

# Healthcare Pathways



## Forging Ahead: The Four-Year University Path to Success

There are plenty of reasons to choose a healthcare career that requires at least a four-year university degree. According to the article “Healthcare costs to rise 7.5 percent in 2013: report” on *Reuters.com*, healthcare costs and the demand for healthcare professionals will go up. According to the article “State lacks doctors to meet demand of national healthcare law” in the *LA Times*, California may not have enough medical professionals available to serve newly insured patients over the next five years. According to the US Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics, those with four-year degrees or higher make at least \$10,000 more and are often employed quicker than their counterparts without one. In essence, students who earn a four-year degree in health care are more likely to find work, earn more pay, and gain better knowledge of their program.

California demand for healthcare workers such as nurses, medical practitioners, pharmacists, optometrists, and primary care providers is increasing, and that means more aspiring health professionals will need to earn Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Doctoral degrees to fill those slots. To meet demand, California four-year universities offer a wealth of programs for students to earn an advanced health professional education.

California’s four-year universities usually include a college of arts and/or sciences, graduate programs, and professional schools. Completion results in a Bachelor’s degree. A Master’s degree is typically earned through two or more years of advanced study beyond the Bachelor’s degree. Doctoral degree programs vary and often require four to eight years of study beyond the Bachelor’s degree, residencies, work projects, and/or board certification.



*Demand is rising for healthcare professionals with university degrees.*

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#### Get Started Today!

CalHealth Workforce, a joint effort of the Healthcare Workforce Development Division and Health Professions Education Foundation, provides important program, education, and industry information on Facebook and Twitter. “Like” us at [facebook.com/calhealthworkforce](https://www.facebook.com/calhealthworkforce). Follow us @healthprofcalgov.



## Forging Ahead: The Four-Year University Path to Success

In addition to private universities, California has two systems of accredited four-year universities: California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC). There are 23 CSU and 10 UC campuses, each offering programs for aspiring healthcare workers. Whether choosing a CSU, UC, or private university, earning a four-year degree can be an integral step in cultivating a very rewarding medical career.

### California State University

According to the CSU home webpage (<http://calstate.edu/>), CSU has 437,000 students; 44,000 faculty and staff; and is the largest, most diverse, and one of the most affordable university systems in the country. CSU offers a wide array of healthcare programs for students, including Health Care Administration/Management, Nursing, Sports Medicine, Biological Sciences, Psychology, Counseling, Biochemistry, Dietetics, Public Health, and Microbiology, just to name a few. There are also approximately eight CSU campuses offering online healthcare programs.



*“CSU is the largest source of the state’s skilled workforce. Providing tens of thousands of graduates in hundreds of fields each year, CSU alumni help sustain the Golden State economy and lay the foundation for new growth.”*

*The Impact of the California State University  
[www.calstate.edu/impact/workforce.html](http://www.calstate.edu/impact/workforce.html)*

CSU accepts applications for admissions generally around October for the following fall semester. Important information on deadlines is available at <http://calstate.edu/admission/deadlines.shtml>. Some CSU campuses have transfer agreements with community colleges and specific general education courses that must be completed prior to admission.

The *CSUMentor – Plan for College tool* at <http://www.csumentor.edu/Planning/> assists students at every level (middle and high school, community college, etc.) with mapping out academic curriculum to satisfy general requirements, including detailing required tests that must be completed prior to admission, such as the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or the American College Testing (ACT). These are used by CSUs to determine if students have the grades and test scores needed for admission. CSU does not consider the writing portion of either the SAT or ACT to calculate eligibility and instead uses grade point average (GPA) and the combined score on the SAT/ACT. Some freshmen are required to complete an English Placement or Entry Level Mathematics test to ensure placement is appropriate.

The *CSUMentor tool* can also help students select the right CSU campus. After answering a few questions regarding location, housing, and budgeting preferences, the tool will automatically offer suggestions on the campus that best matches student needs. The *CSU Comparative View*, <http://www.csumentor.edu/select/compareview/>, can be used to compare more than one campus of interest for costs, setting (small or large campuses), and location.

### University of California

Some argue that planning for a UC education should start in middle school as competition can be fierce and good grades may not always be enough to get in. However, at the UC’s main website, <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses/index.html>, potential students can search for the right campus and find links to learn more about the system and how to earn a spot at one of the 10 campuses, Beyond Campus study abroad, UC in D.C., or Intercampus Visitor program.

