



ACUPUNCTURE CAREER GUIDE

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

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 ADMISSION 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 Acupuncture

Acupuncture is a field within alternative medicine that is over 3,000 years old, designed to heal and improve health through rebalancing the patient's Qi (or Chi) energy. 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.

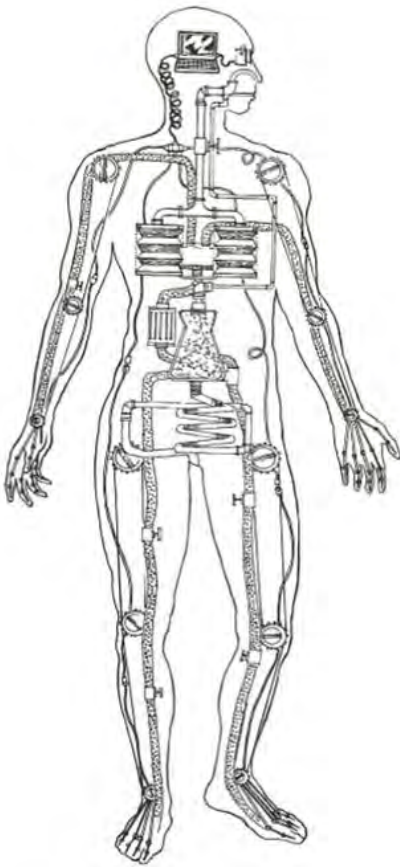
ACUPUNCTURE includes the insertion of thin, sterile needles into strategic points on the body that lie along specific energy meridian pathways. Its goal is to promote healing through rebalancing the patients Qi (or Chi) energy. The weakness, excess, or imbalance of Qi affects key organ systems and is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



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, etc.

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.

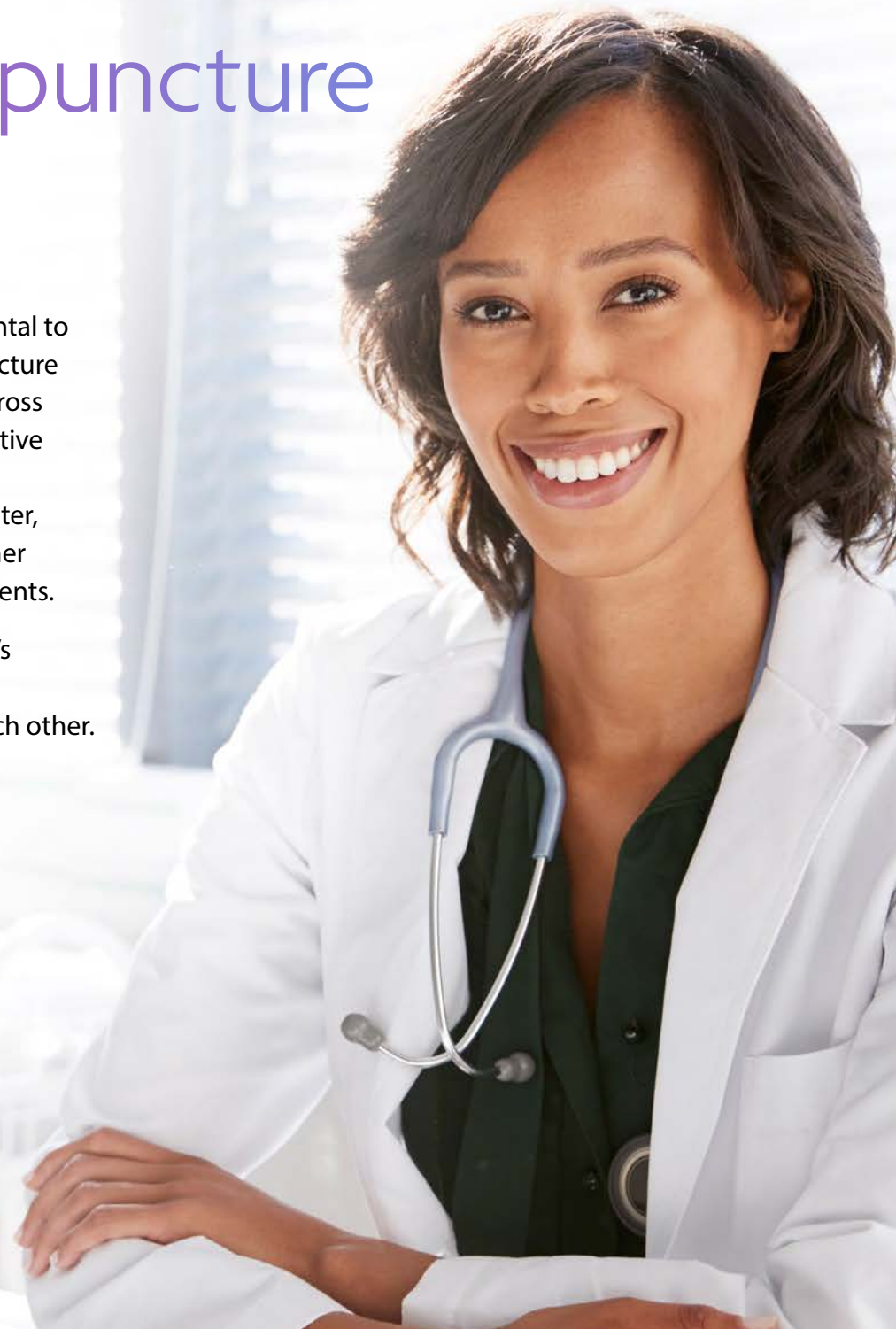
National University's [MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE \(MAc\)](#), [MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE WITH A SPECIALIZATION IN HERBAL MEDICINE \(MAc-HM\)](#), [DOCTOR OF ACUPUNCTURE \(DAc\)](#) and online [DOCTOR OF ACUPUNCTURE COMPLETION PROGRAM \(DAc-C\)](#) programs provide comprehensive education and training in Eastern 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 at 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.

