



# ACUPUNCTURE & HERBAL MEDICINE CAREER GUIDE

- DOCTOR OF ACUPUNCTURE (DAc)
- DOCTOR OF ACUPUNCTURE COMPLETION PROGRAM (DAc-C)
- MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE (MAc)
- MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE WITH A SPECIALIZATION IN HERBAL MEDICINE (MAc-HM)

The *Standard of Excellence* in Integrative Medicine



# Introduction to the Guide

We created this guide for those of you who are considering pursuing a degree in acupuncture. Aspiring acupuncture practitioners have a lot to think and learn about before they decide if, when and where to pursue such a degree.

This guide was created to bring you real insight into exploring an exciting career as an acupuncture practitioner, and is divided into three sections:

## **PART I:**

**UNDERSTANDING THE CAREER AND THE ACUPUNCTURE INDUSTRY**

## **PART II:**

**COMPARING SCHOOLS AND SELECTING A PROGRAM**

## **PART III:**

**NAVIGATING THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS**

# About National University of Health Sciences

Founded in 1906, National University of Health Sciences (NUHS) is a leader in the growing field of integrative medicine and is respected worldwide for success in balancing healing arts and science, and combining broad-scope integrative medicine with patient-centered care. The university offers programs in chiropractic medicine, naturopathic medicine, acupuncture, biomedical science, and post-professional specialties.

NUHS is an established champion of high admission standards, accreditation and academic excellence for its professions. That's why students from across the globe choose NUHS to pursue higher education in health care.

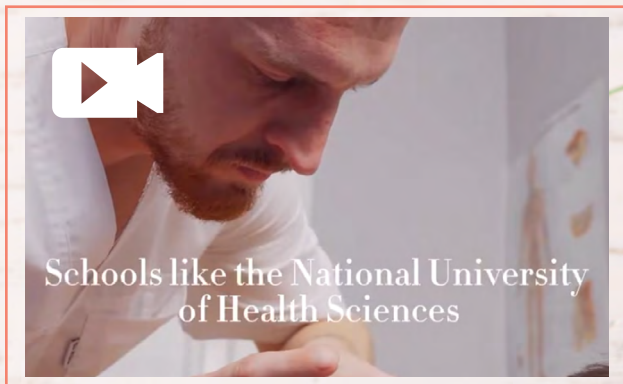




**PART I:**

**UNDERSTANDING  
THE CAREER AND THE  
ACUPUNCTURE INDUSTRY**

# Introduction to the Acupuncture Program at NUHS



Acupuncture is a field within alternative medicine that is more than 3,000 years old. Like other branches of alternative medicine, the philosophy behind acupuncture is about the healing and restoration of the whole person through techniques that are time-tested and minimally invasive.

**ACUPUNCTURE** includes the insertion of thin, sterile needles into strategic points on the body that lie along specific energy meridian pathways. Its goal is to promote healing by rebalancing the patient's Qi (or Chi) energy. The weakness, excess or imbalance of Qi affects key organ systems and is the underlying cause of disease and disharmony.

## Strong Job Growth

**13.3%** Acupuncturist  
Job Growth 2016 – 2026

The acupuncturist job market is expected to **grow by 13.3%\* between 2016 and 2026**, much faster than the 4 percent\*\* average for all occupations.

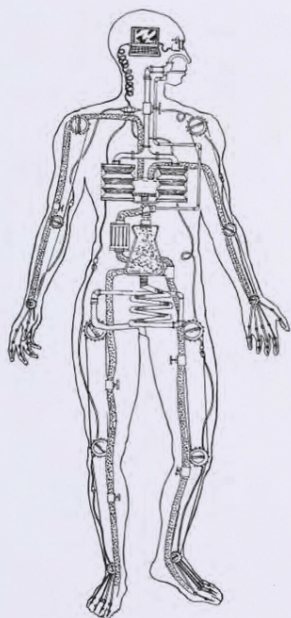
Source:

\*Career Explorer and \*\*The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

# What is the Difference Between Eastern and Western Medicine?

## BASIC DISTINCTION BETWEEN “EAST” AND “WEST” VIEWS OF THE BODY

**WEST:  
BODY AS A MACHINE**



**EAST:  
BODY AS A GARDEN**



Western medicine tends to focus on diagnosing and treating disease based on a patient's symptoms. Eastern medicine also considers symptoms; however, diagnostic indicators are also viewed holistically in order to accurately assess physical and emotional imbalances of internal organs and restore a patient's Qi, thereby encouraging health and healing.