## UC and CSU Locations

# 10 Reasons to Earn a University Degree in a Healthcare Subject



[http://www.deanza.edu/transfer/images/map-uc\\_csu.png](http://www.deanza.edu/transfer/images/map-uc_csu.png)

UC comprises more than 234,000 students; 207,000 faculty and staff; 50,000 retirees; and 1.6 million living alumni. UC is actively involved beyond its campuses, national laboratories, medical centers, and communities throughout California, around the world, and online. Visit <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/> to learn more.

The CSU system includes 23 campuses; almost 437,000 students; and 44,000 faculty and staff. CSU is the largest, most diverse, and one of the most affordable university systems in the country. Learn more about the CSU system at <http://www.calstate.edu/>.

## 10 Reasons to Earn a University Degree in a Healthcare Subject

1. You can do it! Four-year universities have transfer programs, consider more than GPA, and there are many financial aid and student loan/repayment options available!
2. Earn a higher salary!
3. Choose from more jobs!
4. Be more competitive!
5. Experience university life! Join healthcare organizations and clubs, lead an event, volunteer, play sports, celebrate; make a difference!
6. Study abroad! Experience other cultures! Learn a new language!
7. Grow your knowledge, confidence, and capabilities!
8. Cultivate new friendships and professional networks!
9. Explore your passions; study all kinds of subjects!
10. Make yourself, friends, and family proud.

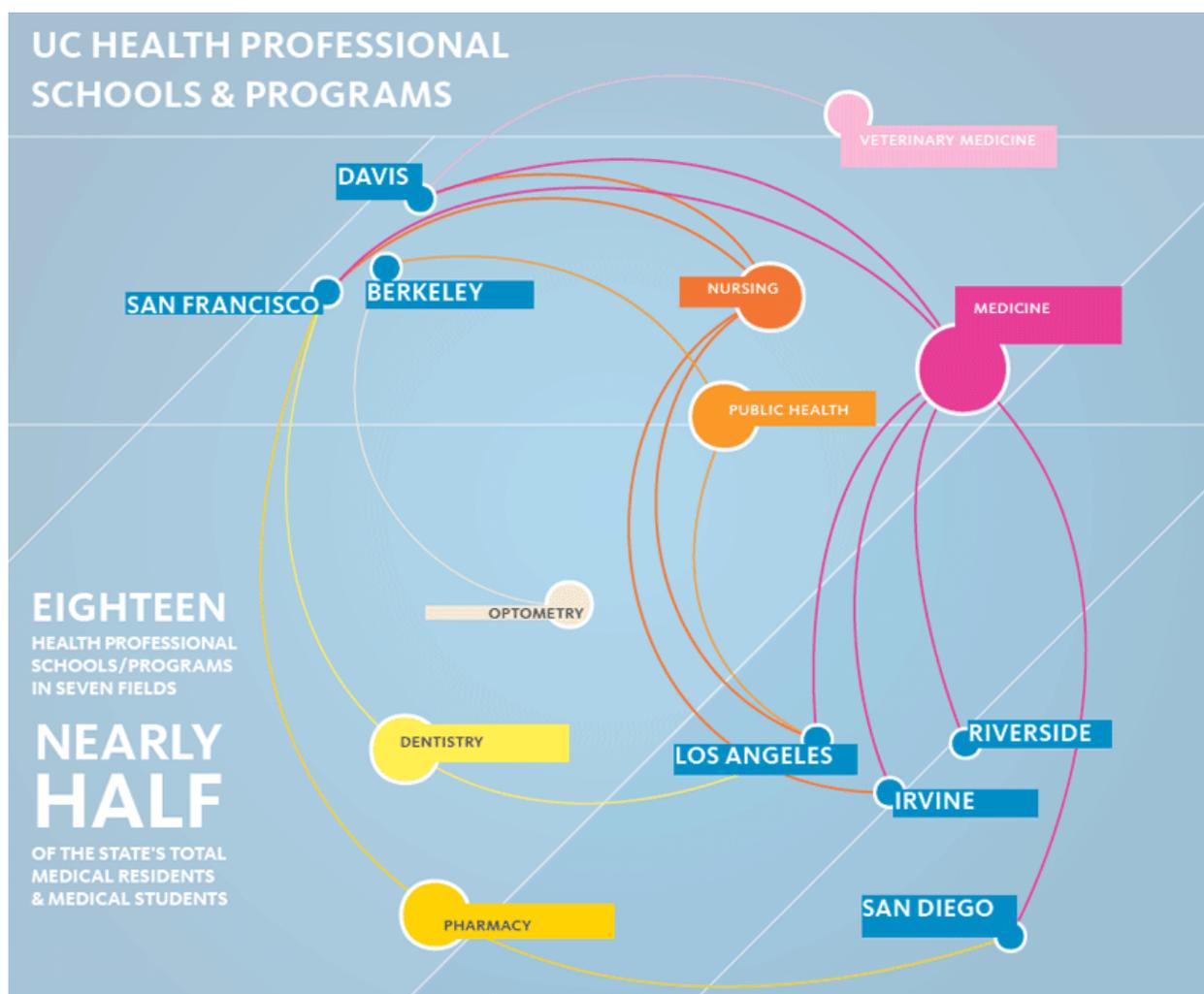
## Forging Ahead: The Four-Year University Path to Success

