



ANNOUNCEMENT

IMPORTANT UPDATE ON GRADUATE EDUCATION AND FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN POLICY FOR ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS (APPs)

Great news for the APP community!
A federal court ruling and the power of advocacy have led to a major step forward for future APPs—our work continues for permanent change.

Mission & Vision

The UCSF Health APP Mission & Vision are represented by the acronym APPS HEAL and focus on person-centered care that is accessible, accountable, highest quality, and innovative.



APPS Access for all Person-centered care Proven quality clinical outcomes Stewards of scholarly practice	HEAL Honored for our diverse contributions to healthcare Equitable representation in decision-making Accountable for our scope of practice Leaders in innovation and collaboration
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TOGETHER, OUR VOICE IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE.
This is a major win—but our work is not finished. Continued advocacy is essential to achieve permanent recognition of APP graduate education as professional degrees.



COURT RULING: TEMPORARY INJUNCTION
U.S. District Court Judge Beryl A. Howell has issued a temporary injunction preventing the U.S. Department of Education from enforcing its revised definition of a "professional degree" while the legal challenge moves forward.



WHAT THIS RULING DOES—AND DOES NOT DO
This ruling does NOT eliminate the new federal graduate and professional student loan borrowing caps enacted by Congress.
Instead, it temporarily blocks the Department from implementing its revised interpretation under the *Reimagining and Improving Student Education (RISE)* Final Rule. During this time, the Department must rely on the longstanding regulatory definition.



THE ISSUE
Under the Department's revised interpretation, APP graduate programs were excluded—putting future APPs at risk of lower federal loan limits compared with other health professions.



STRONG ADVOCACY. REAL IMPACT.
This progress is the result of significant advocacy and a federal lawsuit led by national nursing and healthcare organizations, including:
• American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)
• American Nurses Association (ANA)
• American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)
• American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA)
• And other healthcare and higher education partners

★★ NEW UPDATE AS A RESULT OF THE COURT ORDER ★★

As a result of this court order, the Office of the Department of Education has added the following APP programs to its [INTERIM LIST](#) of programs treated as granting professional degrees:



- ✓ Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)
- ✓ Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
- ✓ Nurse Anesthetist (DNAP or DNP)
- ✓ Physician Assistant (PA)



Students enrolled in these qualifying programs will be treated as professional students for federal loan purposes while the court's stay remains in effect.

These interim designations were issued solely to implement the court's order and may change as the litigation proceeds.



OUR WORK IS NOT FINISHED.
The lawsuit remains ongoing, and APP programs have NOT yet been permanently recognized as professional degrees under federal law.

We must continue the fight for permanent recognition of APP graduate education.

TAKE ACTION: YOUR VOICE MATTERS!



CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS
Urge them to support policies that recognize APP graduate education as professional degrees.



SUPPORT LEGISLATION
Support the **Nursing is a Professional Degree Act** (H.R. 8691 / S. 4568) and other efforts that expand access to graduate education.



STAY ENGAGED
Continue to raise your voice, share information, and support our national nursing and healthcare organizations.



SUPPORT OUR FUTURE APP WORKFORCE
Equitable access to education strengthens healthcare for all communities.



ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS ARE ESSENTIAL.
Together, we advance care, improve outcomes, and build a healthier future for all.

*Stronger Together.
Advancing Care. Advancing Health. Advancing Us.*