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.



WHAT DOES AN ACUPUNCTURIST ACTUALLY DO?

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 prompt the patient back to functional harmony by discriminating 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?

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?

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.

COMPENSATION AND JOB SATISFACTION



Mean Annual Wage
\$73,960
Mean Hourly Wage
\$35.56

Source: <https://www.careerexplorer.com/careers/acupuncturist/salary/>

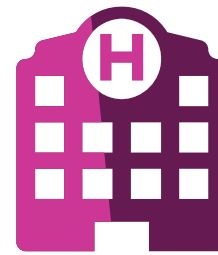
Acupuncture practitioners can create lucrative careers with flexible work schedules that are rewarding on many levels. Acupuncture careers often allow you to choose your frequency of patients, offering a more balanced work and personal life. Acupuncturists are also able to spend more time developing a collaborative relationship with patients assisting them in maintaining their health and promoting healthy lifestyles.

HEALTH CARE NEEDS AND THE TREND TOWARD INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE

Did you know that the World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes acupuncture as an effective treatment for over 43 conditions under nine major health categories, from mental health to gastrointestinal disorders?

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 John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital during the clinical internship phase of the program. Students benefit from this unique experience treating patients in the integrative medical setting.



42%

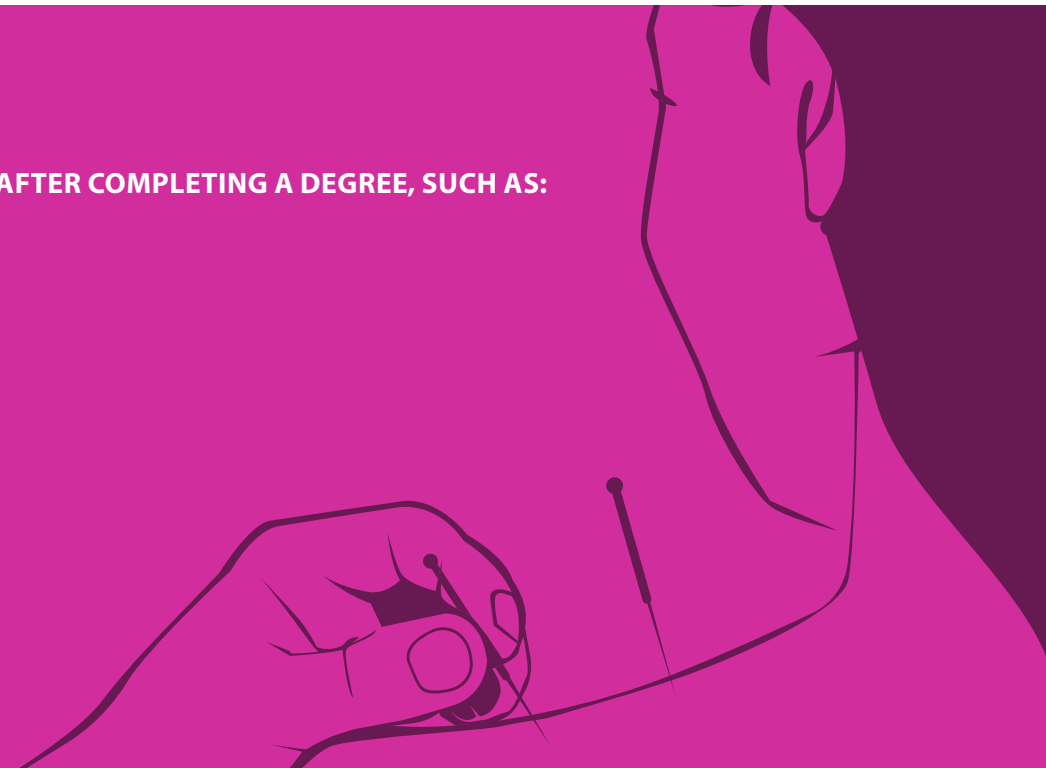
of the hospitals offering complementary and alternative medicine provide acupuncture as an outpatient service to their patients.

Source: Complementary and Alternative Medicine Survey of Hospitals by Samueli Institute and American Hospital Association's Health Forum.

