

# DAVID LAWRENCE BENAVIDES

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Dear Externship Coordinators,

Thank you for considering me for the student nurse extern position at UCSD. I have worked diligently to maintain a 4.0 GPA and to gain the clinical and life experience that this demanding position requires.

I will be completing my BSN degree at Azusa Pacific University this November and plan to pursue a position at UCSD in the ICU, followed by my MSN. The ICU environment became close to my heart while volunteering at Jacobs 3GH during the COVID-19 pandemic. I continued to care for many critical acuity patients during my clinical rotations, including those on ECMO, LVAD, spinal cord injury, heart transplant, and Guillain-Barre. I have spent roughly 475 hours at UCSD through volunteering and clinical rotations.

I am a peer mentor for several first-semester nursing students, and last month I gave a guest lecture on human acid-base balance regulation for their class. I have recently conducted research projects on the effect of ICU Liberation bundles on post-intensive care syndrome (PICS), and on the efficacy of combining serum interleukin level measurement with heart rate variability monitoring for the prediction of neonatal sepsis. I also proposed a quality improvement project that aims to improve the psychosocial wellbeing of newly paralyzed patients, and it was adopted as an official project by our CNS. This is why a career at UCSD appeals to me – because I know I will find more opportunities for research, teaching, leadership, and quality improvement there.

I decided to become a nurse after my mother's unfortunately long battle with cancer. Her ICU nurses affected me profoundly and now I feel that it is my calling and duty to provide care to those in need. Prior to nursing school, I worked for over 10 years in the technology industry as an executive manager and software engineer. There I honed my skills in communication, organization, resource management, and process improvement for Fortune 500 companies. I plan to fully utilize these skills to create positive change in the nursing profession and in patients' lives.

My philosophy is that all people deserve impactful and compassionate care. If selected for the externship I will work diligently to apply my knowledge, experience, and leadership skills to that goal, with intent to join the new graduate program and to earn a lifelong career at UCSD.

Sincerely,  
David Lawrence Benavides