



# Academy for Five Element Acupuncture

## Program Catalog

October 2024





Five Element practitioners see people not only as they present themselves in illness, but more importantly, as they would be in perfect health and balance, in full discovery of their true nature, unique in body, mind and spirit. Moving towards this, then becomes the purpose of treatment.



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Painted in the ancient Chinese style by Chungliang Ai Huang, our logo represents the symbol for the Five Elements. For us, the logo represents how the Five Elements inform our work as practitioners, reaching from one heart to another.

We are honored to offer in our catalog the brushwork of Chungliang Ai Huang. Mr. Huang, founder of the Living Tao Foundation, is a master dancer, renowned brush calligrapher, bamboo flute player and philosopher.

“During my years of study in the United States, my parents insisted that I write to them with my Chinese brush. I remember resenting them for making me spend extra time to prepare the ink and maintain my calligraphic practice. I would have preferred to whisk off a quick ballpoint-pen letter and have more time for study and social life.

Now I bow deeply to their wisdom!”

- Chungliang Ai Huang



fire

## *Welcome to the inspiring world of Five Element Acupuncture*

In this catalog we hope you will find everything you need to know about Academy for Five Element Acupuncture and its educational programs. Here are some highlights of our school:

- Our Master of Acupuncture degree program can be completed in 36 months. It begins with a series of 14-18 day intensive sessions spread out over the first two years of the program. These intensives are taught in person at our campus in Gainesville, FL. The final year of the program is a year-long clinical residency in the Academy's teaching clinic in Gainesville.
- The Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine can be completed in 27 months and is taught concurrently with the Acupuncture program. The final year is a year-long clinical residency in the Academy's teaching clinic in Gainesville.
- Our unique structure allows students to reside outside of Florida for the first two years of the program, relocating only for the clinical residency in the last year. This enables students from across the country to enroll in and complete our program.
- Our programs provide a flexible learning schedule giving students the independence of studying at their own pace, while still ensuring a high level of education and competency. Many students are able to work full-time during the first two years of the program while they are travelling to intensive sessions.
- Our dedication to remaining a small school enables us to offer highly personalized attention and instruction, with class sizes ranging from 18 to 25 students.
- All members of our gifted faculty are also acupuncture practitioners and/or herbalists, many of whom travel from across the country to share their extensive clinical experience with the next generation of practitioners.
- Our nationally-accredited programs prepares students to sit for the NCCAOM acupuncture board examinations. They also satisfy the licensure eligibility standards of most U.S. states.
- Title IV federal financial aid is available for qualified students.

We invite you to review this material carefully. If you have specific questions, or wish to arrange a visit to the school, please feel free to call, write, or e-mail us. We wish you the best on your journey.





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# Mission Statement

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## Our Vision

To bring healing through the depth, heart and spirit of the Five Element tradition, in full harmony with nature and other healing arts.

## Our Mission

The mission of Academy for Five Element Acupuncture is to educate highly effective, compassionate and successful Five Element practitioners who provide exceptional, personalized patient care.

## Our Principles

The following Principles are in support of our Mission:

- **Rooted in the Five Element Tradition.** “Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better” (Albert Einstein). The Academy’s faculty, staff and students recognize healing from the artistry and poetry of the Five Element perspective, which is deeply rooted in the natural world and treats the body, mind and spirit. The Academy respects the efficacy of working in concert with other healing modalities, creating profound balance, harmony and well-being.
- **Spirit.** “The essential point in the treatment of an illness is to root oneself in the five spirits of the person: to know whether they dwell or have been lost, whether one possesses or loses them, to know if the intent is for death or life.” (Taisu; Larre a Rochat de la Vallee, 1995). One of the most distinguishing and exciting values of the Five Element tradition is its priority on treating at the level of spirit. The Academy is highly committed to the traditional value of working with each person’s unique connection to spirit in order to achieve the highest level of care.
- **Inner Development.** “What is virtue? It is to hold yourself to your fullest development as a person and as a responsible member of the human community” (Arthur Dobrin). Transformation is a process involving self-awareness and personal growth. The Academy emphasizes inner development of faculty, staff and students, encouraging cultivation of intention, humility, compassion, mindfulness and integrity in all aspects of their daily lives.
- **Excellence.** “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit” (Aristotle). In order to maintain the highest possible standard both academically and clinically, the Academy promotes excellence in faculty, staff and students and is continually assessing and enriching all aspects of the Academy experience, balancing innovation with core essentials and a strong foundation.
- **Community and Service.** “An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity” (Martin Luther King, Jr.). The Academy places a high value on creating a school community committed to achieving a unified set of goals that is enhanced by a spirit of service, encouraging and supporting each individual to focus on the larger context. Through service and participation in public events, we strive to carry this sense of community to the world at large.





### The Five Element Tradition

The practice of acupuncture began more than 3,000 years ago in China and spread throughout East Asia. Early observations of the predictable patterns in nature pointed to the realization of an underlying, cyclical flow of energy. We see this energy manifest most clearly in the change of the seasons. The tradition of Five Element acupuncture is based on the understanding of this cyclical flow of vital energy – also known as Qi. Each of the Five Elements – Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal and Water – represents a distinct quality of the Qi energy that is vital to the continual health and flow of nature.

The founders of this medicine in China and East Asia observed that just as these essential energetic qualities can be found in nature, so can they be found in every living being. By understanding the relationships of the Elements within and using them as a guide, they could discover and treat the root of a person's illness, restoring health to the body, mind and spirit.

The Five Elements represent the five phases of Qi as it moves through nature and our beings. The Elements work interdependently in an elegant and systematic balance, each one sustaining and supporting the next in the cycle. This cycle can best be seen in the change of seasons: Wood corresponds to the birth and growth of plants and trees in the spring. What is planted in the spring comes to maturity under the heat and vitality of Fire in summer. The warmth of Fire creates the abundance of the harvest of the Earth in late summer. After the harvest comes the decay of autumn, where the leaves falling from the trees nourish the soil and produce the mineral resources of Metal. The mountains and mineral rocks create and bind the flowing streams of Water, moving quietly under the surface of the ice in winter, which, in turn sources the germinating seed of Wood.

The interdependency of this natural cycle is delicate. Even small disruptions can wreak havoc on growth and development. And so it is with the cycle of Qi in our bodies. When the energies of the Five Elements are functioning in harmony and balance within ourselves, we feel healthy, nourished and fully alive. The extent to which we live according to these natural laws is the extent to which we live in health. When one or more of the elements move out of balance, we may feel a reduced sense of well-being. We may develop various symptoms that show up at every level of well-being: physical, mental, emotional and spiritual.

## The Role of Practitioner

Five Element practitioners use the Law of the Five Elements as a guide in correcting the imbalance of energy within the body and restoring zheng qi, regulatory qi. They recognize that each individual is unique, and while their symptoms may be identical to another person's, the cause of those symptoms depends on the individual. To determine the cause, the practitioner must first identify the patient's Constitutional Factor, or CF. The CF is the first element to go out of balance in an individual and becomes the underlying disturbance in the patient's energy. By restoring balance to the energy of the CF, restoring zheng qi, rather than simply treating symptoms, the Five Element practitioner treats the patient as a whole, leading to a higher level of well-being.

To determine a patient's CF, practitioners follow sensory cues from the patient known as CSOE: color, sound, odor and emotion. Each element has its own correspondences that the practitioner is trained to observe in their patients. Diagnosing the CF through these clues allows the practitioner to focus on the specific meridians and points associated with the CF. Thus, a path of treatment unfolds.

## An Oral Tradition

At its origins, Five Element acupuncture is an oral tradition that has been handed down through many generations. Transmitted through experience and example, it is based on learning through the senses. The Academy's curriculum continues the oral tradition with experiential coursework that focuses on developing students' perceptions of touch, smell, hearing and seeing- skills lost in our rushed and technologically driven world- and then teaches students how to use those senses as diagnostic tools. While our students also learn from the written texts that have become available, the majority of learning involves cultivating the Heart, the intuition and the senses of the practitioner as an equal part of the analytical treatment process. This process of combining the heart and the intellect requires much more than memorization. And it makes the student's self-development and inner work an integral part of their development as a practitioner.

## Teaching Emphasis

Our highly skilled faculty members play an integral part in transmitting the oral tradition of this medicine. They embrace the opportunity to share their extensive clinical expertise as they guide new students in the nuances involved in Five Element diagnosis and treatment. All of the instructors at Academy for Five Element Acupuncture are practitioners with their own practices, and some are among the most experienced Five Element practitioners in the nation.

Our intensive-based structure allows us to bring these gifted instructors to Florida from all over the U.S. Working with our diverse faculty exposes students to a more in-depth theoretical framework and clinical experience. As a result of such exposure, our students have a stronger foundation and knowledge base to support them once they finish their clinical residencies and begin their own practices. More importantly, they have developed lasting relationships with their instructors and supervisors who they can turn to as colleagues.

# History of the Academy

- Academy for Five Element Acupuncture, Inc. was founded in Florida in 1988.
- In 1995, the school incorporated and became a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization.
- In 1998, the Master of Acupuncture program was accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM) and continues to maintain its accreditation.
- In 2000, the Florida State Commission for Independent Education awarded degree-granting power to the Academy. Qualified students are awarded a Master of Acupuncture degree.
- In 2004, the Academy was certified by the U.S. Department of Education to participate in the Title IV Student Aid Program.
- In 2007, the Academy moved from South Florida to its newly owned and renovated campus building in Gainesville, Florida.
- In 2021, the Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine program was accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (ACAHM), formerly ACAOM.



## Unique Intensive Structure

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The 36-month **Master of Acupuncture (M.Ac.)** program is structured in an intensive session format, which provides flexibility for those students who are working while going to school full-time. The first two academic years of full-time study are taught in six intensive sessions, each ranging from 14 to 18 days in length. These intensive sessions are scheduled approximately every three to four months so that students are in Florida three times each year. All instruction is presented on-site by a live instructor, with classes beginning at 9 am and ending at 6 pm.

Non-local students commute to Florida for the entire duration of these intensives. After the intensive is over, students return home where they complete a variety of homework assignments building on the course work they just completed, along with additional corequisite courses. Our teaching structure permits students from all over the country to enroll in our program without having to relocate to Florida during the first two academic years of the program. Many students who live outside of Gainesville find our structure ideal for their needs. The majority of our student body reside in states other than Florida.

The third and fourth academic years of our Acupuncture program is a 14-month clinical residency in Gainesville where the structure shifts to a weekly schedule of class and clinical study. At this time, students who do not already reside within a reasonable commuting distance of the Academy must relocate to Gainesville for the duration of the clinical internship to complete their training. The Clinical Residency is the heart of the program and must be completed in the Academy's teaching clinic. Here, students work with experienced Five Element practitioners, gaining in-depth proficiency in treating their own patients in addition to attending weekly clinical seminars. The schedule includes a number of weekend courses in addition to the weekly clinical schedule.

The 27-month **Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine (CCHM)** program is also offered in an intensive format, scheduled in conjunction with the acupuncture intensives. There are five intensive sessions for the Chinese Herbal Medicine program, with each intensive lasting four to five days. The clinical portion of the program is scheduled alongside the acupuncture residency, enabling students to complete the clinical training for both programs at the same time. Students will see patients in the Academy's herbal clinic, recommending and compounding their formulas in the school's dispensary. Students also attend weekly classes during the clinical year.

For those students enrolled only in the Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine program, the same residency requirements for the M.Ac. program apply to the CCHM program. Students must relocate to the Gainesville area for the clinical year in order to attend weekly classes, see clinic patients, and work in the herbal dispensary.

Our admissions office can provide a program schedule for a fuller view of the intensive structure of each program. Please see Tables A and B for hours/credits and course descriptions for each program.

## Master of Acupuncture



Our 36-month Master of Acupuncture program is based in the ancient and subtle energetics of the Five Elements. Rooted in traditional Taoist philosophy, our program finds the perfect model for health and well-being represented in the laws and cycles of nature. In keeping with the oral tradition of this medicine, our program transmits the skills of diagnosis and treatment through experience and example, emphasizing the development of one's ability to observe and learn through the senses. Students immerse themselves in a blend of didactic and experiential training designed to strengthen the senses and develop the Heart as a complement to the analytical process. As a result, the students' self-development and internal cultivation work are an integral part of becoming an effective practitioner.

Students who graduate from the program will be awarded a Master of Acupuncture degree (M.Ac.) and will be qualified to sit for the NCCAOM exams.

## Goals

The goals of Academy for Five Element Acupuncture, Inc., are to prepare graduates to practice as independent health care practitioners and to work cooperatively with other health care providers.