CAREER OPTIONS FOR ACUPUNCTURISTS

ACUPUNCTURE GRADUATES HAVE A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT OPTIONS AFTER COMPLETING A DEGREE, SUCH AS:

- ▶ Have a solo practice as a holistic acupuncturist
- ▶ Work at hospitals that include integrative practice opportunities
- ▶ Join an established acupuncture practice
- ▶ Work in an integrative healthcare clinic
- ▶ Teach acupuncture and herbal medicine
- ▶ Sail the world as a cruise ship acupuncturist
- ▶ Work with an herb or acupuncture or supply company
- ▶ Conduct research projects to advance the profession forward



WHY NUHS STUDENTS & GRADUATES CHOSE ACUPUNCTURE

NUHS interns have the opportunity to work in an integrative medical setting with physicians as part of a multi-specialty treatment team in the Stroger clinic for pain management. You can also hear about other student journeys by following their weekly blogs on the NUHS website.



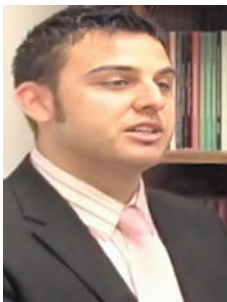
TOBIAS DONAKER, MSAc

“There’s a good dynamic of people in the program that come from medical backgrounds versus people from sociological backgrounds like myself, as well as people from philosophical backgrounds. It all opens people’s minds to absorb teachings from another culture and apply them to our own culture effectively.”



SARAH MONTESA, DC, MSHAPI, MSOM, LAc, CHPCAS

“Being able participate in the Clerkship at Stroger Cook County Hospital was an amazing privilege. It meant that I was able to care for a diverse range of patients with complicated presentations and learn how to act as a peer in the medical community. The eight months that I spent there were some of the most memorable of my time as a student at National. I looked forward to coming in every day and found myself humbled by many of the interactions that I had with my patients there. They were the most amazing teachers that I ever could have asked for.”