Acupuncture practitioners use natural, non-invasive forms of treatment that typically include herbs, acupuncture, nutrition, mind/body exercise (e.g., tai chi, yoga) or massage. Whereas, Western medicine practitioners often recommend pharmaceuticals, physical therapy, surgery or psychological counseling.

Both types of care are very different, yet they each have a place in today's health care landscape. More and more Eastern and Western medicine practitioners are finding ways that their treatments can complement each other.

National University's [MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE \(MAc\)](#), [MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE WITH A SPECIALIZATION IN HERBAL MEDICINE \(MAc-HM\)](#), [DOCTOR OF ACUPUNCTURE \(DAc\)](#) and online [DOCTOR OF ACUPUNCTURE COMPLETION PROGRAM \(DAC-C\)](#) programs provide comprehensive education and training in Eastern medicine with a solid foundation in Western science, enabling you to become a superior health care practitioner.

# Introduction to Acupuncture Career Outlook

Western and Eastern medicine both offer unique perspectives fundamental to health care today. You may be surprised to learn just how many acupuncture practitioners are already working integratively in health care facilities across the United States.

Acupuncture is increasingly being recognized as effective treatment for a variety of conditions. Many prestigious medical centers including Mayo Clinic, University of California San Francisco Medical Center and Duke University Medical Center currently offer acupuncture and other complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) treatments to their patients.



## WHAT DOES AN ACUPUNCTURIST ACTUALLY DO?

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Acupuncturists assess a patient's symptoms or pattern of disharmony by using a set of diagnostic skills that involve four areas: questioning, palpation, visual inspection and olfactory-auditory data collection. An acupuncturist determines the necessary treatment principle and strategy to guide the patient back to functional harmony by identifying the exact pattern of the body's physiological response to disease-causing factors.

The acupuncturist then employs several techniques in order to treat the patient, including the stimulation of specific points on the body, by insertion of very fine, sterile, stainless steel needles to elicit a predictable physiological response. This stimulus may also be administered to the points using mild electrical stimulation (with or without needles), pressure techniques with the hands (acupressure), or the application of heat by various methods, such as Moxibustion.

## WHAT DOES AN ACUPUNCTURIST WITH A SPECIALIZATION IN HERBAL MEDICINE ACTUALLY DO?

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An acupuncturist with a specialization in Herbal Medicine relies on a highly comprehensive and individualized diagnosis of a patient's Qi (or Chi) energy. The weakness, excess, or imbalance of Qi affects key organ systems and is the underlying cause of disease and disharmony. Practitioners use a broad scope of therapies to restore balance to a patient's Qi, thereby encouraging health and healing.

## WHAT DOES A DOCTOR OF ACUPUNCTURE ACTUALLY DO?

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Doctors of Acupuncture are leaders in their field. They pursue leadership positions, and hold interests and career aspirations beyond clinical practice, such as advanced specialization or academic research. Licensed acupuncturists with a doctorate often find better prospects for hospital employment, faculty positions and collegiality among their peers. DAc's are scholars devoted to lifelong learning and committed to moving the profession forward.





## HOW DO ACUPUNCTURE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS PRACTICE?

### PRACTITIONERS ARE ABLE TO:



**Treat patients** effectively and holistically with a wide variety of healing skills.



**Run their own business** or work as an associate in a group or integrative practice.



**Prescribe traditional herbal medicine** to patients, if they have a degree in Acupuncture with a specialization in Herbal Medicine, which gives them a wider scope of treatment options than an acupuncturist.



**Become certified as acupuncture practitioners** by the **NATIONAL CERTIFICATION COMMISSION OF ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE (NCCAOM)**. Those seeking licensure as an acupuncturist, or as an acupuncturist with a specialization in Herbal Medicine, must pass national board examinations conducted by NCCAOM, as well as apply for licensure in the state where they plan to practice. The professional organization representing acupuncture practitioners is the **AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ACUPUNCTURE AND ORIENTAL MEDICINE (AAAOM)**.



# What is the Career Outlook Over the Next 5-10 Years?

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, people across all age groups are becoming increasingly interested in alternative or complementary health care, which is why the demand for integrative medicine is growing in the United States. **If you are considering a career in acupuncture there has never been a better time to invest in an advanced degree in this field.**

Acupuncture practitioners can create lucrative careers with flexible work schedules that are rewarding on many levels. Acupuncture careers often allow you to choose your frequency of patients, offering a more balanced work and personal life.

Acupuncturists also spend more time developing collaborative relationships with patients, assisting them in maintaining their health and promoting healthy lifestyles.