## Program Learning Objectives

Graduates of the Master of Acupuncture program will be able to:

- Describe and apply their knowledge of the theory and philosophy of Five Element Acupuncture, including the roots of East Asian medicine, to safely and effectively diagnose and treat patients;
- Gather and synthesize accurate information, and formulate a diagnosis using traditional diagnostic methods including inquiry, touch, smell, hearing, seeing, and pulse taking to evaluate patient health;
- Apply biomedical knowledge of the patient in health and disease to evaluate and understand their patients' conditions;
- Develop and execute treatment plans that are safe and effective, using traditional and other techniques, and adjust treatment strategy according to changes in patients' presentations;
- Communicate effectively with patients, demonstrating the ability to listen, empathize, and guide the therapeutic interaction;
- Assess themselves as acupuncture practitioners, appreciate their limits, and identify areas of strength and areas for growth, in body, mind, and spirit;
- Operate a private practice, and/or work with other providers in a variety of health care settings;
- Adhere to all ethical and legal requirements, including appropriate maintenance of records, sanitation standards, patient safety, and emergency procedures.
- Communicate with other health care providers, recognize situations requiring referral or emergency interventions and respond appropriately.

## Inner Development of the Practitioner

At the Academy, we believe that the cultivation of the self, of the Heart, is fundamental to the process of becoming a practitioner. Accordingly, the students' inner development is placed in the forefront of education, with an important emphasis on increasing awareness of one's internal state. We seek to cultivate and strengthen the Heart, the individuality, compassion, empathy and awareness of the student as practitioner. At the same time, we work to provide

a safe space for students to do this inner work, so that they in turn can create a safe place for their patients. Through reading, Qigong, meditation and field trips into nature, students are asked to reflect and learn who they are as individuals and as practitioners. Students evaluate themselves, identifying their areas of strength and areas for growth in order to mature beyond their limitations and fears.

Practitioners are most effective when they are able to focus their intention. And only when there is stillness inside, can they focus that intention.

We seek applicants who are able to demonstrate the maturity and commitment to this inner development in addition to the didactic learning. Interested applicants can familiarize themselves with this component of our program by reviewing the course descriptions in this catalog for courses ACT406: Inner Practitioner-Patient Relationship I, ACT409: Internal Cultivation I, ACT405: Reflective Practice I and their corresponding Year 2 courses (ACT506, ACT509, and ACT515).



## Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine Program

The Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine (CCHM) program is a 27-month program offering students the opportunity to add a powerful, ancient and highly effective treatment modality to their healing repertoire. Our program is based in the Eight Principle/Zang Fu diagnosis and treatment models that are foundational for East Asian herbal medicine. Study of East Asian herbal medicine in conjunction with Five Element acupuncture enhances the practitioner's ability to treat patients on all levels of the body, mind and spirit.

Students who graduate from the program will be awarded a Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine and are qualified to sit for the NCCAOM exam in Chinese Herbology.

## Goals

The study of East Asian herbal medicine will provide our graduates with the language and framework to interact effectually with practitioners of other East Asian medicine traditions.

## Program Learning Objectives

Building on the Eight Principle foundation, graduates of the CCHM program will be able to...

- Differentiate the most common formulas and single herbs, including their actions, indications and contraindications;
- Describe and apply their knowledge of the theory and philosophy of East Asian Herbal Medicine to safely and effectively diagnose and treat patients;
- Gather and synthesize accurate information to move through the clinical thought process and pattern differentiation to safely prescribe an herbal formulation;

- Prepare formulations utilizing various forms of herbal treatment (loose herbs, granules, patents, and plasters);
- Modify formulations to meet the specific needs of patients and address changes in patients' presentations;
- Recognize and understand Western medical diagnostic disease labels from a Chinese medical perspective;
- Operate a private practice, and/or work with other providers in a variety of health care settings, adhering to all ethical and legal requirements, including appropriate maintenance of records, sanitation standards, good manufacturing practice, patient safety, and emergency procedures.

### Additional Information

The Academy's program in Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine (CCHM) is separate from the Master of Acupuncture program, but is designed to be taken concurrently. The majority of our acupuncture students also enroll in the CCHM program in order to integrate the Eight Principles and the Five Elements effectively in treatment and to qualify for licensure in many states. Interested students should check their state licensing regulations to see if herbal training is required for licensure.

Students seeking to enroll in only the CCHM program must already be students or graduates of an accredited acupuncture or East Asian medicine program. Admission requirements are detailed in the catalog.

### Continuing Education

The Academy also offers continuing education (CEU) courses. The most current schedule information is available on the Academy's web site, [acupuncturist.edu](http://acupuncturist.edu)

## Summary of Total Program Hours

	M.Ac.	CCHM	M.Ac. +CCHM
<b>Total Program Hours</b>	2451	847	3268
Didactic Training	854	472	1326
Clinical Training	967	315	1252
Western/Biomedical Sciences	525	60	585
Counseling, Communications, and Practice Management	105	-	-
<b>Total Program Semester Credits</b>	129.5	45.5	174



## Facilities

Gainesville is located in North Central Florida and the Academy is situated in the historic downtown area in the heart of the city. With affordable housing, a commitment to health and the environment, a pleasant climate and ample educational opportunities, national magazines and news sources have consistently ranked Gainesville as one of the best cities in the country to live.

The Academy's campus buildings are designed to be comfortable and attractive. In addition to the requisite classrooms, meeting spaces, student lounges, and administrative offices, the Academy's acupuncture and herbal clinic has beautiful sunlit treatment rooms with a lovely reception room for visitors and clients. Metered street parking is ample. Visitors to our campus consistently remark on the beauty and comfort of our school.

The Academy's library has a wide selection of books, journals, and multi-media holdings on topics relevant to the curriculum. In addition to wireless access throughout the building, there are computers for student use. Just two blocks from campus is Alachua County's Main Public Library, which offers on- and off-line computer resources, along with a comfortable environment for studying and relaxing. Additionally, students have access to the library resources offered by the local universities.

Since Gainesville is a college town, students have options for housing. Short- and longer-term rentals are available in private homes and commercial apartments. Affordable hotels and motels are within biking distance, and often students will share accommodations to reduce housing and commuting costs. There are also several charming bed-and-breakfasts within a few blocks of the campus.

## About Gainesville

Gainesville was named one of the country's most bike friendly cities by Bicycling Magazine and one of the top cities to run in by Runner's World Magazine. It's easy to get outside and enjoy nature on the many bike paths and walking trails that snake across town. For nature lovers, hikers and bird watchers, Paynes Prairie is the place to go for hiking and up-close observation of Florida's wildlife. Whether you want to see alligators in the wild, or the sand hill cranes' mating season in February, the Prairie shouldn't be missed.

Avid gardeners will enjoy a visit to the Kanapaha Botanical Gardens to see the famed giant lily pads. Children (and adults) love the Butterfly Rainforest Museum attached to the Florida Museum of Natural History. Cooling off on hot, summer days is an easy drive to a number of Florida's warm-water springs, where you can swim, snorkel, tube or kayak down the rivers that lead from the springs' head sources. And of course, the beach is only an hour and a half away in either direction.

Gainesville is home to two of Florida's top hospital systems, UF Health and North Florida Regional Hospital. More importantly, there is also a deep commitment to alternative and complementary therapies. Acupuncture practitioners, chiropractors, massage therapists, yoga studios and nutritional therapies are just a few of the wellness options available in Gainesville. A short drive away are resources for those interested in yoga certification, or retreat opportunities. Healthcare accessibility and a commitment to sustainable living make Gainesville an enviable place to live.

For more information on life in Gainesville, please go to [visitgainesville.com](http://visitgainesville.com) for a full listing of events and venues.



# Admissions

## General Criteria

Academy for Five Element Acupuncture, is dedicated to upholding a high standard of education to ensure that the public is served by caring, competent and knowledgeable practitioners. The program requires a high level of commitment to learning a number of difficult skills. Accordingly, the school seeks applicants who can demonstrate that they have the maturity, commitment and motivation for the rigors of this type of program and learning process.

## Residency Requirement

The unique structure of the Academy's program enables students from out of state to continue to live outside Florida for the first two academic years of study. The Clinical Internship is a residential period in Florida that lasts 14 months and begins with the third academic year. This means that students who do not live within a reasonable commuting distance of the school must be willing to relocate for the duration of the Clinical Internship.

During the third academic year, students enrolled in the Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine program attend weekly herbal classes and clinical training. This is also a residential period during which time students must be within commuting distance of the school.

## Requirements for Admission: Master of Acupuncture General Education Requirements



Applicants must be able to document a minimum of 90 semester credits (or its equivalent) from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Education or an equivalent institution overseas. Official transcripts from this institution must be sent to the Admissions office as part of the application.

The Academy does not assess non-traditional prior learning credits or perform portfolio assessments. Only official transcripts from accredited institutions documenting credit hours (or credit hour equivalency) are accepted for admissions purposes.

At least 30 of the 90 required credits must be in general education or liberal arts courses. Only courses that have earned a "C" or higher will count towards the General Education requirement. A range of courses from the following categories will satisfy this requirement:

- Humanities/Fine Arts
- Social/Behavioral Sciences
- English/Communications
- Science/Mathematics

## Required Prerequisite Courses

The following courses are required as prerequisites to the Master of Acupuncture program. These (10) credits are included as part of the required (90) total semester credits required for admission. As with the General Education courses, students must earn a “C” or higher in their prerequisite courses in order to receive credit. These courses must be completed prior to enrollment:

- General Biology: 3 semester credits (45 hours)
- General Psychology: 3 semester credits (45 hours)
- Human Anatomy & Physiology I: \*4 semester credits (60 hours)

If you have not already completed these three courses, please contact Admissions to discuss how you might complete them before you enroll.

\*Please note that we require (4) credits of Human Anatomy & Physiology I as a prerequisite for admission. In order to fulfill this requirement, you will most likely need to complete a Human Anatomy & Physiology I course that is both a lab and a lecture.

## Conditional Admission

Applicants who meet the minimum requirement of 90 semester credits from an accredited institution but not the general education or prerequisite course requirements may be accepted on a conditional basis. Conditional admission applicants must agree to enroll in the course(s) needed at an accredited institution concurrently with the Academy’s program and earn a “C” or higher in each course, following the Transfer Credit Approval process. Once official transcripts for the coursework have been received by the Academy, the student is on regular status. Students will face dismissal from the program if the conditions to admission are not met by the deadline stipulated in their conditional letter of conditional acceptance. Students will not receive the Bachelor of Health Science degree nor the Master of Acupuncture degree without completion of these courses.

## International Applicants

### A. Academic Transcript Requirements

International applicants must meet the same academic requirements as applicants from the US. Students who completed their education at non-English-speaking institutions of higher education, or whose final degree, diploma, certificate or transcript is not in the English language, must document credit-hour equivalency by submitting their transcripts to an independent credentials evaluation service. This applies to students who are now current residents of the US, as well as those international applicants who live abroad. Please contact Admissions for a list of agencies that provide credentialing services.

### B. F-1 Student Status

Academy for Five Element Acupuncture is not currently issuing I-20s to students seeking F-1 status.

## English Language Proficiency

All coursework at the Academy is taught in English. A student's success in the classroom and in the clinic is heavily dependent on their ability to communicate effectively in English. Coursework is highly theoretical, nuanced and idiomatic. It demands an advanced level of comprehension of spoken and written English. Students must also be able to listen, understand, and speak effectively with their patients in the clinic. As a result, the Academy requires a higher standard of English language proficiency than what is required for everyday interaction and for undergraduate study.

All students applying to the Master of Acupuncture program must be able to demonstrate proficiency in the English language. Students whose native language is not English must demonstrate this level of proficiency in one of the following ways:

1. By obtaining a minimum score of 90 on the Internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT). Students must arrange to take the TOEFL test and then have an official copy of their results sent to Admissions. Students can go to [ets.org/toefl](https://ets.org/toefl) for more information on how to register for the test.
2. By documenting a minimum of two academic years of full-time study at a regionally accredited or otherwise nationally-approved institution in the U.S. or another English-speaking country.
3. By demonstrating proficiency in English during the admissions interview.

For additional information about the language requirement, please contact Admissions.

