UCSF Health

Nursing Excellence Awards

Purpose

The Nursing Excellence Awards are opportunities to recognize and celebrate actively engaged professional RN's, LVN's and clinical care colleagues who exemplify practice and merit recognition from peers and other professional colleagues at UCSF Health. This includes all campuses (e.g., Parnassus, Mission Bay, Mt. Zion, Oakland, Hyde and Stanyan, Langley Porter)

Nominations

Process

- Submit a nomination form via the Nursing Excellence Nomination Portal for each nominee
- A single nominee can receive more than one nomination
- Each nominee will be scored based on the award criteria
- Each criteria response is limited to 800 characters
- Provide nominee details only in the nominee information section. Do **not** include any identifying information in the award criteria responses. (i.e., name, pronouns, unit/clinic names, specific councils, etc.)

Timeline

Nomination Window: Jan 20 – Feb 20, 2026
Voting Window: Mar 2 – Mar 27, 2026
DNA Vote: by Mar 13, 2026
Winner Notification: Mar 30 – Apr 24, 2026
Nursing Excellence Awards Ceremony: May 8, 2026 (details TBA)

Eligibility (some categories will have more eligibility guidelines)

- A career employee (appointment of ≥ 50%)
- Worked for a minimum of 2 years at UCSF Health
- Have a performance evaluation of at least a satisfactory rating
- Have not been a recipient of the same award category in the past (reference list)

Direct questions to SystemNursingGovernance@ucsf.edu

Click to return to Category List

UCSF Health

Categories

Click on the category to jump to the section

- Distinguished Nursing Award
- Acute and Transitional Care Nursing
- Ambulatory Nursing
- Cardiovascular Nursing - Sheila Mann Award
- Community Service
- Critical Care Nursing - Clifford K. & Avola Wilson Memorial Award
- Emergency Nursing
- Interprofessional Colleague
    - Examples of roles to recognize in this category: Case Managers, Social Workers, Nutritionists/Registered Dietitians, Rehab, Pharmacists, Spiritual Care Colleagues, Patient Safety Team, Quality Team, Regulatory Affairs, Physician, Physician Assistant, Risk Management, etc.
- Neuroscience Nursing - Helen B. Ripple Award
- Nursing Leadership
    - Examples of roles to recognize in this category: Unit Directors/Managers, Assistant Unit Directors/Managers, Patient Care Directors, etc.
- Nursing Practice and Professional Development
    - Examples of roles to recognize in this category: Clinical Nurse Specialist, Nursing Professional Development Specialist, Clinical Nurse Educator, Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Informaticist, etc.
- Oncology Nursing – Jeanne Yalon Award
- Perinatal Nursing
- Periop/Procedural Nursing
    - Examples of roles to recognize in this category: Preop, PACU, Cath Lab, Operating Room, Endoscopy etc.
- Preceptor Award-All Adult Services
- Preceptor Award-All Pediatric Services
- Excellence in Clinical Inquiry
- Clinical Care Partners
    - Examples of roles to recognize in this category: Patient Care Assistants/Technicians, Medical Assistants, Lab Technicians, Phlebotomy, Radiology Techs, Transport Techs, Cardiology, Ultrasound Techs, Vascular Lab, EEG Techs, Surgical Techs, Telemetry Techs, Anesthesia, Navigators, etc.

Click to return to Category List

UCSF Health

Distinguished Nursing Award

Purpose

This award recognizes a professional nurse who demonstrates outstanding patient care and fosters professional and public awareness of achievements in nursing practice. This nurse is actively engaged in a project or approach that contributes to nursing practice, education, or leadership at UCSF Health.

Eligibility (NOTE: in addition to the above)

- Provide full-time direct patient care
- A career employee (appointment of ≥ 50%)
- Worked for a minimum of 2 years at UCSF Health
- Have a performance evaluation of at least a satisfactory rating
- Have not been a recipient of the Distinguished Nurse Award category in the past

Evidence

- Must include evidence demonstrating the nominee's body of work
- Must include 2 letters of support

Scoring Criteria

- Significant impact of nurse's project/outcome(s)/approach to nursing, practice, leadership, and/or education
- Effectiveness of the methods used by the nurse to implement the project/approach
- Applicability of the project or approach for improving practice in other settings
- Breadth and scope of impact of work and influence
- Creativity and innovation shown in the nurse's project or approach
- Number of years of innovation and practice
- Demonstrated relevant impact on practice and/or patient care in the past fiscal year. (Can include historical contributions)
- Strength of evidence submitted demonstrating the nominee's body of work