According to their website, UC offers 150 disciplines and has more academic departments ranked in the top 10 nationally than any other public or private university. There are 18 health professional schools and programs, and UC Merced is developing plans that may lead to a medical school. UC operates the nation's largest health training program with more than 14,000 students enrolled annually.

Admission requirements are very specific at UC campuses. GPA requirements vary based on state residency, transfer status, and other factors. SAT and/or ACT must be completed prior to admission. Junior-level transfer requirements can differ. Once an

application is submitted, SAT/ACT scores are sent to all UC campuses. Get the details at <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/freshman/requirements/index.html>.

Only the top nine percent of California students are admitted to UCs, or nine percent ranking at an Eligible Local Context (ELC) participating high school. ELC is a program that allows high school students from all over California to have the same opportunity for admission to a UC, if requirements are satisfied. See <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/freshman/california-residents/local-path/index.html> to obtain more information on the ELC program.



*"Health Science and Services provides leadership and strategic direction to advance the education, research, and clinical service missions of UC's health professional schools, programs, and hospitals, collectively referred to as UC Health."*

[www.ucop.edu/health-sciences-services/about-health-sciences-and-services.html](http://www.ucop.edu/health-sciences-services/about-health-sciences-and-services.html)

UC Applications are reviewed on an individual basis and a list of 14 factors are examined to determine student eligibility and/or admission. These factors address everything from GPA and ACT/SAT scores to experiences that demonstrate unusual promise for leadership, which could include healthcare volunteer experience, Health Occupations Students of America membership, participation in health career exploration programs, etc. Read the complete list at <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/freshman/how-applications-reviewed/>.

The UC major preparation paths help students identify coursework to prepare for the most popular majors at UC campuses. The paths summarize requirements and major preparation coursework for similar majors at each campus. Take advantage of the paths at <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/transfer/advising/major/index.html>.

## Private Universities

According to the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities' (AICCU) website (<http://www.aiccu.edu/>), there are 75 AICCU private university members in 100 locations throughout the state. AICCU members range from small to large traditional liberal arts institutions, including nationally ranked research universities; colleges offering faith-based, performing and visual arts, and "non-traditional" programs of study; and professional schools that specialize in business, law, medicine, etc. AICCU schools have an average student-to-faculty ratio of 12:1 and students from every background and ethnicity attend; minorities are the majority at 54%. Fulfilling a public purpose through nonprofit status and Western Association of Schools and Colleges (<http://www.wascweb.org/>) accreditation is required for AICCU membership.