## Requirements for Admission: Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine Prerequisite Status



**Applicants must meet at least ONE of the following criteria in order to be considered for admission:**

1. Current Acupuncture or East Asian Medicine students. Current 2<sup>nd</sup>-, 3<sup>rd</sup>-, or 4<sup>th</sup>-year students who are enrolled in ACAHM-approved (accredited or candidate) acupuncture or East Asian Medicine programs are eligible for admission. Students enrolled at the Academy may begin the Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine program at the end of the first year of the M.Ac. program. In the case of non-Academy students, an official letter or transcript from the school documenting the student's status are required as part of the application process.
2. Graduates of ACAHM-approved acupuncture or East Asian Medicine programs. Graduates of ACAHM approved (candidate or accredited) Master's level acupuncture or Chinese Medicine programs are eligible. Official transcripts from the institution are required.
3. Licensed Acupuncturists/East Asian Medicine practitioners. Currently state-licensed acupuncturists from any U.S. state that formally licenses acupuncture practitioners are eligible. A copy of the applicant's current state license must be included in the application.
4. NCCAOM diplomates. Any individual who is a current NCCAOM diplomate in Acupuncture and/or Chinese Herbology is eligible. A copy of the current NCCAOM diploma must be included in the application.

## Education Requirements

Applicants who are current Acupuncture or East Asian Medicine students enrolled in ACAHM accredited or candidate schools must meet all of the admissions standards for the Academy's Master of Acupuncture degree program. See the appropriate section of the catalog/website for details.

Applicants from any of the other categories above must be able to document at least 90 semester credits of baccalaureate-level education (or its equivalent) at an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or an equivalent institution overseas.

- This training must be documented via official transcripts, sent directly to the Academy from the institution itself, before a student will be considered for admission.
- The Academy does not assess non-traditional prior learning credits or perform portfolio assessments. Only official transcripts from accredited institutions documenting credit hours (or credit-hour equivalency) are accepted for admissions purposes.
- Students who completed their education at non-English-speaking institutions of higher education, or whose final degree, diploma, certificate or transcript is not in the English language, must document credit-hour equivalency by submitting their transcripts to an independent credentials evaluation service.

## International Applicants

International applicants must meet the same academic requirements as applicants from the US. Standards for academic transcript requirements and F-1 student status are the same as those for the Master of Acupuncture program.

## English Language Proficiency

All students admitted to the Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine program must be able to demonstrate proficiency in the English language, using the same standards required for admission to the Master of Acupuncture program.

## *Technical Standards for Admission*

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All applicants accepted to Academy for Five Element Acupuncture must be able to meet the school's technical standards for the program to which they have been admitted. Technical standards are qualities regarded as essential requirements needed to participate in and complete the entire spectrum of study, training, and experiences within the program. These standards are applied in addition to the program's educational requirements.

Federal laws provide a framework for individuals with documented disabilities to request reasonable accommodations to fulfill their objectives. Reasonable accommodations are defined as any change or modification in the way things are usually performed that enables a person with a disability to participate as fully as possible in an educational program.

Candidates with documented disabilities who wish to request accommodations under the American with Disabilities Act must follow the Academy's procedure, which requires submitting a written request for accommodations and supporting documentation to the Academic Dean. The Academic Dean will review the request with the appropriate administrative staff to determine whether a reasonable accommodation can be made.

The Academy does not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in the recruitment of students or their admission to its programs, services or activities. Any information disclosed by an applicant regarding a disability will not adversely affect admission decisions nor eligibility to remain enrolled.

The Academy reserves the right to reject requests for accommodations that would fundamentally alter the nature of the school's educational program, lower the academic standards, cause an undue hardship on the school or other students, or endanger the health or safety of a student with a disability, other students, clinic patients or any other member of the school community.

Students in any Academy program must have abilities and skills of the following five varieties:

#### **A. Observation and Evaluation**

**A student must be able to evaluate** a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Evaluation necessitates the functional use of the senses of vision, hearing, and somatic sensation. It is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell. Therefore, a student must have sufficient sense of vision, hearing, and touch to perform the customary techniques in a physical examination such as palpation (feeling the pulse, feeling anatomical landmarks to locate acupuncture points, feeling various body parts such as the abdomen with the ability to discern the size, shape, and consistency of masses) and visual observation sufficient to note changes in skin, tongue, and eye color as well as to use such instruments as a sphygmomanometer (blood pressure monitor). A student must allow other students to see and touch them so that all have the same opportunity to achieve proficiency in physical diagnosis, point location, and treatment.

#### **B. Communication**

A student must be able to communicate effectively, efficiently and sensitively with patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity, and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications. The student must be able to conduct patient interviews and record treatment histories, review diagnostic imaging and other medical reports, and make medical assessments and plans known to patients and other members of the health care team.

#### **C. Motor and Strength Coordination**

A student must also be able to coordinate both gross and fine muscular movements and provide emergency treatment to patients. Students must have sufficient motor function to insert and remove acupuncture needles and to maintain a "clean field" according to accepted standards of Clean Needle Technique, and to elicit information from patients by palpation, percussion, etc. Students must be able to maneuver and move within the clinical setting in order to respond to urgent and emergent situations quickly, to help move and position patients as needed, and to manipulate instruments and devices in order to perform procedures (e.g., acupuncture needle insertion and removal, measuring blood pressure, reading pulses, moxibustion, etc.). Students must be able to provide emergency treatment to patients such as Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), patient positional changes to maintain airway (Recovery Position) and apply direct pressure to stop bleeding.

#### **D. Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative**

Students must have cognitive abilities sufficient to recall information and understand basic concepts of bioscience and medicine. Students must possess the ability to analyze patient signs and symptoms and develop a diagnosis. Students must have the diagnostic and cognitive ability to recognize warning signs of emergency conditions and respond according to accepted medical standards. Students must be able to develop a treatment plan, including appropriate modalities and frequency of treatment. Students must have sufficient cognitive ability to be able to develop appropriate acupuncture protocols and herbal formulas.

#### **E. Behavior and Social Attributes**

Students must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients. Students must be able to function under stress. Students must also be able to adapt to change, display flexibility in the face of uncertainties and stressful situations, and to demonstrate independently empathy, integrity, compassion, respect, motivation, and commitment commensurate with the habits and mannerisms of a professional training to become a successful acupuncture and herbal medicine practitioner. Students must allow other students to see and touch them so that all have the same opportunity to achieve proficiency in physical diagnosis and point location.

### *Minimum and Maximum Time Frames*

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- Students enrolled only in the Master of Acupuncture program must be enrolled for a minimum of 36 months before the degree can be awarded.
- Those enrolled only in the Certificate of Chinese Herbal Medicine certificate program may not complete the program in less than 27 months.
- Those enrolled in both the M.Ac. degree and the CCHM certificate program may not complete the combined programs in less than 36 months.
- All requirements for the Master of Acupuncture degree must be completed within 6 calendar years (72 months) from the date of enrollment in the program.
- All requirements for both the Master of Acupuncture degree and the Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine certificate program, must be completed within 8 calendar years (96 months) from the date of initial enrollment in the M.Ac. program.
- Students who enroll in the CCHM certificate program only must complete all requirements within 6 calendar years (72 months) of initial enrollment.

Depending on individual circumstances, some students may require longer than the minimum timeframe to complete their training. Training must be completed within the maximum allowed timeframe.



## Corequisite Courses

Corequisite courses are Western science courses that are a part of the Academy's curriculum, but which students take at other accredited institutions as transfer credits. Students have the option of completing these courses concurrently with the Academy's programs or taking them before they enroll.

Corequisite courses are different from prerequisite courses in that they do not have to be completed before enrollment. Students who have already completed their admissions requirements may decide to complete at least some corequisite courses before enrolling in order to focus more intensely on their studies at the Academy. We recommend this approach, in particular for the Anatomy & Physiology II corequisite. Students may also complete the corequisite courses while enrolled in the Master of Acupuncture and/or Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine programs. The flexible intensive-based structure of our programs allows students to complete the required courses when at home, often at their own pace, in between intensives.

In either case, courses must also be completed at an accredited community college, university, or online institution. The Academy can provide a range of recommendations for quality corequisite courses that meet the Academy's requirements.

Corequisite courses are not part of the regularly scheduled intensive-based curriculum. However, the Academy does periodically offer certain corequisite courses. Please inquire with Admissions for more information.

Corequisite Courses – Master of Acupuncture:

- Anatomy & Physiology II: 4 semester credits (60 hours)\*
- General Nutrition: 3 semester credits (45 hours)
- Biomedical Electives: 3 individual courses, 9 semester credits in total (135 hours)\*\*

\* Anatomy & Physiology II (4 credits) is a prerequisite to Year 3, and official transcripts showing successful completion of this course must be received before advancing to Clinical Internship.

\*\* For a list of classes that satisfy this requirement, please see Table C in the catalog.

Corequisite Courses – Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine

- Botany: 3 semester credits (45 hours)

Please note that the cost of corequisite courses is not included in the Academy's tuition for the Master of Acupuncture or Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine programs. Costs for these courses will vary depending on the institution where the student chooses to take these courses as well as how many courses a student must take. Please see Costs Additional to Tuition in the catalog.

## Computer Requirement

Students are expected to have regular access to a computer, access to a fast, reliable internet connection, a working camera and microphone on their computer, an office software suite, printer, scanner, and an up-to-date internet browser and related plugins. The Academy does not make any specific recommendations regarding operating systems, however, users should be prepared to run Microsoft Office suite or Microsoft Office compatible software. Students are responsible for knowing how to operate the computer system they choose and the software packages required.

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## Challenge Exams

Keeping with general trends in higher education, the Academy recognizes credits-by-examination for relevant courses approved by the American Council on Education (ACE). Please visit the American Council on Education (ACE) website for current exam offerings: [www.acenet.edu](http://www.acenet.edu).

The cost of credit-by-examination is typically much lower than the cost-per-credit of a traditional school and can save the time of attending a semester-long course. Please consult with us if you have any questions about credits-by-examination and always seek approval by following the Transfer Credit Approval process before registering or paying for an exam.

## Transfer Credit Approval and Consortium Agreements

A consortium agreement must be obtained for every student for each course taken at an outside accredited institution in order to fulfill a program requirement of the Academy. This applies to students who are receiving financial aid as well as those who are not. The Registrar secures consortium agreements from outside accredited institutions. In order to do this, students must first fill out and submit to the Registrar a Transfer Credit Approval form before registering or paying for a course. Detailed instructions on this procedure are found in the Student Handbook.

Some of the institutions accepting consortium agreements with Academy for Five Element Acupuncture are:

- Straighterline
- University of Maryland Global Campus
- Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
- Excelsior College
- Clovis Community College

This list can change at any time. Therefore, we strongly recommend speaking with the Academy's Registrar before registering for courses at these colleges.

If a student chooses to search for other institutions not on the Academy's recommended list in order to fulfill a corequisite requirement, there is a limit of two requests for consortium agreements. If after two different requests neither institution will sign a consortium agreement, the student must use one of the Academy's recommended institutions.

## Transfer Credits and Course Exemptions for Prior Courses

The Academy may, at its discretion, award transfer credits towards program requirements. However, no transfer credits or course exemptions will be awarded for any course already counted for admissions purposes. Consequently, students who have only 90 credits are not eligible for transfer-credit consideration.

Credits are typically awarded only to students whose prior course work at an accredited institution closely matches one or more courses in the Academy's curriculum, as demonstrated by original course descriptions.

Courses for which transfer credit is sought must generally have been completed no more than 15 years prior to admission to the program. Exceptions to this rule may be granted by the Academic Dean on a case-by-case basis. Challenge exams may be required to demonstrate currency of knowledge for students in this situation. These challenge exams may be waived by the Academic Dean if the student has been working in a related professional setting, such as a hospital.

Partial transfer credits towards the Academy's course requirements are not awarded. Only courses that exactly match (or exceed) the specific number of credits in the Academy's corresponding course curriculum may be considered for transfer.

Students seeking transfer credit for specific courses must make a request in writing specifying the course number and name, academic term and year, and institution name where the course was completed, to be reviewed by the Academic Dean. In general, the request must include a copy of the original course description and/or the syllabus from the course that was originally taken. No transfer credits may be awarded for Continuing Education Units or other equivalent courses.

Final decisions on transfer credits are made by the Academic Dean. All transfer credit decisions are final by the end of the second academic year, and official transcripts must be on file in order to receive credit for approved courses. No transfer credits will be awarded after this time.

Approved transfer credits and course exemptions will not result in a discount to tuition.



## Advanced Standing: Master of Acupuncture Program

Course work in acupuncture and East Asian medicine is not always standardized, and course work from most other acupuncture schools is seldom based on the Five Element model taught at the Academy. As a result, Advanced Standing status is only rarely awarded to incoming students.

Under special circumstances applicants may be admitted to the program at the beginning of the second or third years of the program. These applicants must have completed comparable studies in another Five Element acupuncture program approved by the Academy.