## COMPETITIVE COMPENSATION

ACUPUNCTURIST MEAN ANNUAL WAGE

**\$84,260**

WITH A HIGH OF OVER \$140,000



National estimates place the mean annual wage for acupuncturists at **\$84,260**, with the 90th percentile being over \$140,000.

**Source:** U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



## High Job Satisfaction

**Top 20% of careers**



Acupuncturists rate their career happiness **3.7 out of 5 stars** which puts them in the **top 20% of careers**.

**Source:** Career Explorer

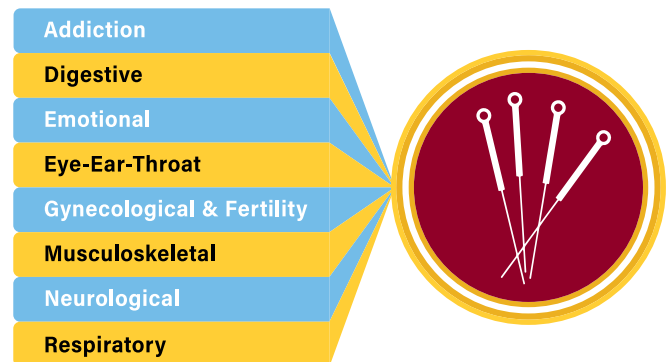
## HEALTH CARE NEEDS AND THE TREND TOWARD INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE

Acupuncture is increasingly becoming part of the main health care industry and many hospitals and treatment centers across the United States are incorporating integrative medicine practices, including acupuncture.

At NUHS, we believe in bringing together professionals from a broad range of medical specialties for the benefit of patients and the health care industry as a whole. This makes our graduates ideally suited for the growing number of integrative practice opportunities. That's also why we provide a wonderful opportunity for students to intern at Jesse Brown VA Medical Center Hospital during the clinical internship phase of the program. Students benefit from this unique experience treating patients in the integrative medical setting.

### EFFECTIVE IN TREATMENT

Leading medical institutions, including Johns Hopkins, acknowledge that acupuncture can effectively treat a variety of health issues, including:



Source: Johns Hopkins Medicine

## Career Options for Acupuncturists

Acupuncture graduates have a variety of different options after completing a degree, such as:

- ▶ Having a solo practice as a holistic acupuncturist
- ▶ Working at hospitals that include integrative practice opportunities
- ▶ Joining an established acupuncture practice
- ▶ Working in an integrative health care clinic
- ▶ Teaching acupuncture and herbal medicine
- ▶ Working with an herb or acupuncture or supply company
- ▶ Conducting research projects to advance the profession forward



# Why NUHS Students & Graduates Chose Acupuncture

Did you know that NUHS offers the opportunity for dual-degree enrollment? Health care is becoming more inclusive of holistic, integrative medicine and obtaining dual degrees can be a huge boost not only to your career but your earning potential.

By earning both degrees at the same time, you can save time and tuition money. As part of National University's dual-degree program, completing courses in one degree allows you to have an advanced standing in the other degree. So, after successfully completing three trimesters in one field, you can immediately begin coursework in your second degree choice. **See what these dual-degree enrolled students have to say:**



**EDDY TOULASSI-DJINAN**

ND & AOM (DUAL DEGREE)



**KATHRYN ROHRER**

ND & Ac (DUAL DEGREE)



**BRANDI JONES, MSOM, '15; DAc, '24**

“If you want to continue your education in acupuncture using an asynchronous platform, National University of Health Sciences is the institution for you. You won't regret it!”



**NOOSHIG SALVADOR, MD, MSOM, '18**

“I chose to attend National University, because the location was convenient, as I worked at the hospital nearby. I was impressed by the professors I met at the Student for a Day session...Focus on your studies, be passionate about your work, set your short-term and long-term goals, and remember to have fun!”

# What are the Traits of a Successful Acupuncture Practitioner?



## **PASSION FOR HELPING OTHERS**

Acupuncture practitioners spend more time with their patients than MDs. This requires you to have a genuine interest in and compassion for others.



## **APTITUDE FOR SCIENCE**

A curious mind and an interest in problem-solving will help you succeed in an acupuncture program. It will also give you the diagnostic skills you need to serve your patients well.



