinicians, researchers, healthcare leaders, and clinical training environments that support the preparation of future nursing professionals and nurse scientists. These partnerships create opportunities for students and faculty to engage in interdisciplinary education, translational research, quality improvement initiatives, population health efforts, and workforce development programs that address some of healthcare's most pressing challenges.

UCLA Health's reputation for excellence is reflected in its sustained national recognition. Its hospitals have earned a place on the *U.S. News & World Report* Honor Roll for 37 consecutive years, a distinction reserved for a select group of health systems that demonstrate exceptional performance across numerous specialties. In 2026, UCLA Health was ranked the #1 health system in California and the #1 health system in Los Angeles.

ROLE OF THE DEAN

As the chief executive and academic officer for the school, the dean provides strategic vision for and operational leadership of the school, which has an annual operating budget of approximately \$24 million. The dean works to advance scholarship, education and civic engagement; encourage distinctive programmatic innovation; enhance inclusive excellence 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 will advance 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.

The dean serves on the executive vice chancellor and provost's deans council and the UCLA council of professional school deans, collaborating with [leadership across UCLA](#) and the UC system; representatives from affiliated institutions; and local, national and international leaders in nursing. As a member of UCLA's health sciences council, the dean collaborates with the senior vice chancellor for health sciences and the deans of dentistry, medicine and public health in the creation of increased opportunities for education, research and practice across UCLA Health and throughout the health professions.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE DEAN

Develop and advance a clear, ambitious agenda for research, teaching, and service with actionable priorities and outcomes

The dean will engage faculty, staff, and learners across the school and its programs, as well as key leaders across UCLA, to set and advance a shared vision and strategic framework to successfully guide the UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing into its next chapter. For many years, the school has excelled in producing high-impact science and offering exceptional academic programs. Looking forward, the next dean must continue to evaluate the school's academic and research programs to ensure their success and impact, and more deeply align the school with UCLA Health and university-wide goals. The dean will guide the continued development of the school's academic programs, ensuring that the curriculum reflects advances in nursing science and practice and assessing opportunities for new offerings in response to community and workforce needs.

Expand the school's research enterprise and scholarly distinction

Located at one of the leading universities in the country, the UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing enjoys resources available at only a handful of research-intensive institutions. The school's research drives advances in nursing knowledge, guides improvements in health services and patient care delivery, and contributes to the development of curriculum. Maintaining a high level of excellence in research and scholarship will be a key priority of the dean. They will take steps to increase research productivity for current research faculty, support clinical faculty to increase their involvement in research and scholarship, and identify and seek new research partnerships and funding sources.

Build a connected and inclusive community across the UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing

Community is central to the mission of the UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing, with students at its core. The dean will foster a student-centered and inclusive environment that attracts exceptional learners and supports their success through a rigorous and supportive academic experience. As a visible and engaged leader, the dean will address student concerns, strengthen support systems, and promote wellness and professional development. Equally important, the dean will build trust and cohesion among faculty and staff through open communication, transparent decision-making, and meaningful engagement across the school. Leading with empathy and clear expectations, the dean will address concerns directly and ensure faculty and staff feel valued and supported in their work. These efforts will be essential to strengthening a shared sense of purpose and a healthy environment for learning, teaching, research, and collaboration.

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

The UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing's faculty and staff are indispensable to its mission. The next dean will lead the recruitment, promotion, and retention of highly qualified faculty and staff committed to the school's mission. The dean will lead this endeavor with a focus on inclusive excellence, championing practices and policies to ensure that faculty and staff reflect the diversity of its student body, while creating an inclusive environment where all community members feel well-supported and empowered in their work. To be successful, the dean will have exceptional interpersonal and management skills, a passion for mentorship, and a commitment to creating opportunities for faculty and staff at all levels to thrive and contribute to the school's future.