Advanced Standing applicants are also required to take Academy exams, which may include a written exam, a point location exams, and a clinical skills assessment where required, in order to demonstrate competency. The passing grade for the exams is 70%. All other admissions requirements listed above, including all original transcripts documenting prior training, must be submitted to the Admissions office as part of the regular application process.

Students admitted under the Advanced Standing process must complete at least one full academic year of the program prior to receiving the Master of Acupuncture (M.Ac.) degree.

## Advanced Standing: Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine Program

Because of the unique nature of this program, transfer credits are generally not accepted. The only exception is for Western science courses, such as the General Botany corequisite course. The Academy may, at the discretion of the Academic Dean, award transfer credits toward program requirements. However, no transfer credits will be awarded for any course already counted for admissions purposes. Students admitted under the Advanced Standing process must complete at least one full academic year of the program prior to receiving the Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine (CCHM)

## Prior Learning

The Academy does not assess non-traditional prior learning credits or perform portfolio assessments. However, the Academy does accept such credits towards admissions requirements, provided those credits were originally awarded by a regionally accredited institution.



## *Application Instructions*

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Students interested in applying to the Academy can apply directly online on our website at <https://acupuncturist.edu/applying-to-the-academy/>.

To complete the application process, please submit the following items along with your completed application:

- \$150 one time, non-refundable application fee
- Admissions essay
- Official transcripts from all previous undergraduate and graduate study (high school transcripts are not needed).
- Two (2) letters of recommendation
- One digital photo (head shot)

Once transcripts have been evaluated, you will then receive a Transcript Evaluation Form explaining how your previous credits will be used to meet program requirements.

After all materials have been received, an Admissions Coordinator will contact you to schedule an interview with an Admissions Committee member. In-person interviews are preferred, but interviews over the phone are available for those unable to travel to the Academy.

Students have access to the Academy's Catalog (available online at [acupuncturist.edu](https://acupuncturist.edu)) prior to signing the Enrollment Agreement. A \$350 seat deposit must accompany the signed Enrollment Agreement. This deposit guarantees your place in the class. This deposit is fully refundable upon cancellation of the Enrollment Agreement any time prior to the beginning of the program. Once you begin the program, the seat deposit is considered as tuition and, in the case of a refund, will be refunded on a prorated basis according to the Refund Policy.

## Additional Information About the Application Process

You may complete your application essay electronically or on paper. If you are writing the admissions essay by hand rather than electronically, please use a pen and make sure your handwriting is legible. The recommended length for the essay is 300 words. We do not count individual words; however, if your essay exceeds several typed pages, you should consider revising it to more concisely answer the questions. Please make sure that you directly answer the questions being asked. The essay is an important part of the application.

Official transcripts must be sent directly to the Academy. We do not accept unofficial transcripts or copies of transcripts. Your undergraduate institution may offer the option of sending your transcripts via a secured electronic source for faster processing. The Academy accepts electronic copies of official transcripts provided that the transcripts are sent by official electronic security sources. Please contact your undergraduate institution for more information.

Letters of recommendation should be typed, dated, and signed by the letter writer, then mailed or emailed directly to Admissions. Please provide the correct mailing information to your letter writers. Recommendations should come from individuals who have known you a minimum of two years and can speak to your strengths as a future practitioner. People to ask include supervisors, long-time colleagues, previous instructors, and acupuncture practitioners. Letters from relatives will not be accepted.

### Application Deadline

The deadline for application is two months prior to the first day of class. An admissions coordinator will confirm receipt of application material.



## *Acceptance Policy*

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Applicants are considered on the basis of individual merit, without regard to race, color, ancestry, gender, age, national or ethnic origin, religion, disability, medical condition, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or status as a disabled veteran in all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. The Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national or ethnic origin or sexual orientation in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies and other school-administered programs.

An Admissions Committee evaluates applications within two weeks of receiving all required admission fees and documents. Notice regarding acceptance into the program is made within two weeks of the personal interview.

Acceptance is official when the applicant is sent an Enrollment Agreement signed by an authorized Academy official.



## Financial Information and Policies

For current tuition schedules, please contact our Admissions department or visit us on the web at [www.acupuncturist.edu](http://www.acupuncturist.edu)

### Costs Not Covered in Tuition

The Academy does not have on-campus housing. Students are responsible for making their own living and travel arrangements. They must pay their own personal expenses directly.

**A. Housing.** For the first two years of the program, during the intensives, students who do not live locally must arrange short-term housing accommodations for themselves. The Academy can suggest options for short-term housing to enrolled students upon request, but it is the students' responsibility to make their own arrangements.

The clinical internship beginning in the third year is residential and requires longer-term housing. Housing expenses can vary widely depending on the size and location of the housing desired and the time of year. Many students choose to share the cost of housing with classmates.

**B. Travel and Local Transportation.** Travel and transportation costs related to attending classes depend on the distance of the student's home residence in relation to Gainesville, Florida. Those students who must fly to Gainesville will incur greater travelling expenses than those who are within driving distance. The Academy is located very close to Gainesville Regional Airport, and is within easy travelling distance to the Orlando and Jacksonville International Airports.

**C. Books and Supplies.** Students purchase the majority of their required books and supplies for the program during the first intensive. These books and supplies comprise the majority of materials required for the entire program (additional books and supplies may be added). Students may purchase their books through the Academy bookstore where student book packages are available at discounted rates. Books and Supplies for the M.Ac. program are considered a separate expense from the books required by the CCHM program.

**D. Corequisite Courses.** Some course credits have to be earned at institutions outside of the Academy. Please see the Corequisite Course section of the catalog for specific details on these courses. The cost of obtaining these corequisite courses is not included in tuition, and will vary depending on the student's prior training and the tuition costs at the institution(s) chosen for these courses. Nutrition and Botany corequisite courses are offered at the Academy to interns during the clinical year. These courses are generally less expensive than those found at outside institutions. Students receive advance notice of the corequisite course schedule so that financial payment may be budgeted as early as possible.

**E. Observation.** Students must complete a number of hours observing licensed Five Element practitioners in practice. Some practitioners charge a fee for this service, but most do not. Fees for clinical observation outside of the Academy are set by the practitioner. There is no charge for clinical observation at the Academy's clinic.

**F. Point Location.** Students are required to work with an approved practitioner to complete a number of hours of independent point location practice. As with observation hours, point location hours are independently arranged between students and practitioners. Most practitioners charge an hourly fee but some do not. The fee for a point location session is typically shared by a group of students so that the cost per participant is minimal.

**G. Acupuncture Treatment.** Students are required to receive a specified number of Five Element acupuncture treatments while in school. Fees for these treatments will vary by independent practitioner and are arranged between the student and the practitioner. The Academy's clinic offers a student rate for treatment.

## Costs Additional to Tuition

	M.Ac	CCHM
Books and Supplies for the entire program. Your list of supplies includes an acupuncture kit, needles, moxa, ear seeds, incense and lighter, face masks, lab coat, stethoscope, manual blood pressure cuff, digital blood pressure cuff (optional), linens (optional).	\$1155	\$550
Corequisite Courses. The ability to offer our programs in an intensive format depends on your commitment to complete a number of courses at your own pace and at your choice of educational institutions which are considered acceptable to the Academy. You are responsible for the cost of completing these corequisite courses which include: Anatomy & Physiology II, General Nutrition, Biomedical Electives (3 courses), and Botany (if in CCHM).	\$2,500	\$500
Point Location. The fee for a point location session is typically shared by a group of students so that the cost per participant is minimal.	\$135	
Five Element acupuncture treatment. Prior to entering your clinical year, you are required to receive a minimum of 15 Five Element acupuncture treatments. The Academy offers a special student rate and extended clinic hours to accommodate you when you are in Gainesville. This ensures that you can receive treatment that is available and affordable.	\$500	
CPR Certification and Clean Needle Technique Certification. Prior to entering your clinical year, you are required to complete both CPR training and the Clean Needle Technique (CNT) course.	\$325	\$100
Clean Needle Technique (CNT) course is administered by the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (CCAHM). Successful completion of the CNT course is one of the requirements for National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) certification, as well as a licensing requirement in many states.		
Administrative fees. This includes the cost of your student ID, keycard, entrance fees for class field trips (not including equipment rental fees), malpractice insurance, business cards, name tags, commencement ceremony, M.Ac. diploma and CCHM certificate. This is billed directly to you.	\$575	\$525
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,190</b>	<b>\$1,675</b>

You pay most of these costs directly, such as your corequisite course registration, books and supplies, and acupuncture treatments. Administrative fees are billed directly to you. Please keep in mind that these are estimated costs. All costs and fees are subject to change. There may be additional expenses incurred depending on individual circumstances.

## Other Fees

- \$500 fee is charged for reinstatement.
- \$300 fee is charged for retaking any end-of-year exam by special arrangement.
- \$250 fee is charged for retaking courses.
- \$150 fee is charged for retaking any end-of-year exam after the first retake.
- \$150 non-refundable fee is charged for corequisite course registration.
- \$100 late fee is charged for each month that tuition is more than five days late. Students may not attend any classes until tuition payment is up to date.
- \$50 fee per day of class (eight hours) is charged to audit a course.
- \$50 fee is charged for each extension requested on homework assignments or assignments late without prior written request and approval for an extension.
- \$40 fee for proctored exams.
- \$25 bookkeeping fee is charged for any returned check.
- \$15 fee per hour is charged for point location models supplied by the school.
- \$10 keycard or locker key replacements.

No additional fees are assessed for student activities. Students may choose to participate in special workshops, courses or advanced training programs organized by the Academy and offered to students in addition to regularly scheduled classes. Fees and expenses for these programs are the responsibility of the student.

## Financial Aid

Several educational loan options are available for students in the Master of Acupuncture program. We highly recommend applying for financial aid at the same time as you file your admissions application to ensure prompt arrival of loan funds. Please note, the Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine program is not eligible for financial aid. For specific information and questions, please contact our Financial Aid Officer.

### Federal Direct Loans

The unsubsidized and Grad PLUS loans are available to those students in the Master of Acupuncture program who qualify. The process begins by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is located at <https://studentaid.gov/>. Please remember when you file your form to enter the Academy's school code, which is: 041335.

- A. Unsubsidized Loans.** Students qualify for up to \$20,500 in unsubsidized loans per loan period, which can be used to cover the cost of tuition. Unsubsidized means loans accrue interest from the day they are disbursed. Interest rates are set by Congress each May, and are based on the latest 10-year Treasury rate. Therefore, interest rates can go up or down, and the new rate takes effect with the new FAFSA year (starting July 1st).
- B. Federal Graduate PLUS Loans.** The Grad PLUS loan is provided in addition to the unsubsidized loan. This loan is credit based, and the amount available varies based on the cost of tuition per loan period. For more information, please visit: <https://studentaid.gov/plus-app/grad/landing>.

### Veterans' Administration Educational Benefits

The Academy's program is approved for Veterans Educational Benefits by the State Approving Agency. Please contact your VA counselor or representative to determine which VA Benefit program you qualify for. It is important to determine this information early as we will need it in order to begin the certification process once you are accepted.

For any student using US Department of Veterans Affairs or Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefits, while VA payment is pending, the Academy will not:

- prevent the student's enrollment
- assess a late penalty fee to the student
- require the student to secure alternative or additional funding
- deny the student access to any resources available to other students who have satisfied their tuition and fee bills the Academy

However, to qualify for this provision, the student may be required to:

- produce the VA Certificate of Eligibility (COE) by the first day of class
- provide a written request to be certified
- provide additional information needed to properly certify the enrollment as described in other institutional policies.

In accordance with Title 38 US Code § 3679 subsection (e), and effective August 1, 2019, this school adopts the following additional provisions for any students using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Post-9/11 G.I. Bill® (Ch. 33) or Veterans Readiness & Employment (Ch. 31) benefits, while payment to the institution is pending from the VA. Within 90 days of the date when the school certifies the student's tuition and fees, following receipt of the student's VA Certificate of Eligibility, this school will not: Prevent the student's enrollment; Assess a late penalty fee to the student; Require the student to secure alternative or additional funding; Deny the student access to any resources (access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities) available to other students who have satisfied their tuition and fee bills to the institution.

However, to qualify for this provision, students will be required to: Provide the College with: A copy of his/her VA Certification of Eligibility (COE) - A "certificate of eligibility" can also include a "Statement of Benefits" obtained from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) website; eBenefits; OR An approval letter for chapter 31 benefits, such as a VAF 28-1905 form.