## **EXCELLENT WORK ETHIC**

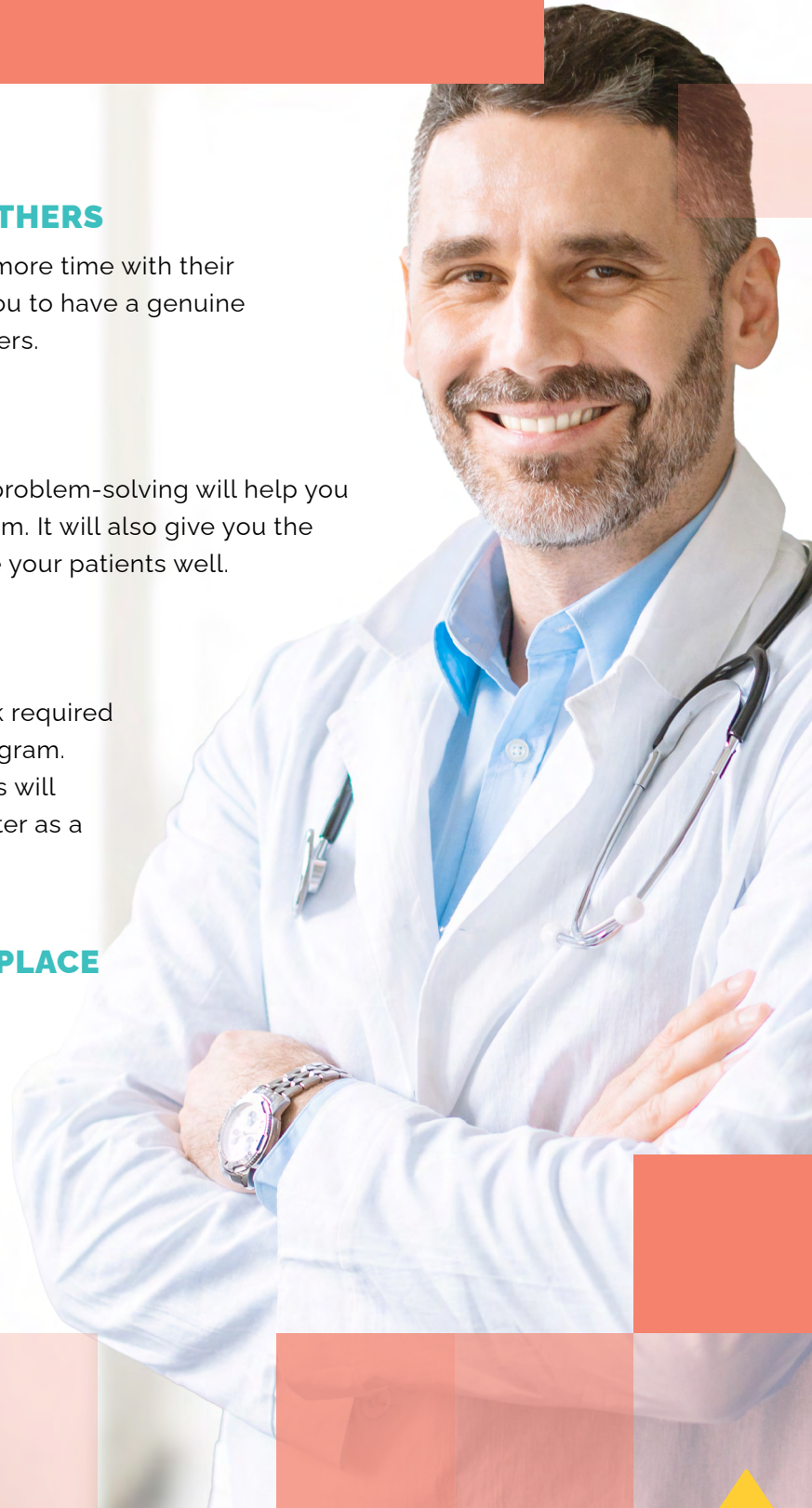
You must be willing to do the work required for a rigorous graduate school program. Time management and study skills will serve you well as a student and later as a practitioner.



## **APPRECIATION OF WORKPLACE FLEXIBILITY**

Acupuncturists see patients in a variety of settings, including:

- Private Clinics
- Wellness Centers or Spas
- Integrative Medical Centers
- Holistic Health Centers





**PART II:**

**COMPARING SCHOOLS AND  
SELECTING A PROGRAM**



# Selecting the Right Program

## COMPARING ACUPUNCTURE PROGRAMS

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All acupuncture schools are not created equal. For example, few offer students the opportunity to work alongside and learn from students in other health care fields, such as chiropractic medicine and naturopathic medicine. At NUHS students do exactly that. They are taught to work integratively so they can refer to or co-manage cases with MDs, DOs, DCs or NDs when necessary. In this way, National University provides a broad-scope approach to addressing the whole health of each patient. National University feels this approach better prepares our graduates for career success in today's health care market.