Strengthen relationships across UCLA to fully leverage the university's broader assets, especially those of UCLA Health

The UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing sits at the intersection of one of the nation's leading research universities and one of the country's premier academic health systems. A central priority for the next dean will be strengthening and expanding the school's partnership with UCLA Health and the senior vice chancellor for Health Sciences, building deeper alignment across clinical care, education, research, workforce development, and academic-practice initiatives. The dean will work closely with nursing and

health system leadership, as well as with other health sciences deans, to create new opportunities for shared faculty appointments, clinical training, interdisciplinary collaboration, and innovation, while also fostering strong relationships with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and leaders across UCLA. Beyond the university, the dean will cultivate partnerships with UCLA academic affiliates, UC nursing peers and national and international collaborators to extend the school's reach and amplify its impact on the nursing profession.

Inspire philanthropic investment and build external partnerships that advance the school's reach and impact

The UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing has recently enjoyed major fundraising successes, including a \$30 million naming gift to support its academic programs and mission. Located in the heart of Los Angeles, the school operates in a dynamic and resource-rich environment, with access to the city's thriving industries, health care enterprises, philanthropic opportunities, and a growing alumni network. The incoming dean will be the school's chief fundraiser and biggest advocate. In partnership with the school's development team and central university advancement, the dean will articulate a compelling case for support and lead efforts to secure philanthropic investment. The dean will actively steward and deepen relationships with alumni, community leaders, and other key philanthropic stakeholders, while also expanding the school's base of support by engaging new stakeholders and donors.

Grow, steward, and strategically align resources to ensure long-term financial sustainability

The UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing is in good financial standing. However, like other schools within public research universities, it faces a challenging funding landscape and finite resources. The next dean will build on this foundation through disciplined financial management, transparent decision-making, and strategic allocation of resources across research, teaching, and service. Working closely with leadership across the school and university, the dean will establish clear priorities and align investments with the school's ambitions. The dean will also advocate to senior university leadership for ongoing support and resources. Success will require balancing immediate operational demands with long-term investments in faculty, staff, students, facilities, and infrastructure, while sustaining the financial health necessary to advance the school's mission.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

UCLA seeks a visionary leader to build upon the school's traditions of excellence and community engagement. The ideal candidate will be nationally recognized with demonstrated leadership and substantial administrative experience; strong scholarly visibility within the nursing research community; experience as an innovator, ambassador and partner in collaborating with leaders from various institutional and community sectors; 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 at a research university;
- A record of distinguished scholarly accomplishment;
- Demonstrated intellectual leadership in the area of nursing;
- 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.

To ensure the school's success, the dean will possess many of the following qualifications and characteristics:

- Exceptional communication and interpersonal skills;
- Evidence of leading with integrity and sound judgment; a proven ability to build trust across the nursing community, uphold and strengthen a culture of shared governance, and provide steady leadership through periods of challenge and uncertainty;
- Demonstrated ability to build effective partnerships within the UCLA Joe C. Wen School of Nursing, across UCLA and UCLA Health, and with clinical partners and external organizations;
- Strong business acumen and strategic thinking, including the ability to manage complex budgets, optimize resource allocation, and align strategies with academic and clinical priorities;
- A record of accomplishment in recruiting, developing, and retaining outstanding faculty, staff, and students;
- Demonstrated record of securing external research funding, including federal funding, contracts, or fellowships;
- Experience with accreditation;
- Demonstrated success managing complex academic portfolios and leading change with positive outcomes;
- Leadership in integrating emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, into curriculum, research, and service aligned with the institution's mission.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Confidential review of applications, nominations and expressions of interest will begin immediately and will continue until an appointment is made. Address nominations, inquiries and applications to our Isaacson, Miller consultants David Bellshaw, Carley Davenport and Rafa Escobedo via the Isaacson, Miller website: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-california-los-angeles-joe-c-wen-school-nursing/dean>. The anticipated annual salary range for this position is \$475,000 – \$595,000, commensurate with related experience and qualifications. UCLA offers an inspiring higher education environment and excellent [benefits](#).

To be ensured full consideration, please submit a letter of interest and curriculum vitae by January 8, 2027.

The Isaacson, Miller Recruiting Team:
David Bellshaw, Carley Davenport, Rafa Escobedo, Salem Adisu

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity Employer. 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 status under state or federal law.

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