## Return of Tuition to Withdrawing Students

If a student receiving federal financial aid withdraws from the Master of Acupuncture program, the school is required to calculate the amount of federal loan money that must be returned to the government in accordance with Title IV federal regulations. The amount returned will depend on the amount disbursed to the student, the number of didactic days in the loan period and the student's official withdrawal date. The official withdrawal date is the date upon which the Academy receives written notice or provides written notice to the student.

Students may accrue balances due to the Academy after federal monies have been returned to the government. Students are responsible for any balance owed to the Academy.

## Refund Policy for Programs:

### Master of Acupuncture and Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine

All monies, including the seat deposit, will be refunded to applicants who cancel the Enrollment Agreement within three working days from the student's signing the Enrollment Agreement. The application fee is non-refundable, not to exceed \$150.

Students who withdraw (or who are terminated) after beginning the program up to completion of 40% of the program shall receive a prorated refund based upon the number of credit hours completed to the number of total program credit hours and the amount of monies paid.

No tuition refunds will be granted after completion of more than 40% of the total program.

Refunds are made directly to the students within 30 days after written notification of withdrawal or termination is received by the Academy. Cancellation by the student should be in writing by email, certified mail or in person. The official date of withdrawal from the program is the last date of attendance unless the school receives written notification indicating earlier withdrawal from the program.

## Refund Policy for Corequisite Courses:

### Nutrition and Botany

All monies, including the seat deposit, will be refunded to applicants who cancel the Course Registration within three working days from the student's signing the Course Registration. The course fee is non-refundable after 20% of the class has passed. Students who withdraw (or who are terminated) before 20% of the course has passed may receive a prorated refund of the course fee, not including the non-refundable \$150 registration fee. Eligible refunds are made directly to the students within 30 days after written notification of cancellation. Cancellation or withdrawal by the student should be in writing by email, certified mail, or in person. The official date of withdrawal from the course is the last date of attendance unless the school receives written notification indicating earlier withdrawal from the course or program. On rare occasions, course offerings may be cancelled due to low enrollment—in this case, a full refund will be issued.

# Student Services

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The Academy offers a variety of different services to students which reflect the programs objectives and builds community spirit: campus amenities, academic services, personal guidance, school socials connecting students from different cohorts, and alumni relations. Students also enjoy discounted acupuncture and herbal treatments in the student clinic.

## Campus

Our campus includes indoor and outdoor student lounges, fully functional kitchens, an extensive library of physical and digital resources, ample classroom space, and an immersive student clinic and herbal dispensary. Students have access to printing and wifi internet. Students may also reserve the library or classrooms for group study.

The Academy is situated in the heart of downtown Gainesville, and is nearby to public parks, restaurants, hotels and short-term rentals, and the county public library.

While the Academy does not offer housing, the Admissions Coordinator maintains a list to help students seek affordable housing. The school is not affiliated with any business or person that offers housing, and students must exercise due diligence when seeking accommodations.

## Academics

The Academy provides students many opportunities for academic success and is committed to supporting students experiencing academic difficulty. Support for academic achievement may include remedial work, assignment to a mentor, peer support, opportunities for re-testing, reasonable accommodations for disabilities, mediation, and encouragement to get affordable treatment in the clinic. Students are evaluated after each intensive and each level of clinic with individualized encouragement and feedback for improvement.

The Academic Dean, Director of Clinics, clinic supervisors, faculty, and teaching assistants are available to help with point location, treatment planning, and other academic matters. The Registrar conducts academic audits each intensive and level of clinic and provides academic advising to ensure students are aware of their degree requirements to advance in the program and graduate on time. The Admissions Coordinator and Academic Dean are available to counsel students when personal issues affect their academic performance.

A free point location lab is offered once per intensive. Additional tutoring can be scheduled with the Academic Dean for a fee. Students may observe patient treatments in the clinic at no cost.

Classroom handouts and course reference materials are organized and accessible online through the Academy's online learning management software, Populi. Students are encouraged to use Populi and their cohort's email group for online group study and to stay connected with each other and their instructors. The Academy prioritizes open communication with students and also uses Class Representatives to streamline communications with each cohort and the administration.

## Alumni

Alumni are welcomed and encouraged to stay in touch with the faculty and staff. Post-graduate internship, teaching assistant, and clinic staff opportunities are available for graduates. Our unique "supervisor in-training" program exists to assist graduates who are newly licensed in Florida gain a footing in the profession and carry on the Five Element tradition with the school.

The Academy does not guarantee employment; however, our programs qualify graduates to sit for the NCCAOM board exams, and our academic staff provides guidance to graduates navigating state licensing applications. The Alumni committee of the Governing Board develops resources to support graduates through exams and keeps the graduate community connected.

# Academic Policies

## Academic Progress

To advance through the M.Ac. and CCHM programs, students must maintain satisfactory academic progress. Academic progress is monitored by quizzes, practical work, papers, projects, attendance and intersession homework assignments. Proctored comprehensive exams are held at the end of each year. Students must successfully complete all assignments and pass all end-of-year exams before being permitted to progress to the next level of training.

All examinations and assignments are graded using a competency based evaluation system as follows:

Grade	Definition	Meaning
"AC"	"Achieved Competency"	The student has clearly demonstrated the required level of competency for the assignment, clinical skill or examination to be awarded a passing grade.
"LC"	"Limited Competency"	There is insufficient indication that the student has achieved the required level of competency for the assignment, clinical skill or examination. A rewrite or retake will be required.
"IN"	"Incomplete"	The student did not hand in the work, complete the assignment or take the required exam. No grade can be given.
"AU"	"Audit"	The student attended but did not complete the course for credit.

Students must also receive an "AC" grade on year-end evaluations in order to progress to the next level of training.

Detailed descriptions of policies relating to quizzes, grading, exams, retake exams and academic probation are published in the Academy Student Handbook.

## Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in all classes at the Academy. We understand that this expectation may differ from your previous educational experiences where absences could be "excused" for medical or family reasons. However, your presence is essential to making the intensive structure possible.

During intensives in Academic Years 1 and 2, students must be present for no less than 85% of class hours (M.Ac. program) and 75% of class hours (CCHM program). Credit for any intensive when two or more days are missed will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Factors to be weighed include: attendance history, class participation and academic standing. During Academic Years 3 and 4 attendance is specified in each course syllabus. Failure to meet attendance guidelines per clinical level may result in a grade of Limited Competency for that portion of the program. A Limited Competency grade in any clinical level may mean waiting as much as a year to re-take that level.

Attendance requirements in all other courses such as western clinical sciences, adjunctive studies, practice management and national exam preparation, are specified in the course syllabi.

Students who miss instructional time in any program may be given make-up work assigned by the instructor in consultation with the Academic Dean. Such work may include additional reading, writing assignments, testing, or meetings with tutors/faculty members. Students are responsible for any additional costs associated with make-up requirements. Poor attendance is grounds for probation or dismissal from the program. Reinstatement shall be at the discretion of the Academy. Additional details about attendance are provided in the Student Handbook.

## Interruptions in Training

Given adequate notice, the Academy will attempt to assist students who are unable to attend specific classes. However, it could be as long as one year before similar classes are scheduled again and the Academy makes no guarantee to provide an equivalent session sooner.

Students who enroll in the program and who later decide to leave the program may be readmitted to the program to join a later cohort at an appropriate stage of training, upon prior approval by the Academic Dean. Challenge examinations may be required to assess the returning student's stage of learning.

All decisions about readmission to the program are to be made by the Academic Dean.

## Dismissal from the Program

The Academy's concern is with those forms of conduct deemed to be disruptive to the pursuit of training in an atmosphere of safety and mutual respect for the rights of the school's community members and their patients. Every member of the Academy, including students, staff, instructors and patients, has the right to expect that a safe, respectful and professional atmosphere will be maintained.

The Academy is committed to academic excellence. In addition to the knowledge and skills you acquire, you will also learn and develop a high standard of professional behavior. Professional behavior involves a strong commitment to personal honor, moral integrity and mutual respect. Demonstration of professional conduct is an academic standard and is evaluated from the first day onwards of your education at the Academy. Expectations for professional conduct as an academic issue are described in detail in the Academy's Student Handbook. The occurrence of any of the following conditions constitutes a breach of the Enrollment Agreement by the student and is sufficient grounds for probation and/or dismissal from the Academy:

- Insufficient academic progress, as determined by exam grades, evaluations and attendance;
- Unprofessional conduct or conduct deemed by the Academy to be disruptive of a learning atmosphere;
- Failure to pay tuition within 5 days of receiving a written demand for payment.

Reinstatement is at the discretion of the Academy. Detailed descriptions of policies relating to professional conduct, dismissal and grievance procedures are published in the Student Handbook.



## Student Grievance and Appeals Procedure

Problems or concerns are usually resolved through informal meetings with the faculty, staff or students involved in the matter. Any student with a problem or concern regarding the Academy is encouraged to discuss that concern directly with the parties involved. If the issue cannot be resolved through informal discussion, the student may then discuss the concern with the Academic Dean, who will attempt to resolve the matter informally through discussion with and agreement by the parties involved. If the student is not satisfied with the outcome, the student may then follow the Academy's formal grievance procedure as detailed in the Student Handbook. If a student is not satisfied that the school adheres to its own policies or has not been fair in handling a grievance, the student may notify the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine at [acahm.org/contact](http://acahm.org/contact) and/or the Commission for Independent Education at <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/higher-ed/fl-college-system/about-us/concerns-complaints.stml>.

## Completion of Program/Transcripts

Upon written request, students will be issued a transcript within 30 days after verification of completion of program requirements, as long as all tuition and school fees are paid in full. Each transcript is \$10. If a student requires a transcript sooner than two weeks, there is a \$100 administrative fee for expedited requests (not including costs for expedited shipping). Tuition payments must be current before a transcript may be issued.

In cases of withdrawal from a program, students must successfully complete all assignments, pass all end-of-year exams and receive a grade of "AC" on year-end evaluations before receiving full credit on a transcript.

## Graduation and Certification Requirements

A Bachelor of Health Sciences and a Master of Acupuncture degree are awarded concurrently to each student who successfully completes all program requirements as stated in the Enrollment Agreement and as shown here. Both degrees are only conferred at the completion of the entire four academic year program. A Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine is awarded to each student who successfully completes all program requirements as stated in the Enrollment Agreement and as shown here. Requirements for Graduation and Awarding of Any Degree or Certificate:

- Demonstrated standard of conduct reflecting a genuine care for the welfare of others.
- The Academic Dean and at least two participating instructors make this evaluation.
- Completion of required hours.
- Satisfactory completion of written and practical exams and project work with minimum passing scores.
- A satisfactory attendance record.
- Successful completion of all forms documenting clinical work and evaluation.
- All tuition fees and outstanding bills to the Academy paid in full.
- Official transcripts on file from an accredited institution showing completion of all required academic corequisites.
- Current address and phone number.

The minimum time of completion for the Master of Acupuncture program is not less than 36 months and not more than 72 months from the start of the program.

The minimum time of completion for students who enroll in both the Master of Acupuncture and Chinese Herbal Medicine program is not less than 36 months, and not more than 96 months from the start of the Master of Acupuncture program.

## State of Florida

The Academy is authorized by the State of Florida Commission for Independent Education to confer a Bachelor of Health Sciences degree and a Master of Acupuncture degree. CEU courses and approval for CEU credits are not under the purview of the Commission for Independent Education. Licensing by the Commission for Independent Education, Florida Department of Education. Additional information regarding this institution may be obtained by contacting the Commission at 325 West Gaines Street, Suite. 1414, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400. Phone: (888)224-6684, fax: (850) 245-3233, email: [CIEinfo@fldoe.org](mailto:CIEinfo@fldoe.org)

## NCCAOM

Graduates of the Academy's Master of Acupuncture and Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine programs are qualified to sit for the national certification examinations in Acupuncture and Chinese Herbology, which are administered by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM). Permission to sit for exams prior to graduation is at the discretion of the Academic Dean. NCCAOM certification is currently accepted as a full or partial basis for licensure as acupuncture and/or Oriental medicine practitioners in most states. For more information contact NCCAOM at: 2001 K Street, NW, 3rd Floor North, Washington, D.C., 20006. Toll-free phone (888) 381-1140, phone; (202) 381-1140, fax: (202)381-1141, email: [info@thenccaom.org](mailto:info@thenccaom.org). Web: [nccaom.org](http://nccaom.org).