Nomination Fields (Entries **do not** need to be deidentified)

- This nurse's project/outcome(s)/approach significantly impacts practice and/or patient care by…
- The effectiveness of the nurse's methods to implement the project or achieve the outcome was demonstrated by…
- The nurse's project/outcome(s)/approach improves practice in other settings by…
- This nurse's efforts impact and influence widely by…
- The nurse exhibited creativity and innovation by…
- This is the number of years of innovation and practice this individual contributed.
- In the current or last fiscal year, this individual demonstrated relevant impact to practice and/or patient care by…
- Attach 2 letters of support
- Attach supplemental evidence of body of work (i.e., project presentation, poster, project outline, etc.)

Click to return to Category List

UCSF Health

Acute and Transitional Care Nursing

Scoring Criteria

- Recognized as an excellent nurse clinician & role model in an acute and transitional care setting
- Demonstrates insight and compassion
- Demonstrates the ability to share their expertise with patients, families, and coworkers
- Demonstrates the ability to help families cope with and overcome extraordinary circumstances

Nomination Fields

- This individual is recognized for their excellence as a nurse clinician & role model by demonstrating insight and compassion through these actions…
- This individual demonstrates the ability to share their expertise with patients, families, and coworkers by…
- This individual demonstrates the ability to help families cope with and overcome extraordinary circumstances by…

Ambulatory Nursing

Scoring Criteria

- Recognized as an excellent nurse clinician, licensed vocational nurse and role model in the Ambulatory setting
- Demonstrates insight and compassion
- Demonstrates the ability to share their expertise with patients, families, and coworkers
- Demonstrates the ability to help families cope with and overcome extraordinary circumstances

Nomination Fields

- This individual is acknowledged for their excellence as a nurse clinician & role model by demonstrating insight and compassion through these actions…
- This individual demonstrates the ability to share their expertise with patients, families, and coworkers by…
- This individual demonstrates the ability to help families cope with and overcome extraordinary circumstances by…

Cardiovascular Nursing

Scoring Criteria

- Recognized as an excellent nurse clinician & role model in a Cardiovascular setting
- Demonstrates insight and compassion
- Demonstrates the ability to share their expertise with patients, families, and coworkers
- Demonstrates the ability to help families cope with and overcome extraordinary circumstances

Click to return to Category List

UCSF Health

Nomination Fields

- This individual is recognized for their excellence as a nurse clinician & role model by demonstrating insight and compassion through these actions…
- This individual demonstrates the ability to share their expertise with patients, families, and coworkers by…
- This individual demonstrates the ability to help families cope with and overcome extraordinary circumstances by…

Community Service

Scoring Criteria

- Impact of volunteer work on the community/volunteer organization/targeted population
- Impact of volunteer work on UCSF/Community partnerships

Nomination Fields

- This individual's volunteer work impacts the community/volunteer organization/targeted population by …
- This individual's volunteer work impacts UCSF/Community partnerships by…

Critical Care Nursing

Scoring Criteria

- Recognized as an excellent nurse clinician & role model in a Critical Care setting
- Demonstrates insight and compassion
- Demonstrates the ability to share their expertise with patients, families, and coworkers
- Demonstrates the ability to help families cope with and overcome extraordinary circumstances

Nomination Fields

- This individual is recognized for their excellence as a nurse clinician & role model by demonstrating insight and compassion through these actions…
- This individual demonstrates the ability to share their expertise with patients, families, and coworkers by…
- This individual demonstrates the ability to help families cope with and overcome extraordinary circumstances by…

Emergency Nursing

Scoring Criteria

- Recognized as an excellent nurse clinician & role model in an emergency setting

Click to return to Category List

UCSF Health

- Demonstrates insight and compassion
- Demonstrates the ability to share their expertise with patients, families, and coworkers
- Demonstrates the ability to help families cope with and overcome extraordinary circumstances

Nomination Fields

- This individual is recognized for their excellence as a nurse clinician & role model by demonstrating insight and compassion through these actions…
- This individual demonstrates the ability to share their expertise with patients, families, and coworkers by…
- This individual demonstrates the ability to help families cope with and overcome extraordinary circumstances by…

Interprofessional Colleague

Eligibility

- Worked for a minimum of 2 years at UCSF Health in roles like case managers, social workers, nutritionists/registered dietitians, rehab, pharmacists, spiritual care colleagues, patient safety team, quality team, regulatory affairs, physician, physician assistant, risk management, etc.