RYAN SECOR, MSAc

“The education that I received from National has helped me to look at each patient from not only an Eastern but also a Western health perspective.”

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.



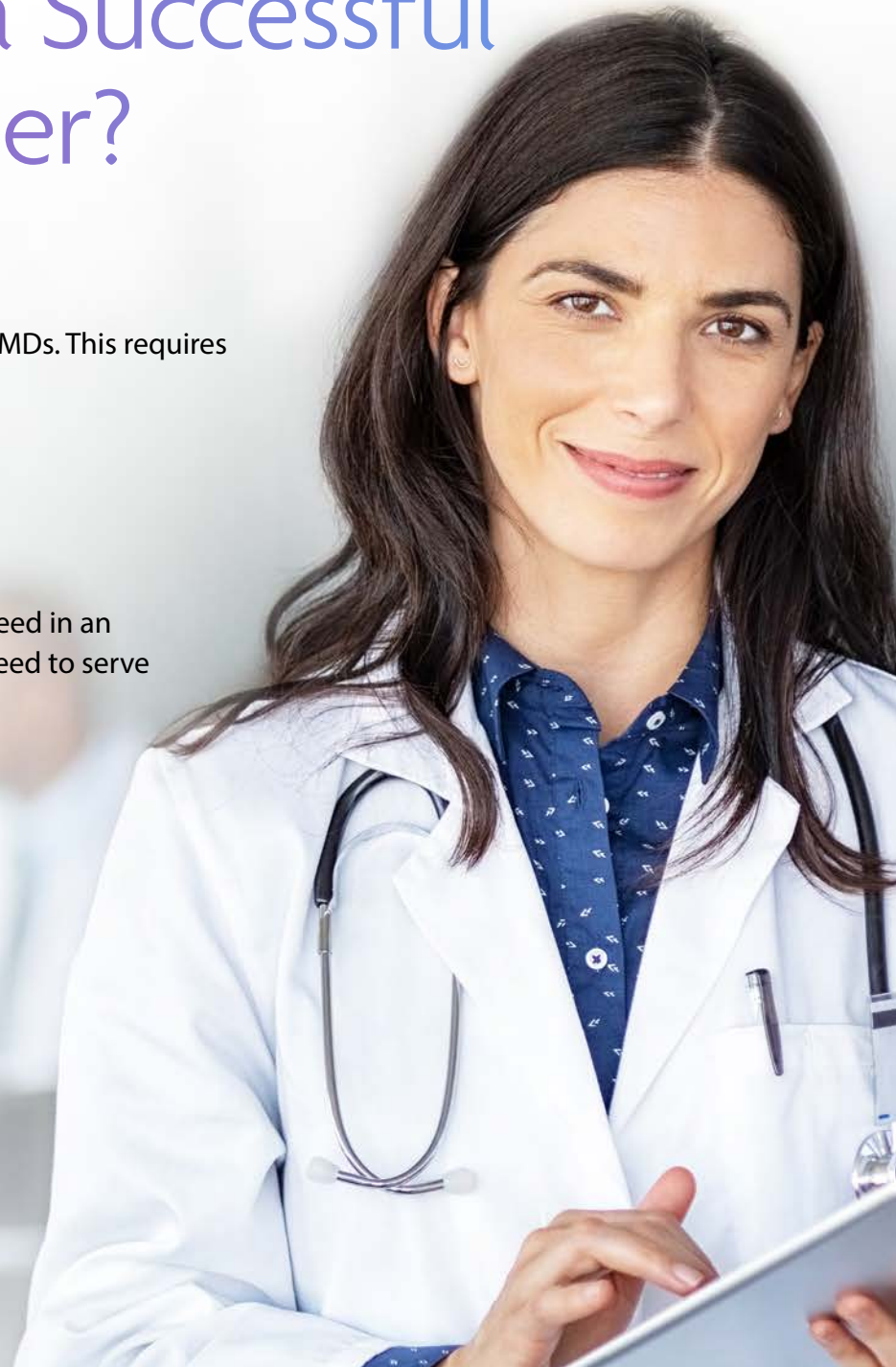
EXCELLENT WORK ETHIC

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

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 and are taught to work integratively, so they can refer to, or co-manage cases with MDs, 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 of, 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:



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, DCs, NDs and more.