Additionally, some acupuncture programs do not recognize the value or are skeptical of the contribution of Western medicine to comprehensive health care. National University of Health Sciences combines Eastern and Western medicine in order to prepare students for the future of integrative health care. Students at National University use modern medical science, evidence-based treatments, medical diagnostics and laboratory tests while also learning Eastern diagnostics and treatment modalities including Tui Na, herbal therapies and bodywork.

# Questions to Ask Before Making Your Decision



Selecting a school for your acupuncture program can be challenging. You should start by asking important questions like the ones listed below:

## Q Which school will best prepare you for the future of health care?

### **INTEGRATION:**

Look for a school that gives you experience in integrative medicine. This means a program where acupuncturists train to work in cooperation with other health professionals, such as MDs, DOs, DCs, NDs and more.

### **WHAT WE OFFER**

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NUHS prepares graduates for the future of health care by offering a campus dedicated to integrative medicine. You'll study and work side-by-side with students and faculty from its chiropractic and naturopathic medicine programs.

This experience prepares you to understand and speak with a wider range of medical professionals when you graduate.

In turn, you'll be able to establish strong referral networks with other physicians, and gain respect in the medical community. Most of all, you'll be able to provide better advice and care for your future patients.

Additionally, as the only accredited school in the U.S. to offer programs in chiropractic medicine, naturopathic medicine and acupuncture all on one campus, our students have a rare opportunity to earn **MULTIPLE (DUAL) DEGREES** and save both time and money while expanding their skills and earning potential.

## Q Which school offers the most beneficial opportunities for clinical training?

### **GEOGRAPHY:**

Consider a school located in a thriving health care job market which results in greater employment opportunities after graduation. Look for other universities, hospitals, veterans' clinics, science and health industries nearby, as well as convenient public transportation (airports, trains, buses).

### **CLINIC OPPORTUNITIES:**

Consider the clinical phase of the program. You should spend ample time observing and treating actual patients under the supervision of clinical faculty, learning how to write and maintain medical records and gaining the confidence and skills to succeed when you start your own practice.

## **WHAT WE OFFER**

National University is conveniently located **22 MILES FROM THE CITY OF CHICAGO** and its diverse neighborhoods, with its rich tradition of herbal medicine shops and practitioners. NUHS prepares graduates for the future of health care by offering a campus dedicated to integrative medicine. You'll study and work side-by-side with students and faculty from





our chiropractic and naturopathic medicine programs. This experience prepares you to understand and speak with a wider range of medical professionals when you graduate.

The on-campus **WHOLE HEALTH CENTER** affords students the opportunity to work with a variety of patients in a diverse clinic setting that includes outstanding facilities such as private treatment rooms and a large herbal dispensary.

Prior to graduation, NUHS students also have the opportunity to work with specific populations. For example, at the NUHS **VETERANS CLINIC** student interns provide free acupuncture and discounted services to combat veterans suffering from a variety of injuries and disorders, including **POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER**, addiction and musculoskeletal injuries, to name a few.

Our acupuncture students also get real on-the-job experience in a medical environment, working together with MDs to reduce pain for patients at one of the nation's busiest urban hospitals – **JESSE BROWN HOSPITAL**.

## Q Which school will best prepare you for the future of health care?

### **BASIC SCIENCES:**

Any program which combines Western and Eastern science in its curriculum should include basic science courses such as anatomy, pathology, neurology and more.

### **CLINICAL SCIENCES:**

Review the clinical science coursework and practical training in the program. This part of an acupuncture degree teaches students important skills in diagnosing patient conditions, performing physical exams and utilizing acupuncture and other Eastern medicine techniques. Students learn through practical training how to build successful doctor-patient relationships.

## WHAT WE OFFER

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At National University, Eastern traditional medicine meets modern Western science. Acupuncture students learn fundamental biomedical science and modern medical diagnostics including coursework in imaging diagnosis, pathology, physiology, microbiology and public health. NUHS is one of only a few schools in the world with acupuncture programs that incorporate the **DISSECTION OF CADAVERS** in its program. While students dissect the body, they follow the acupuncture point locations through each layer of tissue. This provides a deeper, three-dimensional understanding of acupuncture points and therefore helps **STUDENTS BECOME BETTER ACUPUNCTURISTS**.

Students in the Acupuncture program at National University receive early clinical exposure with experienced clinicians. Our master's students start observing in clinic in their second trimester. By the fourth trimester, they start treating patients under the watchful guidance and supervision of expert clinicians. Our doctoral students sharpen their critical reasoning skills and explore special populations, such as pediatrics and geriatrics.