Scoring Criteria

- Collaboration with nursing staff to improve the care of patients
- Developing and enhancing a culture of collaborative, interdisciplinary care
- Fostering communication with nursing to benefit patient care

Nomination Fields

- Collaborating with the nursing team, this individual works to enhance patient care through…
- Collaborating with the nursing team, this individual develops and enhances a culture of collaborative, interdisciplinary care by…
- Collaborating with the nursing team, this individual fosters communication with nursing to benefit patient care by…

Neuroscience Nursing

Scoring Criteria

- Recognized as an excellent nurse clinician & role model in a neuroscience setting
- Demonstrates insight and compassion
- Demonstrates the ability to share their expertise with patients, families, and coworkers
- Demonstrates the ability to help families cope with and overcome extraordinary circumstances

Nomination Fields

- This individual is recognized for their excellence as a nurse clinician & role model by demonstrating insight and compassion through these actions…

Click to return to Category List

UCSF Health

- This individual demonstrates the ability to share their expertise with patients, families, and coworkers by…
- This individual demonstrates the ability to help families cope with and overcome extraordinary circumstances by…

Nursing Leadership

Eligibility

- A career RN (appointment of ≥ 90%) in a leadership position
- Worked for a minimum of 2 years in roles like Unit Directors/Managers, Assistant Unit Directors/Managers, Patient Care Directors, etc.

Scoring Criteria

- Execution of various professional activities in leadership and mentoring roles, displays professionalism through effective communication of the vision and mission of professional nursing
- Knowledge of nursing leadership principles
- Advocacy and support for patients and staff
- Encouraging participation by others in decision-making processes and professional development opportunities
- Advancing nursing through innovative ideas and initiatives

Nomination Fields

- This individual displays professionalism through effective communication of the vision and mission of professional nursing through these professional activities in leadership and mentoring roles…
- This individual demonstrates knowledge of adult nursing leadership principles by…
- This individual advocates and support for patients and staff by…
- This individual encourages participation by others in decision-making processes and professional development opportunities by…
- Examples of this individual's innovative ideas and initiatives to advance nursing are…

Nursing Practice and Professional Development

Eligibility

- Worked for a minimum of 2 years at UCSF Health in roles like Clinical Nurse Specialist, Nursing Professional Development Specialist, Clinical Nurse Educator, Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Informatics, etc.

Scoring Criteria

- Demonstrates the ability to share their expertise with patients, families and/or staff
- Demonstrates outstanding achievements in specialty area as seen through exemplary leadership, mentoring/teaching of staff and students, patient education, and/or enhancing patients' clinical outcomes through operational improvements

Click to return to Category List

UCSF Health

Nomination Fields

- This individual demonstrates the ability to share their expertise with patients, families and/or staff by…
- This individual demonstrates outstanding achievements in specialty area as seen through exemplary leadership, mentoring/teaching of staff and students, patient education, and/or enhancing patients' clinical outcomes through operational improvements through…

Oncology Nursing

Scoring Criteria

- Recognized as an excellent nurse clinician & role model in an oncology setting
- Demonstrates insight and compassion
- Demonstrates the ability to share their expertise with patients, families, and coworkers
- Demonstrates the ability to help families cope with and overcome extraordinary circumstances

Nomination Fields

- This individual is recognized for their excellence as a nurse clinician & role model by demonstrating insight and compassion through these actions…
- This individual demonstrates the ability to share their expertise with patients, families, and coworkers by…
- This individual demonstrates the ability to help families cope with and overcome extraordinary circumstances by…

Perinatal Nursing

Scoring Criteria

- Recognized as an excellent nurse clinician & role model in a perinatal setting
- Demonstrates insight and compassion
- Demonstrates the ability to share their expertise with patients, families, and coworkers
- Demonstrates the ability to help families cope with and overcome extraordinary circumstances

Nomination Fields

- This individual is recognized for their excellence as a nurse clinician & role model by demonstrating insight and compassion through these actions…
- This individual demonstrates the ability to share their expertise with patients, families, and coworkers by…
- This individual demonstrates the ability to help families cope with and overcome extraordinary circumstances by…