WHAT WE OFFER:

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 DEGREES](#) and save both time and money while expanding their skills and earning potential.





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 gain the confidence and skills to succeed when you start your own practice.

WHAT WE OFFER:

National University is conveniently located **15 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 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.

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 -- [COOK COUNTY'S JOHN H. STROGER, JR. HOSPITAL](#).



Which school provides the most comprehensive medical school education?

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:

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 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 practical realities of their professional careers through the **BUSINESS PROGRAM**.



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:

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 Oriental 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. ZHANXIANG WANG

A national leader in acupuncture research who specializes in the treatment of leukemia and immune disorders.



DR. YIHYUN KWON

An expert in integrative medicine with a research and treatment specialty in acupuncture for stroke victims.



DR. HYUNDO FRANZ KIM

In addition to serving as Chief Clinician of the Acupuncture Department in the NUHS Whole Health Center – Lombard, Dr. Kim is a highly respected researcher on longevity, preventive medicine for the elderly, Parkinson's disease and dementia.





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 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, communicate with current students, and where you can reach out to them for 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:

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.

ACUPUNCTURE PROGRAMS OFFERED AT NUHS:

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 masters 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. The program also includes a preceptorship requirement that can be completed with a local practitioner.

MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE (MAc)

The MAc program is a 107-credit hour program and is 6 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 8 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.



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.



PART III

Navigating the Admission Process

Next Step: Understanding Admission Requirements

GPA AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCTOR OF ACUPUNCTURE (DAc) PROGRAM

Applicants need to have earned:

- ▶ **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)

GPA AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR DOCTOR OF ACUPUNCTURE COMPLETION (DAc-C) PROGRAM

Applicants need to have earned:

- ▶ **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 MASTERS DEGREE** in Acupuncture or Oriental/Herbal Medicine



GPA AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE (MAc) PROGRAM

Applicants need to have earned:

- ▶ **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)

GPA AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE WITH A SPECIALIZATION IN HERBAL MEDICINE (MAc-HM) PROGRAM

Applicants need to have earned:

- ▶ **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

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 6 – 9 months before you intend to start your graduate program. This will allow ample time for all admission requirements to be completed, and ensure that there are still spots left in the program.

APPLY EARLY!



NUHS ALSO PROVIDES A QUICK SUMMARY OF THE ADMISSIONS ESSENTIALS FOR THE [MAc](#), [MAc-HM](#), [DAc](#), [DAc-C](#) PROGRAMS ON ITS WEBSITE.

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 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 that you visit the school and see the facilities, meet the instructors, and understand the location and feel of the campus. That’s why NUHS offers you [MULTIPLE VISIT EXPERIENCES](#) – you can schedule an individual visit or attend one of our Student for a Day or Campus Visit Day events. Visit www.nuhs.edu 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.



Not sure where to begin or what to do next?

Read more about the financial aid process on the NUHS web site. 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**

A photograph of three women sitting at a wooden picnic table outdoors. The woman on the left is seen from the back, wearing a white top and light-colored pants. The woman in the middle is facing her, wearing a dark top and gesturing with her hands. The woman on the right is also facing her, with long blonde hair. They appear to be in a park or campus setting with trees in the background.

Why Should You Choose An Acupuncture Program at NUHS?

UNCOMPROMISING RIGOR

**WHY NATIONAL UNIVERSITY?
WATCH VIDEO**

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

YOUR NEXT STEP TO SUCCESS! 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 has over 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 Masters of Science in Acupuncture and Masters 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 THAT THIS GUIDE WAS HELPFUL AS YOU DISCERN 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.

CALL THE OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS AT 1-800-826-6285
OR EMAIL US AT ADMISSIONS@NUHS.EDU.