Understanding both Western and Eastern perspectives is fundamental to whole health healing and better patient-centered care. Students become more comprehensive, full-body diagnosticians, evaluating and recommending treatments based on each individual patient's history and symptoms. Students at NUHS are also prepared for business and the practical realities of their professional careers through the **BUSINESS PROGRAM**.





# Q

## Which school delivers the most in-depth acupuncture instruction?

### EVIDENCE-BASED:

Understand the technique instruction to be sure that the acupuncture techniques taught are backed by research proving their effectiveness. Look for a school that offers evidence-based instruction and technique.

### HANDS-ON:

Understand how acupuncture techniques are taught. You want a school that will give you the opportunity for hands-on learning from the first year of your acupuncture or herbal medicine education. Moreover, you want a school that provides master teachers who are leaders in their field.

### WHAT WE OFFER

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At National University, students get a full immersion in Eastern medicine. You'll study the complete range of traditional diagnostic techniques such as tongue and pulse analysis. You'll learn point location and correct needle techniques and get rich exposure to Asian healing arts such as Tui Na, Qi Gong, moxibustion and cupping.

Learning from a master is the bedrock of acupuncture instruction. That is why National University's programs incorporate apprentice-style learning with world-class faculty experts and leaders in the field. Our faculty are truly masters in their profession. They hold PhD or MD degrees from China, and several have a background as physicians in East-Asian hospitals. You'll get hands-on guidance and close supervision, allowing you to learn via direct transmission of knowledge and skills from our faculty masters including:



**DR. HYUNDO FRANZ KIM**

Assistant Dean of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine, College of Professional Studies

Dr. Kim is a highly respected educator and researcher on longevity, preventive medicine for the elderly, Parkinson's disease and dementia.



**DR. YIHYUN KWON**

Professor, Clinical Sciences

Dr. Kwon is an expert in integrative medicine with a research and treatment specialty in acupuncture for stroke victims.



**DR. DAVID MAYER**

Chief AHM Clinician, NUHS Whole Health Center – Lombard

Dr. Mayer specializes in treating the side effects for patients going through cancer treatments, neuromusculoskeletal pain and functional issues, sleep and stress disorders, digestive issues, women's health issues and facia rejuvenation.



**DR. ZHANXIANG WANG**

Professor, Clinical Sciences

Dr. Wang is a national leader in acupuncture research, who specializes in the treatment of leukemia and immune disorders.



## Q Which school invests in providing campus facilities to help students thrive?

It is important to choose a school that invests in the success of its students and prepares them to confidently enter the health care industry.

### WHAT WE OFFER

National University prides itself on providing a campus that helps students excel. Our facilities include:

- ▶ An on-campus **WHOLE HEALTH CENTER** clinic providing students the opportunity to work collaboratively with other health care students and practitioners in this integrative setting.
- ▶ A large and well-stocked **HERBAL DISPENSARY** where students learn how to correctly choose and prepare effective herbal prescriptions, granular preparations and more.
- ▶ A top-of-the-line **GROSS ANATOMY LAB** where acupuncture students learn Western anatomy and Eastern meridian theory through hands-on dissection of a human cadaver.
- ▶ A life-size 3D interactive **ANATOMAGE TABLE** offering students, faculty and clinicians access to an advanced digital visualization system to augment anatomy education.
- ▶ A **TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER (TAC)** where students are able to learn, practice and be assessed on their diagnosis and patient interaction skills.
- ▶ The comprehensive **JAMES F. WINTERSTEIN LIBRARY**, one of the largest medical libraries in the area that houses a huge collection of books, print and electronic journals, ebooks, bibliographic databases and much more.





## Which school supports your success?

### **TUTORING AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT:**

Check if the professors teach classes directly or use assistants. Ask if the school offers free peer tutoring (where senior students provide help in specific topics).

### **BUSINESS CLASSES:**

Discover what business classes are included in the curriculum. When you graduate, you'll most likely be starting your own business, and you'll also need to understand insurance, billing, marketing and business management procedures. Be sure the school you select offers classes that give you these skills.

### **ADDITIONAL EDUCATION:**

Consider what extra courses are available to students on the weekend or online, that could augment your primary degree. Does the institution offer an opportunity to enroll in dual-degrees or multiple programs so that you can earn more credentials with less time and money? Is continuing education reserved primarily for practicing physicians, or is it also available to acupuncture students?