Click to return to Category List

UCSF Health

Periop/Procedural Nursing

Scoring Criteria

- Recognized as an excellent nurse clinician & role model in a periop/procedural setting
- Demonstrates insight and compassion
- Demonstrates the ability to share their expertise with patients, families, and coworkers
- Demonstrates the ability to help families cope with and overcome extraordinary circumstances

Nomination Fields

- This individual is recognized for their excellence as a nurse clinician & role model by demonstrating insight and compassion through these actions…
- This individual demonstrates the ability to share their expertise with patients, families, and coworkers by…
- This individual demonstrates the ability to help families cope with and overcome extraordinary circumstances by…

Preceptor Nursing-Adults

Eligibility

- Precepted at least one nurse orientee within the past year (can be a nurse resident or experienced nurse orientee)
- Worked as a UCSF Health nurse in an Adult Inpatient, Periop/Procedural, or Ambulatory setting

Scoring Criteria

- Demonstrates clinical knowledge and refers to relevant policies and procedure when teaching
- Encourages safe practice through clinical leadership and acts as a role model in their clinical area
- Uses excellent communication and interpersonal skills and acts as a resource or mentor for colleagues
- Provides a learning environment and is able to adjust the plan to support the orientation process by ensuring goals and competencies are met in a timely fashion and promotes a just culture

Nomination Fields

- This individual demonstrates clinical knowledge and refers to relevant policies and procedure when teaching by…
- This individual encourages safe practice through clinical leadership and acts as a role model in their clinical area by…
- This individual uses excellent communication and interpersonal skills and acts as a resource or mentor for colleagues by…
- An example of this individual adjusting the plan for learning or orientation during a precepting challenge promoting just culture and meeting goals and competency is…

Click to return to Category List

UCSF Health

Preceptor Nursing-Pediatrics

Eligibility

- Precepted at least one nurse orientee within the past year (can be a nurse resident or experienced nurse orientee)
- Worked as a UCSF Health nurse in a Pediatric Inpatient, Periop/Procedural, or Ambulatory setting

Scoring Criteria

- Demonstrates clinical knowledge and refers to relevant policies and procedure when teaching
- Encourages safe practice through clinical leadership and acts as a role model in their clinical area
- Uses excellent communication and interpersonal skills and acts as a resource or mentor for colleagues
- Provides a learning environment and is able to adjust the plan to support the orientation process by ensuring goals and competencies are met in a timely fashion and promotes a just culture

Nomination Fields

- This individual demonstrates clinical knowledge and refers to relevant policies and procedure when teaching by…
- This individual encourages safe practice through clinical leadership and acts as a role model in their clinical area by…
- This individual uses excellent communication and interpersonal skills and acts as a resource or mentor for colleagues by…
- An example of this individual adjusting the plan for learning or orientation during a precepting challenge promoting just culture and meeting goals and competency is…

Excellence in Clinical Inquiry

Scoring Criteria

- Demonstrates meaningful involvement in research, EBP, QI, or innovation activities that address a direct patient care or clinical operations issue
- Shows how the inquiry-based work contributed to measurable improvements in nursing practice, care processes, or patient outcomes.
- Reflects active engagement in inquiry through collaboration, dissemination, mentorship, or participation in councils, projects, or improvement efforts.

Nomination Fields

- This individual contributes to inquiry-based nursing practice (e.g., research, EBP, QI, or innovation) by…
- The impact of this inquiry-based work on nursing practice, care processes, or patient outcomes is demonstrated by…
- This individual advances a culture of inquiry through engagement, mentorship, dissemination, or participation in councils, projects, or improvement efforts by…

Click to return to Category List

UCSF Health

Clinical Care Partners

Eligibility

- Worked for a minimum of 2 years at UCSF Health in roles like lab technicians, phlebotomy, radiology techs, transport techs, cardiology, ultrasound techs, vascular lab, EEG techs, surgical techs, telemetry techs, anesthesia, navigators, medical assistants, etc.

Scoring Criteria

- Based on the description of each PRIDE value
- Max 1,000-character limit

Nomination Fields

- Using PRIDE values (Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Diversity and Excellence), this individual demonstrates excellence by…

Click to return to Category List