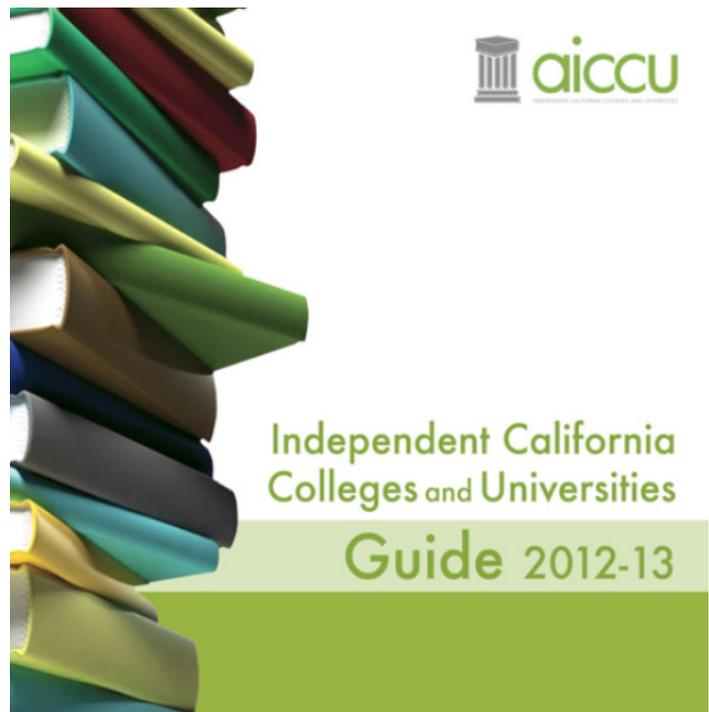
Many AICCU schools accept the Common Application which allows students to complete one application to apply to approximately 450 Common Application member colleges. These schools have agreed to make no distinction between their application and the Common Application. Learn more about the Common Application at <https://www.commonapp.org/CommonApp/default.aspx>.

While many students assume private schools are financially out-of-reach, AICCU says that since 2000,

tuition costs have only increased approximately half of those of CSU and UC schools. Additionally, 79% of students at AICCU schools receive institutional grants and 85% receive some form of aid.

There is also often speculation about whether private schools are harder to get into due to high GPA requirements. According to AICCU, most independent colleges and universities consider a number of factors other than grades, including high school coursework, ACT/SAT scores, essay(s), activities/community service, honors/awards, letters of recommendation, interviews/auditions, etc.

Remember, it's important to be clear on individual requirements and make use of counselors, catalogues, and web resources, no matter which kind of university is chosen.



*AICCU publishes the Independent California Colleges and Universities Guide. The Guide is distributed to high school counselors, community college transfer centers, and public libraries, and helps counselors, students, and families learn about higher education options offered by the state's private nonprofit colleges and universities.*

<http://www.aiccu.edu/research-and-publications/the-guide/>

## OSHPD Resources

OSHPD's **Health Professions Education Program Search Tool** allows users to identify colleges and universities offering health education and training programs. This free service locates educational programs based on specific careers (medical assistant, nurse, etc.), various degrees offered, and geographic areas of California. Use the tool at <http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/HWC/HealthEdProg.html>.

Find resources, tools, and information on scholarship and loan repayment programs on the **Health Careers Training Program website** at <http://oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/HCTP.html>.

**The Health Professions Education Foundation** provides scholarships and loan repayments to health professional students and graduates who agree to provide direct patient care in medically underserved areas for one to four years. Learn more at [www.oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF/](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HPEF/).

## Government Resources

**The U.S. Department of Education College Affordability and Transparency Center** offers information on college costs across the country. Estimate the cost of college, navigate and search for programs, and generate lists which highlight the highest and lowest rates of college tuition and fees. Visit [www.collegecost.ed.gov/](http://www.collegecost.ed.gov/).

**The National Health Service Corps (NHSC)** provides scholarship and loan repayment programs. Explore options at <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/index.html>.

The **California Student Aid Commission** administers financial aid to California resident students pursuing higher education. Visit <http://www.csac.ca.gov/>.

Explore the **California Department of Education's main website** and search for information on universities at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/>.

The **California Commission on Teacher Credentialing** oversees licensing and credentialing. Check out <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/>.

## CSU and UC Resources

Learn about the **CSU system** at <http://www.calstate.edu/>.

The **CSUMentor tool** allows students to review CSU campuses, utilize the high school or transfer planner, prepare for courses, explore veterans education opportunities, and more. See <http://www.csumentor.edu/>.

Search **CSU fields of study** at [http://degrees.calstate.edu/cs\\_degree\\_search2?noCache=572:1367000058](http://degrees.calstate.edu/cs_degree_search2?noCache=572:1367000058).

Browse the **UC's main website** at <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/campuses/welcome.html> for a variety of general information.

Research **UC health professional schools and programs** at <http://health.universityofcalifornia.edu/professional-training/>.

**UC Health Sciences and Services** comprises UC's health professional schools and hospitals. See <http://www.ucop.edu/health-sciences-services/>.

## Private University Resources

Learn about accreditation and search degree programs offered by **Western Association of Schools and Colleges** accredited institutions at <http://www.wascweb.org/>.