### **STRONG ALUMNI NETWORK:**

Look for a school where alumni are involved and communicate with current students providing mentoring and career support.

### **ACCREDITATION:**

Look for a school that is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (ACAHM). That way, you can be certain that you'll be able to sit for a licensing exam conducted by National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM).





## WHAT WE OFFER

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National University offers an array of **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES** that contribute to a successful educational experience. These include academic advising, peer tutoring, flexible tracks, and professional and academic student organizations and clubs.

**BUSINESS CLASSES** designed to help you build, market and manage your practice are included in the curriculum, often with industry experts as guest speakers. Since chiropractic and naturopathic medicine programs are also offered on the campus, NUHS students have the opportunity to earn **MULTIPLE DEGREES** allowing them to expand their skills.

National University has an engaged alumni network who make themselves available to provide current and prospective students with career support, mentoring, shadow experiences and more. NUHS has an excellent post-graduate department where students are welcome and encouraged to take additional courses that provide specialty skills for future practice.

National University has both regional as well as programmatic (ACAHM) accreditation for its acupuncture programs. **This means when you graduate from NUHS, you'll be qualified to take the NCCAOM licensing exam.**

# Acupuncture Programs Offered at NUHS:

National University's curriculum offers solid grounding in Western health sciences. It prepares students to work alongside other care professionals, expanding future career opportunities in integrative medical practices and venues. Select any of the programs below to learn more!

## DOCTOR OF ACUPUNCTURE (DAc)

The DAc program is a 134-hour program and can be completed in 8 trimesters. Upon the completion of the first 107 credits (6 trimesters) on campus, students will receive the Master of Acupuncture (MAc) degree. The last 27 credits are fully online in an asynchronous format which allows students to adapt the program in a more convenient schedule to finish each term in the allotted time frame, to stay on track and complete in one year.\*

## DOCTOR OF ACUPUNCTURE COMPLETION PROGRAM (DAc-C)

The DAc-C program is available to those who have completed a master's degree in Acupuncture or Oriental Medicine. This 27-hour program is completely online in an asynchronous format which allows students to adapt the program in a more convenient schedule to finish each term in the allotted time frame, to stay on track and complete in one year.\*

## MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE (MAc)

The MAc program is a 107-credit hour program and is six trimesters in length. The program covers the history, theory and philosophy of acupuncture as well as rigorous training in diagnosis and treatment planning. Students will also graduate with a solid foundation in the basic sciences of Western medicine, having developed skills necessary for integrative and collaborative practice in health care settings of their choosing. Students have the ability to apply for the DAc program concurrently with the MAc.

## MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE WITH A SPECIALIZATION IN HERBAL MEDICINE (MAc-HM)

The MAc-HM program is a 149-credit program, completed in eight trimesters which adds a specialization in Herbal Medicine to the acupuncture curriculum. Students will gain a deeper understanding of herbal medicine which may broaden their future practice opportunities. This training will also help prepare students who intend to take the Chinese Herbology portion of the professional licensure board exams.

\*Doctor of Acupuncture students (DAc and DAc-C) must complete a 75-hour preceptorship with a physician holding a professional doctorate (DC, MD, ND, DO).



**PART III:**

**NAVIGATING THE  
ADMISSION PROCESS**



# Next Step: Understanding Admission Requirements

## GPA AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

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### DOCTOR OF ACUPUNCTURE (DAc) PROGRAM:

- ▶ **90 semester hours of undergraduate credit** (no bachelor's degree required)
- ▶ **2.50 (on a 4.00 scale) minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA** (Students with a 3.00 cumulative GPA will be given priority)

### DOCTOR OF ACUPUNCTURE COMPLETION (DAc-C) PROGRAM:

- ▶ **90 semester hours of undergraduate credit** with a **2.50 (on a 4.00 scale) minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA** (Students with a 3.00 cumulative GPA will be given priority)
- ▶ **Completion of a master's degree** in Acupuncture or Oriental/Herbal Medicine

### MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE (MAc) PROGRAM:

- ▶ **90 semester hours** or **120 quarter hours of undergraduate credit**
- ▶ **2.50 (on a 4.00 scale) minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA** (Students with a 3.00 cumulative GPA will be given priority)

### MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE

#### WITH A SPECIALIZATION IN HERBAL MEDICINE (MAc-HM) PROGRAM:

- ▶ **90 semester hours** or **120 quarter hours of undergraduate credit**
- ▶ **2.50 (on a 4.00 scale) minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA** (Students with a 3.00 cumulative GPA will be given priority)

## TIPS ON ADMISSION

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### WHAT ELSE WILL BE REQUIRED?