## Licensing in Florida

Licensing eligibility for acupuncture and East Asian medicine practitioners in Florida is approved by the State Board of Acupuncture. All requirements for Florida licensure are satisfied by the Academy's Master of Acupuncture and Chinese Herbal Medicine program. Specific details on how the program meets Florida requirements are detailed in the program description section of the catalog. The Academy does not guarantee employment. For more information on acupuncture licensure in Florida, contact the State of Florida, Department of Health, Board of Acupuncture, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C-06, Tallahassee, FL 32399-3252. Phone: (850) 488-0595.

## Licensing in Other States

Most states or jurisdictions where graduates choose to practice acupuncture have their own laws, regulations and licensing procedures. Students should be aware that acupuncture is a growing field and states are frequently revising requirements for licensing. While the Academy is not responsible for ensuring that students meet legal requirements in all states, we can assist students in clarifying individual state requirements. However, applicants to the Academy's program are ultimately responsible for determining the specific licensure requirements for the state(s) in which they plan to practice. The Academy does not guarantee employment.

## Class Schedules for Programs:

### Master of Acupuncture and Certificate in Chinese Herbal Medicine

Intensive schedules for upcoming classes are available by contacting an admissions coordinator or visiting the website: [acupuncturist.edu](http://acupuncturist.edu).

# Course Descriptions and Program Credits/Hours

## Credits

The Academy offers college credit in the unit of “semester credit hours” in which each unit consists of a minimum of fifteen hours of instruction; for every one hour of classroom instruction there are approximately two hours of homestudy.

## Course Numbering and Subject Abbreviation

The course numbering system is used to indicate which academic year in the program the course is offered. Occasionally, courses may shift to a different academic year without change in the course number as the curriculum is updated from time to time. Generally, level 400 courses occur in academic Year One, level 500 courses occur in academic Year Two, and level 600 and 700 courses occur in academic Years Three and Four. The Academy uses the following alphanumeric abbreviations for each course subject:

- ACC - Acupuncture Clinical
- ACT - Acupuncture Theory and Didactic
- ADJ - Adjunctive Studies
- BSC - Biological Sciences
- CHC - Chinese Herbology Clinical
- CHT - Chinese Herbology Theory and Didactic
- FSC - Foundational Sciences

## Tables

Program sequence and hours/credits	Table A
Course descriptions	Table B
Required corequisite course sequence	Table C

## Table A

### PROGRAM SEQUENCE AND HOURS/CREDITS FOR INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM

PROGRAM/COURSE SEQUENCE	HOURS		
COURSES TO BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO ADMISSION	M.A.C.	M.A.C. +CCHM	CCHM

#### FOUNDATION SCIENCE PREREQUISITES

FSC401 – Principles of Biology/General Biology .....	45	45	--
FSC404/ADJ404 – General Psychology .....	45	45	--
FSC405 – Human Anatomy or Anatomy & Physiology I .....	60	60	--

#### ACADEMIC PROGRAM – YEAR I (MONTHS 1 - 12)

#### MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE PROGRAM: DIDACTIC (INTENSIVES 1 - 3)

ACT401 – Classical Philosophy I .....	30	30	--
ACT402 – Jingluo Channel and Point Location I .....	45	45	--
ACT403 – The Five Elements I .....	30	30	--
ACT404 – The Twelve Officials I .....	30	30	--
ACT405 – Diagnostic Skills I .....	30	30	--
ACT406 – Practitioner-Patient Relationship I .....	23	23	--
ACT407 – Needling and Moxibustion I .....	15	15	--
ACT408 – Point Functions: The Nature of Points I .....	30	30	--
ACT409 – Inner Cultivation I .....	15	15	--
ACT410 – Clinical Reasoning I .....	15	15	--
ACT412 – Chinese Medicine Health Principles I .....	15	15	--
ACT415 – Reflective Practice I .....	23	23	--
ACT416 – History of Chinese Medicine .....	8	8	--

#### MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE PROGRAM: FOUNDATIONS OF CLINICAL TRAINING

ACC451* – Clinical Observation of Patients I: Clinical Theater I .....	30	30	30
ACC452 – Private Practice Clinical Observation of Patients I .....	60	60	--

#### CERTIFICATE IN CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINE: DIDACTIC

CHT401 – Survey of Chinese Herbal Medicine I .....	--	85	85
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PREREQUISITES and YEAR I TOTALS (HOURS) .....	549	634	115
Prerequisites and Year I Totals (Credits) .....	33.5	39	6.5

\*ACC451 – Clinical Observation of Patients I: Clinical Theater I satisfies requirements in both the M.Ac and CCHM programs. Students taking CCHM only are allowed entrance to this course or may complete 30 hours of approved private practice observation.

*Table A*  
PROGRAM SEQUENCE AND HOURS/CREDITS  
FOR INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM

PROGRAM/COURSE SEQUENCE	HOURS		
	M.A.C.	M.A.C. +CCHM	CCHM
ACADEMIC PROGRAM – YEAR 2 (MONTHS 13 - 24)			
<b>MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE PROGRAM: DIDACTIC (INTENSIVES 4 - 6)</b>			
ACT501 – Five Element Treatment Protocols.....	24	24	--
ACT502 – Jingluo Channel and Point Location II.....	62	62	--
ACT503 – The Five Elements II.....	8	8	--
ACT505 – Diagnostic Skills II.....	40	40	--
ACT506 – Practitioner Patient Relationship II.....	14	14	--
ACT507 – Needling and Moxibustion II.....	18	18	--
ACT508 – Point Functions: The Nature of Points II.....	14	14	--
ACT509 – Internal Cultivation.....	10	10	--
ACT510 – Clinical Reasoning II.....	30	30	--
ACT511 – Chinese Medicine Pathology.....	30	30	--
ACT512 – Chinese Medicine Etiology.....	8	8	--
ACT515 – Reflective Practice II.....	10	10	--
ACT674 – Professional Ethics.....	15	15	--
<b>MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE PROGRAM: INTERMEDIATE CLINICAL TRAINING</b>			
ACC463 – Internship Preparation I.....	15	15	--
ACC551 – Clinical Observation of Patients: Clinical Theatre II.....	30	30	--
ACC552 – Private Practice Clinical Observation of Patients II.....	60	60	--
<b>BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES</b>			
BSC401 – Intro to General & Systems Pathology.....	30	30	--
BSC407 – Medical Terminology.....	30	30	--
<b>BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES: COREQUISITES</b>			
BSC405 – Physiology or Anatomy & Physiology II.....	60	60	--
<b>CERTIFICATE IN CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINE: DIDACTIC</b>			
CHT501 – Survey of Chinese Herbal Medicine II.....	--	150	150
CHT601 – Survey of Chinese Herbal Medicine III.....	--	50	50
<b>CERTIFICATE IN CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINE: CLINICAL TRAINING</b>			
CHC551 – Herbal Clinical Observation I.....	--	20	20
YEAR 2 TOTALS (HOURS).....	508	728	220
Year 2 Totals (Credits).....	29.5	43.5	14

*Table A*  
PROGRAM SEQUENCE AND HOURS/CREDITS  
FOR INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM

PROGRAM/COURSE SEQUENCE	HOURS		
ACADEMIC PROGRAM – YEAR 3 (MONTHS 25 - 30)	M.AC.	M.AC. +CCHM	CCHM
<b>MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE PROGRAM: DIDACTIC (CLINICAL RESIDENCY)</b>			
ACT670 – Clinical Seminar I.....	45	45	--
ACT672A – Practice Management I: Core Concepts.....	30	30	--
ACT673 – Introduction to Theories of Counseling & Psychotherapy.....	30	30	--
ACT676 – Internal Cultivation III.....	30	30	--
ACT680 – Clinical Seminar II.....	32	32	--
<b>MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE PROGRAM: ADVANCED CLINICAL TRAINING</b>			
ACC661 – Internship Preparation II.....	36	36	--
ACC671 – Clinical Internship I.....	130	130	--
ACC672 – Clinical Internship II.....	180	180	--
ACC675 – Clinical Tutorial I.....	54	54	--
ACC676 – Clinical Tutorial II.....	36	36	--
<b>ADJUNCTIVE STUDIES</b>			
ADJ601 – Alternative Therapies.....	30	30	--
ADJ608 – Review of Florida Licensure Rules and Laws.....	20	20	--
<b>BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES</b>			
BSC606 – General Pharmacology.....	30	30	--
BSC650 – Pharmacognosy of Herbal Medicine.....	--	30	30
<b>BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES: COREQUISITES</b>			
BSC607 – General Nutrition/Nutrition for Health.....	45	45	--
<b>CERTIFICATE IN CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINE: DIDACTIC</b>			
CHT602 – Exam Preparation.....	--	30	30
CHT603 – Internal Medicine.....	--	67	67
CHT604 – NCCAOM Herbal Board Preparation.....	--	30	30
<b>CERTIFICATE IN CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINE: CLINICAL TRAINING</b>			
CHC751 – Herbal Grand Rounds.....	--	15	15
CHC771 – Herbal Clinical Internship I.....	--	70	70
YEAR 3 TOTALS (HOURS).....	728	970	242
Year 3 Totals (Credits).....	33.5	46.75	13.25

*Table A*  
**PROGRAM SEQUENCE AND HOURS/CREDITS  
 FOR INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM**

PROGRAM/COURSE SEQUENCE	HOURS		
	M.A.C.	M.A.C. +CCHM	CCHM
<b>ACADEMIC PROGRAM – YEAR 4 (MONTHS 31 - 36) (continued)</b>			
<b>MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE PROGRAM: DIDACTIC (CLINICAL RESIDENCY)</b>			
ACT681 – Clinical Seminar III.....	30	30	--
ACT685 – Clinical Seminar IV.....	30	30	--
ACT682 – Practice Management II: Intro to Business Ownership.....	30	30	--
ACT683 – NCCAOM Boards Examination Preparation.....	45	45	--
ACT684 – Introduction to Information Literacy.....	15	15	--
<b>MASTER OF ACUPUNCTURE PROGRAM: ADVANCED CLINICAL TRAINING</b>			
ACC673 – Clinical Internship III.....	198	198	--
ACC674 – Clinical Internship IV.....	110	110	--
ACC677 – Clinical Tutorial III.....	18	18	--
ACC678 – Clinical Tutorial IV.....	10	10	--
<b>BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES</b>			
BSC603 – Western Clinical Sciences Survey.....	30	30	--
BSC608 – Introduction to Integrative Medicine.....	15	15	--
BSC651 – Herbal Medicine Safety & Drug Interaction.....	--	30	30
<b>CERTIFICATE IN CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINE: DIDACTIC</b>			
CHT701 – Five Element Herbalism.....	--	15	15
<b>CERTIFICATE IN CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINE: CLINICAL TRAINING</b>			
CHC772 – Herbal Clinical Internship II.....	--	70	70
CHC773 – Herbal Clinical Internship III.....	--	70	70
CHC774 – Dispensary Patient Care.....	--	40	40
<b>CERTIFICATE IN CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINE: COREQUISITE</b>			
BSC630/CHT630 – Survey of Botany/General Botany.....	--	45	45

## BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES: ELECTIVE COREQUISITES

<b>BSC631</b> – Introduction to Biochemistry.....	E.....	E.....	--
<b>BSC632</b> – General Microbiology.....	E.....	E.....	--
<b>BSC633</b> – Pathology II: Pathophysiology.....	E.....	E.....	--
<b>BSC634</b> – Foundations of Gerontology.....	E.....	E.....	--
<b>BSC635</b> – Women's Health.....	E.....	E.....	--
<b>BSC636</b> – Biomedical Research Methods.....	E.....	E.....	--
<b>BSC637</b> – Understanding Statistical Evidence.....	E.....	E.....	--
<b>BSC638</b> – Biology of Cancer.....	E.....	E.....	--
<b>BSC639</b> – Immunology.....	E.....	E.....	--
<b>BSC640</b> – Principles of Epidemiology.....	E.....	E.....	--
<b>BSC641/ADJ641</b> – Nutrition in Health and Disease.....	E.....	E.....	--
<b>BSC642/ADJ642</b> – Psychopathology and Abnormal Psychology.....	E.....	E.....	--
<b>BSC643/ADJ643</b> – Health Psychology.....	E.....	E.....	--
<b>BSC644</b> – Biomedical Science Elective.....	E.....	E.....	--
3 Electives, chosen from the above list of courses marked 'E'.....	135.....	135.....	--
 YEAR 4 TOTALS (HOURS).....	666.....	936.....	270
Year 4 Totals (Credits).....	33.....	44.75.....	11.75
 TOTAL ALL YEARS (HOURS).....	2451.....	3268.....	847
TOTAL ALL YEARS (Credits).....	129.5.....	174.....	45.5



*Table B*  
**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**  
**(ALPHABETICAL, BY COURSE NUMBER)**