Find member schools at the **Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities' website**: <http://www.aiccu.edu/>.

Read the **Independent California Colleges and Universities Guide** at <http://www.aiccu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/2012-13-Guide.pdf>.

The **CaliforniaColleges.edu matching tool** contains 200+ public and private universities. Filter by size, location, cost, major, etc. Use it at <https://secure.californiacolleges.edu/Select/MatchAsst/default.asp>.

**College Match** filters universities by size, cost, location, sports programs, student background, merit aid, and student satisfaction: <http://www.collegedata.com/>.

# UC Riverside Medical School Pushing for Local Students

Written by Michelle Mitchell—originally published 12/19/2012, reprinted with permission from the Desert Sun and mydesert.com

The UC Riverside Medical School has another \$5 million to help it reach its goal of increasing the number of doctors in the Coachella Valley, but is still lacking home-grown applicants.

“Having physicians that come from those communities, that grew up in those communities allows them to have an impact on those communities that doctors from outside can’t,” Medical School Dean Dr. G. Richard Olds said Wednesday.

While the medical school, which received preliminary accreditation in October, has received 2,000 applications for its first 50 spots, very few have come from the Coachella Valley, Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs Neal Schiller said.

“There’s untapped territory here we need to get into,” he said Wednesday at an informational event held at the Palm Desert campus of University of California, Riverside (UCR). Much of the audience at the event was comprised of students from health academies at Cathedral City, Coachella Valley, La Quinta and Palm Desert high schools, which the medical school hopes to enhance partnerships with.

The entire mission of the medical school is focused on training doctors in specialties such as family practice that are desperately needed in the Coachella Valley and the Inland Empire, and convincing them to practice there after graduating.

“I couldn’t just build a medical school,” Olds said. “We had to build a pipeline.”

Riverside County is short 3,000 physicians, a number that is only expected to grow as more working doctors retire, Olds said.

But the design of the medical school is also focused on helping doctors who may not be from the area build roots and stay.

While the first two years at the UCR Medical School will need to be completed in classrooms at the

Riverside campus, students can complete their final two years and entire residency without leaving the Coachella Valley.

“At that point, you don’t just pick up and move,” Senior Associate Dean of Education Dr. Paul Lyons said.

The community-based, prevention-focused program being created by UCR is closely aligned with First 5 Riverside’s goals and one reason it gave the medical school \$5 million over four years, said Executive Director Harry Friedman.

*UC Riverside is looking for local students to become doctors and practice in the Inland Empire and Coachella Valley. Riverside County is short 3,000 physicians, a number that is only expected to grow as more working doctors retire.*

More than 70 percent of that money will be dedicated to starting a pediatric residency program.

Once that residency is created, it should be self-sustaining and will help First 5 Riverside in its efforts to prepare young children for school, he said.

“One of the foundations for a child to be successful is good health,” Friedman said.

The contract will also fund a health research study and a full tuition “loan to scholarship” program. Recipients will only be asked to repay this tuition money if they do not stay and practice in the area for a designated period. Financial aid packages such as these are designed to encourage students from underserved communities to attend.

The focus on recruiting local students to become doctors means that students who rise to the top in admissions decisions aren’t solely those with the top GPA and test scores, but those focused on community service, with problem-solving and communications skills, Schiller said.

Those who already live in the area are more likely to fit the school’s mission, Schiller said.

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## UC Riverside Medical School Pushing for Local Students

“That gets some sort of points” in the admissions process, he said.

That may help students such as Amanda Fernandez, a Palm Desert High sophomore and a member of the school’s health academy. She wants to become a pediatrician.

“I would like to focus myself here because it’s my community,” she said.

“There’s a lot of less fortunate families out there right now that don’t get the help that they need.”

### Get Started Today!

Whether choosing a CSU, UC, or private university to earn a Bachelor’s, Master’s, or Doctoral degree, there are a variety of tools, resources, options, and programs available that should prove helpful in choosing wisely and advancing a healthcare career.

Keep this *Healthcare Pathways* spring edition newsletter handy, or pass it on to your friends, for information on California’s higher education institutions, including why earning a four-year university degree is possible and worthwhile. Utilize the many resources available and get started today on your way to a fulfilling and advanced healthcare career!

Visit us at <http://oshpd.ca.gov/HWDD/HCTP.html>!



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