Most acupuncture schools will require the following documents:

- ▶ Application for admission
- ▶ Application fee and deposit Interview (in-person or by phone)
- ▶ Essay question responses
- ▶ Character references
- ▶ Undergraduate transcripts

**NOTE:** Most acupuncture schools will not require standardized tests (e.g. MCAT, GRE)

### WHEN SHOULD I APPLY?

Often, acupuncture schools have a rolling admissions calendar, which means they accept applications year-round. At National University, new classes start September, January and May of each year! You'll want to begin the application process six to nine months before you intend to start your graduate program. This will allow ample time for all admission requirements to be completed, and to ensure that there are still spots left in the program.

**APPLY EARLY!**

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**NUHS also provides a quick summary of the admissions essentials for the [MAc, MAc-HM, DAc, DAc-C](#) programs on our website.**

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### WHAT WILL MAKE ME A MORE COMPETITIVE APPLICANT?

You can make yourself more attractive to admissions officials at acupuncture schools by showing your interest and commitment to the field. You can demonstrate this by having a "shadow experience" – spending time in an acupuncturist's or herbal medicine practitioner's office in order to understand if this is the right career for you. National University offers "shadow experiences" before or after you apply with a network of practicing graduates nationwide.

### HOW IMPORTANT IS VISITING THE CAMPUS?

When you enroll in an acupuncture program, you're making a commitment to spend multiple years completing a rigorous medical program. It's important to visit the school to see the facilities, meet the instructors and get a feel for the campus. That's why NUHS offers you multiple visit experiences. [VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#) for event schedules. Whatever your preference, we have you covered.

### FINANCIAL OPTIONS

Like any graduate degree, training to be an acupuncturist practitioner is a big investment.

Normally, students rely on some type of [FINANCIAL AID](#) in the form of scholarships or loans. For an MAc or MAc-HM degree, students normally qualify for both federal direct and private loans. Many schools offer a variety of institutional scholarships, so be sure to ask. The NUHS website includes a breakdown of cost estimates for the Master of Acupuncture (MAc), Master of Acupuncture with a specialization in Herbal Medicine (MAc-HM), Doctor of Acupuncture (DAc) and the Doctor of Acupuncture Completion Program (DAc-C) degrees.

# Next Steps for Financial Aid

Read more about the financial aid process on the NUHS website. Regarding the types of aid, you may receive for your education plan, research the available loan programs, scholarships and federal work-study programs.

**MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE (MAc)  
FINANCIAL AID**

**DOCTOR OF ACUPUNCTURE (DAc)  
FINANCIAL AID**

**MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE WITH A SPECIALIZATION  
IN HERBAL MEDICINE (MAc-HM) FINANCIAL AID**

**DOCTOR OF ACUPUNCTURE  
COMPLETION PROGRAM (DAc-C) FINANCIAL AID**



# Why Should You Choose an Acupuncture Program at NUHS?

**WATCH THE VIDEO TO LEARN WHAT SETS NUHS APART**



**YOUR NEXT STEP TO SUCCESS!** NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES OFFERS A RANGE OF ACUPUNCTURE DEGREES, AND IS A GREAT PLACE TO START YOUR COMPARISON OF SCHOOLS.

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

# NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

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National University of Health Sciences offers graduate and doctoral programs in acupuncture and is a great place to start your comparison of schools. Here's why:



## OUR DEDICATION TO INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE

As the only accredited school in the U.S. to offer chiropractic medicine, naturopathic medicine and acupuncture on one campus, National University's graduates are uniquely prepared for the future of health care. By studying and working side-by-side with students and faculty from other programs, you will be better prepared to work and thrive in today's integrated health care market.



## OUR ACADEMIC SUPERIORITY

National University's academic program is rigorous, uncompromising and built on a solid foundation in evidence-based science. We maintain the highest admission standards for our students.



## OUR HISTORY OF LEADERSHIP

Founded in 1906, National University offers more than 115 years of experience in graduating leaders in alternative medicine. A driving force for moving natural health care into mainstream medicine, we celebrated our centennial by adding the Master of Science in Acupuncture and Master of Science in Oriental Medicine in 2006. Today, these programs have grown to become the **Master of Acupuncture**, the **Master of Acupuncture with a specialization in Herbal Medicine**, **Doctor of Acupuncture** and the **Doctor of Acupuncture Completion** program.





We hope this guide was helpful as you decide if, when and where to pursue a degree in Acupuncture. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions about our programs or the NUHS student experience.

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