COURSE NUMBER/TITLE	CREDITS	HOURS
<p><b>ACC451 – CLINICAL OBSERVATION OF PATIENTS I: CLINICAL THEATER I</b>  </p> <p>In this course, clinic patients are evaluated by experienced practitioners in the classroom setting while students observe and learn. Subsequent discussion of each case in detail permits students to gain a more thorough understanding of the processes involved in diagnosis and treatment. Lecture and observation.</p>	1	30
<p><b>ACC452 – PRIVATE PRACTICE CLINICAL OBSERVATION OF PATIENTS I</b>  </p> <p>Observing experienced practitioners at work with patients represents a vital step in the clinical learning process. This course, which emphasizes clinical observation with experienced practitioners in private practice office settings, allows students to gain additional exposure to 'real world' clinical settings. Students may also arrange to observe senior interns at work in the Academy's clinic. Practical.</p>	2	60
<p><b>ACC463 – INTERNSHIP PREPARATION I</b>  </p> <p>Incoming clinic interns receive instruction and information from clinical faculty about the functioning of the Academy's clinic and about the expectations and requirements during clinical internship. Lecture.</p>	0.5	15
<p><b>ACC551 – CLINICAL OBSERVATION OF PATIENTS: CLINICAL THEATRE II</b>  </p> <p>Observing senior practitioners at work with patients represents a vital step in the clinical learning process. In this second-year course, students continue to observe senior practitioners working in the classroom with patients in a structured 'clinical theater' format. Practitioner-teachers model the interview and diagnostic process for student observers. In the second year, student practitioners may participate in this process. Subsequent treatment of patient by interns is also observed. Ample time is set aside for subsequent round-table discussion of issues and questions that arise during the clinical observation process. Lecture and observation.</p>	1	30
<p><b>ACC552 – PRIVATE PRACTICE CLINICAL OBSERVATION OF PATIENTS II</b>  </p> <p>Observing experienced practitioners at work with patients represents a vital step in the clinical learning process. This course, which emphasizes clinical observation with experienced practitioners in private practice office settings, allows students to gain additional exposure to 'real world' clinical settings. Students may also arrange to observe senior interns at work in the Academy's clinic. Practical.</p>	2	60
<p><b>ACC661 – INTERNSHIP PREPARATION II</b>  </p> <p>Clinic interns receive further instruction from clinical faculty about the functioning of the Academy's clinic and about what the expectations and requirements are during the clinical internship.</p>	1	36

*Table B*  
**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**  
**(ALPHABETICAL, BY COURSE NUMBER)**

COURSE NUMBER/TITLE	CREDITS	HOURS
<p><b>ACC671 – CLINICAL INTERNSHIP I</b></p> <p>The clinical training in Levels 1, 2, and 3 is based on the philosophy of collaborative learning. The Academy provides a group approach to individual care. Interns work in pairs and small groups under the close guidance of supervisors, working together on the diagnosis, treatment planning, and treatment applications of patients. As the year progresses, interns are given more responsibility for clinical decisions. Level 1 focuses on orientation and the development of technical competence and foundational clinical skills. Practical.</p>	4.5	130
<p><b>ACC672 – CLINICAL INTERNSHIP II</b></p> <p>Subsequent to ACC671 Clinical Internship I, interns continue to work in pairs and small groups under the close guidance of supervisors, working together on the diagnosis, treatment planning, and treatment applications of patients. Level 2 focusses on the honing of diagnostic skills and the crafting of treatment principles. Practical.</p>	6	180
<p><b>ACC673 – CLINICAL INTERNSHIP III</b></p> <p>Subsequent to ACC672 Clinical Internship II, interns continue to work in pairs and small groups under the close guidance of supervisors, working together on the diagnosis, treatment planning, and treatment applications of patients. Level 3 focusses on monitoring treatment outcomes, prioritizing treatment review, and the assessment of clinical outcomes. Practical.</p>	6.5	198
<p><b>ACC674 – CLINICAL INTERNSHIP IV</b></p> <p>Subsequent to ACC672 Clinical Internship II, interns continue to work in pairs and small groups under the close guidance of supervisors, working together on the diagnosis, treatment planning, and treatment applications of patients. Level 3 focusses on monitoring treatment outcomes, prioritizing treatment review, and the assessment of clinical outcomes. Practical.</p>	3.5	110
<p><b>ACC675 – CLINICAL TUTORIAL I</b></p> <p>As an extension of the clinic shift, this course provides time to meet with supervisors for feedback, to ask questions, to complete medical documentation, and to discuss extraordinary patient conditions and treatments. Practical.</p>	2	54
<p><b>ACC676 – CLINICAL TUTORIAL II</b></p> <p>As an extension of the clinic shift, this course provides time to meet with supervisors for feedback, to ask questions, to complete medical documentation, and to discuss extraordinary patient conditions and treatments. Practical.</p>	1	36
<p><b>ACC677 – CLINICAL TUTORIAL III</b></p> <p>As with ACC676 Clinical Tutorial II, this course provides time after the clinic shift to meet with supervisors for feedback, to ask questions, to craft treatment principles, to complete medical documentation, to discuss treatment outcomes, and to discuss extraordinary patient conditions and treatments. Practical.</p>	0.5	18

*Table B*  
**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**  
**(ALPHABETICAL, BY COURSE NUMBER)**

COURSE NUMBER/TITLE	CREDITS	HOURS
<b>ACC678 – CLINICAL TUTORIAL IV</b> As with ACC677 Clinical Tutorial III, this course provides time after the clinic shift to meet with supervisors for feedback, to ask questions, to craft treatment principles, to complete medical documentation, to discuss treatment outcomes, to review overall patient progress, and to discuss extraordinary patient conditions and treatments. Practical.	0.5	10
<b>ACT401 – CLASSICAL PHILOSOPHY I</b> Providing a foundation in the philosophy and natural laws governing classical acupuncture, this course introduces concepts of <i>dào</i> , yin and <i>yáng</i> , <i>qì</i> , the five substances, causative factor, the five spirits, and the 5 zhi, or wills to life, and other foundational philosophy underpinning East Asian medicine. Lecture.	2	30
<b>ACT402 – JINGLUO CHANNEL AND POINT LOCATION</b> A tutorial in the basics of point location. The emphasis is on anatomical location, palpation skills, and hands-on practice. Topics include the nature of an acupuncture point, the meridian network, how to locate points, and the concepts of measuring in point location. Supplies needed: ACI Locator, marking pens. Lecture and practical.	3	45
<b>ACT403 – THE FIVE ELEMENTS I</b> In classical philosophy, the Five Elements represent the five phases of <i>qí</i> as it moves through nature and our bodies. The elements work interdependently in a systematic balance to support and sustain health and well-being. In this course, students learn the five elements/phases and their <i>wúxíng</i> correspondences, as well as the relationships between the elements. The concept of causative factor, introduced in ACT401, is deepened, focusing on the health of the CF and the manifestations of <i>zhèng qì</i> (the regulatory movement of the <i>Dào</i> ), through the healthy movement of the four seasons and four transitions. Lecture.	2	30
<b>ACT404 – THE TWELVE OFFICIALS I</b> This course provides an in-depth overview of the twelve officials, or <i>zang fu</i> organs, that govern the body, including the associated meridians, functions, and characteristics of each. In Year I, students focus primarily on how the twelve officials manifest when they are in health. Lecture.	2	30
<b>ACT405 – DIAGNOSTIC SKILLS I</b> This course introduces students to the four primary examination skills: observation, audio-olfactory, palpation and inquiry. Students develop the skills needed to engage their senses through diagnosis according to color, sound, odor, and emotion. Additional topics include: the basic theory of pulse taking and tongue diagnosis and the physical and structural exam. Lecture and practical.	2	30

*Table B*  
**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**  
**(ALPHABETICAL, BY COURSE NUMBER)**

COURSE NUMBER/TITLE	CREDITS	HOURS
<b>ACT406 – PRACTITIONER-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP I</b> This course explores the importance of the practitioner-patient relationship and how to strengthen it in order to achieve deep rapport. The individuality of the practitioner has an enormous effect on the efficacy of acupuncture treatment. As a practitioner, increasing awareness of one's own self results in being a better mirror in order to diagnose and treat patients. With Five Element acupuncture's emphasis on treating at the subtlest levels of a person's qi, awareness of the practitioner's internal state is fundamentally important. This course utilizes different techniques to increase awareness of the practitioner's internal state, focusing on stillness, intention, personal awareness of strengths and weaknesses, and the relationship of the practitioner to the spirits and to nature. It includes field trips into nature and self-evaluation designed to help students understand themselves as practitioners, identify and fortify both academic and personal areas of strengths and weaknesses, guide students in getting the help they need in order to grow beyond their limitations, and measure progress towards self-understanding and growth.	1.5	23
<b>ACT407 – NEEDLING AND MOXIBUSTION I</b> This course introduces students to the equipment, materials, and techniques used by acupuncturists in the treatment room. Students learn the theory of needling and basic needle insertion skills, aseptic techniques, and Clean Needle Technique (CNT) protocols. Students are also introduced to moxa and moxibustion, including its role in diagnosis and treatment. Lecture and practical	1	15
<b>ACT408 – POINT FUNCTIONS: THE NATURE OF POINTS I</b> Building on the knowledge of channels and vessels in ACT402, this course is an exploration of the functions of acupuncture points, including point categories, applications, and the essential natures of points. Lecture.	2	30
<b>ACT409 – INTERNAL CULTIVATION I</b> With Five Element acupuncture's emphasis on treating at the subtlest levels of a person's qi, awareness of the practitioner's internal state is fundamentally important. This experiential course introduces many different techniques to increase awareness of the practitioner's internal state, focusing on stillness, intention, personal awareness of strengths and weaknesses, and relationship to nature. Techniques include: qìgong, calligraphy, yoga, meditation, and field trips into nature. Discussion and practical.	1	15
<b>ACT410 – CLINICAL REASONING I</b> Through discussion of case studies and patients in class, students develop the necessary skills to write a diagnostic summary from a patient intake and a physical exam. Instruction and homework assignments lead to the creation of an initial treatment planning guide. Lecture and practical.	1	15

*Table B*  
**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**  
**(ALPHABETICAL, BY COURSE NUMBER)**

COURSE NUMBER/TITLE	CREDITS	HOURS
<b>ACT412 – CHINESE MEDICINE HEALTH PRINCIPLES I</b> This course introduces fundamental nutrition and dietary principles in Chinese medicine in relation to the cause of disease. Emphasis is on disease prevention and concepts of healthy living from the point of view that food is medicine. Lecture.	1	15
<b>ACT415 – REFLECTIVE PRACTICE I</b> This course introduces students to use reflection ultimately to continuously improve patient care. Reflection is used as a means to address issues such as diagnostic decision making, clinical skills, medical errors, cultural competence, professionalism lapses, and burnout. Reflective Practice I utilizes reflective practice in home study assignments focused on understanding foundational Chinese Medicine theory and developing clinical skills as well as classroom time to reflect upon and understand the journey as a student at the Academy working towards professional practice.	1.5	23
<b>ACT416 – HISTORY OF CHINESE MEDICINE</b> This course presents an in-depth overview of the history and development of medical practice in China from ancient times to the present. Following a chronological, dynastic order, this course focuses on the critical periods in Chinese history as a backdrop for the philosophical, cultural, political, and medical developments that have shaped the practice of Chinese medicine. Lecture.	0.5	8
<b>ACT501 – FIVE ELEMENT TREATMENT PROTOCOLS</b> This course builds on students' study of ACT401 Classical Philosophy I with a focus on a Five Element perspective. Students are introduced to specific uses of points and specialized treatment protocols. Material includes protocols for clearing xiè qì and restoring zhèng qì and Five Element initial treatment strategies for confirming CF. Lecture.	1.5	24
<b>ACT502 – JINGLUO CHANNEL AND POINT LOCATION II</b> This course builds on the point location skills begun in the first year. Special emphasis is on back landmarks, inner and lateral bladder lines, sacral points, Associated Effect Points, landmarks and points of the lower abdomen, mid-abdomen and chest. Windows of the Sky, Alarm Points, Exit and Entry points, Command Points and points to call forth the Internal and External Dragons are also located. Lecture and practical.	4	62
<b>ACT503 – THE FIVE ELEMENTS II</b> In this experiential course, students deepen their understanding of the five elements in nature. Includes a field trip into nature. Experiential.	0.5	8
<b>ACT505 – DIAGNOSTIC SKILLS II</b> Building on work from previous courses, students further develop the diagnostic tools and assessment techniques critical to the practice of acupuncture. Students observe patient intake interviews and treatments to apply the principles of CSOE, pulse-taking, and interviewing. Includes treatment review and discussion. Lecture, observation, and practical.	2.5	40

*Table B*  
**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**  
**(ALPHABETICAL, BY COURSE NUMBER)**

COURSE NUMBER/TITLE	CREDITS	HOURS
<b>ACT506 – PRACTITIONER-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP II</b> Building on the work from previous courses, students develop an embodied definition of rapport and its use in therapeutic relationships. Students expand their diagnostic skills thru practical exercises focusing on mannerisms, body posture, voice, and attitude. Discussion and practical.	1	14
<b>ACT507 – NEEDLING AND MOXIBUSTION II</b> Students continue to practice proper needling techniques and the use of moxa. Further topics include tonification and dispersion. Safety and emergency protocols are covered in preparation to take the CCAHM Clean Needle Technique (CNT) certification exam. Lecture and practical.	1	18
<b>ACT508 – THE NATURE OF POINTS II</b> Students continue to practice proper needling techniques and the use of moxa. Further topics include tonification and dispersion. Safety and emergency protocols are covered in preparation to take the CCAHM Clean Needle Technique (CNT) certification exam. Lecture and practical.	1	14
<b>ACT509 – INTERNAL CULTIVATION II</b> Students deepen their awareness of the internal state and the movement of qi through continued practice of qigong, calligraphy, yoga, and meditation. Additional field trips into nature. Discussion and practical.	0.5	10
<b>ACT510 – CLINICAL REASONING II</b> Building on the skills developed in ACT410, students focus on developing treatment principles, treatment plans, assessing outcomes, and treatment reviews. Lecture and observation.	2	30
<b>ACT511 – CHINESE MEDICINE PATHOLOGY</b> Students learn the theory of Chinese medicine pathology, including the concepts of disease, disposition, and destiny. Students learn the clinical significance of signs and symptoms that will aid them in patient diagnosis and developing effective treatment protocols. Lecture and practical.	2	30
<b>ACT512 – CHINESE MEDICINE ETIOLOGY</b> This course teaches students the different types of external and internal disease in Chinese medicine. Lecture.	0.5	8
<b>ACT515 – REFLECTIVE PRACTICE II</b> Students continue to build the practice of reflection and its application in diagnostic assessment, treatment planning, and review. Practical.	0.5	10

*Table B*  
**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**  
**(ALPHABETICAL, BY COURSE NUMBER)**

COURSE NUMBER/TITLE	CREDITS	HOURS
<p><b>ACT670 – CLINICAL SEMINAR I</b></p> <p>The principal focus of clinical residency, academic years 2 and 3, is gaining proficiency in treating patients and developing skills through practice during the clinical internship. Along with their clinical work, students complete their academic instruction in Five Element treatment techniques and issues concerning starting an acupuncture practice. ACT670 Clinical Seminar I is the first in a series of four courses along with ACT680 Clinical Seminar II, ACT681 Clinical Seminar III, and ACT682 Clinical Seminar IV. The Clinical Seminar series provides a forum for questions and feedback as they arise during clinical internship. The following topics are covered: advanced point location, advanced treatment planning, advanced pulse taking and tongue diagnosis, advanced Five Element and other diagnostic and treatment techniques, advanced rapport skills and treating at the correct level, and advanced Western medical diagnostic skills. Lecture and practical.</p>	3	45
<p><b>ACT672A – PRACTICE MANAGEMENT I: CORE CONCEPTS</b></p> <p>Learning how to build and run a successful practice is an important skill for any student. This course introduces a range of key concepts related to practice management, and provides students with resources, techniques and skills that are particularly geared towards helping beginning practitioners achieve a successful practice. Included are the topics of insurance, legal liability, fee structures, making referrals, office procedures, giving public talks, working with the media, advertising and professional dress and presentation. Lecture.</p>	2	30
<p><b>ACT673 – INTRODUCTION TO THEORIES OF COUNSELING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY</b></p> <p>This course introduces students to a range of basic tenets and therapeutic processes in Western style counseling and psychotherapy. Particular emphasis is placed on traditions that are compatible with the Five Element model, including Jungian theory, humanistic/existential and transpersonal approaches. Also examined are psychotherapeutic approaches that are specifically influenced by Eastern traditions, such as the Buddhist psychotherapy of Mark Epstein. The course also examines a range of common psychiatric conditions as defined by contemporary medical practice and explores these conditions from the perspective of the Five Elements. Lecture.</p>	2	30
<p><b>ACT674 – PROFESSIONAL ETHICS</b></p> <p>This course introduces professional ethics and the specific ethical problems and issues that arise for health care professionals, particularly practitioners of acupuncture and Chinese medicine. Through a range of assignments and a term paper, students will develop their ability to recognize moral aspects of professional practice and to analyze concepts and issues in professional ethics. Lecture.</p>	1	15

*Table B*  
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**(ALPHABETICAL, BY COURSE NUMBER)**

COURSE NUMBER/TITLE	CREDITS	HOURS
<b>ACT676 – INTERNAL CULTIVATION III</b> This course is a continuation of ACT509 – Internal Cultivation II. This course utilizes different qìgong techniques to increase awareness of the practitioner’s internal state, focusing on stillness and intention as well as cultivating qì for personal health and well-being. The exercises are also suitable for use with patients in the clinical setting. Additional field trips into nature allow Nature to teach about the five elements and wuxíng correspondences, in order for interns to be the instrument of Nature in the treatment room for every CF, having learned to embody Nature’s width of each element, season, correspondence inside each of us; practitioner and patient alike. Discussion and practical.	2	30
<b>ACT680 – CLINICAL SEMINAR II</b> This course is a continuation of ACT670 Clinical Seminar I. Lecture and practical.	2	32
<b>ACT681 – CLINICAL SEMINAR III</b> This course is a continuation of ACT670 Clinical Seminar I and ACT680 Clinical Seminar II. Lecture and practical.	2	30
<b>ACT682 – PRACTICE MANAGEMENT II:            ORIENTATION TO BUSINESS OWNERSHIP</b> This course explores the general nature of business ownership and the opportunities, advantages, disadvantages, and personal requirements of owning and operating a small business. Lecture.	2	30
<b>ACT683 – NCCAOM BOARDS EXAMINATION PREPARATION</b> This course reviews adjunctive TCM-style therapeutic techniques and is specifically designed to prepare students for the NCCAOM boards examination in acupuncture (required for licensure in most states). Lecture.	3	45
<b>ACT684 – INTRODUCTION TO INFORMATION LITERACY</b> This course introduces the basic principles of the research model. Emphasis is placed on utilization of Western medical data bases and research pertaining to Western medical studies on acupuncture. Upon completion, students should be able to formulate research protocols and improve their communication skills with Western medical practitioners regarding acupuncture. Lecture.	1	15
<b>ACT685 – CLINICAL SEMINAR IV</b> This course is a continuation of ACT670 Clinical Seminar I, ACT680 Clinical Seminar II, and ACT681 Clinical Seminar III. Lecture and practical.	2	30



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### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (ALPHABETICAL, BY COURSE NUMBER)

COURSE NUMBER/TITLE	CREDITS	HOURS
<b>ADJ601 – ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES</b>	2	30
<p>This course introduces students to alternative therapies that are not normally considered to be part of conventional health care. The purpose of this course is to help students to understand the nature and practice of various alternative therapies, analyze research available to demonstrate the effectiveness of these therapies and to identify the trends and issues related to their use. After completing this course, students should be able to evaluate the risks and benefits of using particular alternative therapies. Topics vary but may include: introduction to auricular acupuncture, acupressure, homeopathy, yoga for use in treatment, qigong and various energy work techniques. Lecture and Practical.</p>		
<b>ADJ608 – REVIEW OF FL LICENSURE RULES AND LAWS</b>	1	20
<p>Required instruction in Florida rules and statutes necessary for licensure as an acupuncture practitioner in the State of Florida. All students are required to take this course regardless of the state in which they intend to practice.</p>		
<b>BSC401 – INTRODUCTION TO GENERAL AND SYSTEMS PATHOLOGY</b>	2	30
<p>Intended primarily for students in health professions, this course covers the general principles of drug absorption, distribution, metabolism, actions and effects according to conventional drug classification, with emphasis on the prototype of each class.</p>		
<b>BSC405 – PHYSIOLOGY OR ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY II</b>	4	60
<p>This corequisite course should have a similar course description to the following: provides a continuation of the comprehensive study of the anatomy and physiology of the human body. Topics include the endocrine, cardiovascular, lymphatic, respiratory, digestive, urinary, and reproductive systems as well as metabolism, nutrition, acid-base balance, and fluid and electrolyte balance. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of principles of anatomy and physiology and their interrelationships. Laboratory work includes dissection of preserved specimens, microscopic study, physiologic experiments, computer simulations, and multimedia presentations.</p>		
<b>BSC407 – MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY</b>	2	30
<p>This course covers the medical language and terminology used by health care professionals. In it, you will learn and recognize word prefixes, roots, and suffixes used in medical language today. You will also learn how to combine words to create meaningful medical conditions as well as comprehend their definition and know the correct spelling. In this medical terminology course, medical terms related to all major body systems will be covered, including: muscular system, skeletal system, respiratory system, circulatory system, digestive system, reproductive system, and urinary system.</p>		

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### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS (ALPHABETICAL, BY COURSE NUMBER)

COURSE NUMBER/TITLE	CREDITS	HOURS
<b>BSC603 – WESTERN CLINICAL SCIENCES SURVEY</b>	2	30
<p>This course is designed to help clinical interns develop useful skills for communicating with patients and other health care professionals about Western biomedical conditions. Provides an overview of various clinical sciences relevant to acupuncture practice, including internal medicine, surgery, OB/GYN, neurology and radiology. Also surveys various allopathic and alternative medical traditions to familiarize students with the wide range of approaches in contemporary healthcare. Includes discussion of common Western diagnostic testing procedures, including lab tests, and provides an overview of common sources of medical errors that require referral. Lecture.</p>		
<b>BSC606 – GENERAL PHARMACOLOGY</b>	2	30
<p>This course covers the medical language and terminology used by health care professionals. In it, you will learn and recognize word prefixes, roots, and suffixes used in medical language today. You will also learn how to combine words to create meaningful medical conditions as well as comprehend their definition and know the correct spelling. In this medical terminology course, medical terms related to all major body systems will be covered, including: muscular system, skeletal system, respiratory system, circulatory system, digestive system, reproductive system, and urinary system.</p>		
<b>BSC607 – GENERAL NUTRITION/NUTRITION FOR HEALTH</b>	3	45
<p>This course will present a study of the practical aspects of Western nutrition, recent scientific research in nutrition and its relationship to human health and pathology; discussion of nutrition from the perspective of Chinese medicine; and practical application of both approaches in developing dietary recommendations. Relevant chemical, biological, and physical principles and terminology will be discussed, including use of labs in nutritional counseling and signs/symptoms of excesses and deficiencies.</p>		
<b>BSC608 – INTRODUCTION TO INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE</b>	1	15
<p>This course empowers students to communicate and to interact effectively with Western medical practitioners. In this course students explore the differences between the practice of integrative medicine and conventional allopathic medicine, build an understanding of common Western Medicine abbreviations and shorthand, and learn skills specific to communicating with the broader world of medicine. Students will also learn about emerging roles and job opportunities for acupuncture and Oriental Medicine practitioners in integrative medicine settings.</p>		
<b>BSC630/CHT630 – SURVEY OF BOTANY/GENERAL BOTANY</b>	3	45
<p>In this introductory college-level course in plant biology, students learn about the use of plants, both dangerous and medicinal (ethnobotany), along with the historical (archaeological), cultural (ethnological) and economic (anthropocentric) aspects of plant life. Also included are the structural and chemical characteristics of botanical importance.</p>		

*Table B*  
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COURSE NUMBER/TITLE	CREDITS	HOURS
<b>BSC631 – INTRODUCTION TO BIOCHEMISTRY</b> This course explores the basic principles of biochemistry in relation to the appreciation and understanding of biological networks. Course focuses on the understanding of biochemical processes in the context of chemical principles; and the importance of research design and application to investigate questions in biochemistry. Because the field of biochemistry is continually evolving and touches many areas of cell biology, this course also includes an elementary introduction to the study of molecular biology.	E	
<b>BSC632 – GENERAL MICROBIOLOGY</b> Overview of the microbial world, emphasizing communicable diseases, their causes and control. Recommended for students seeking a liberal education in microbiology who do not have the prerequisites to take the more advanced courses.	E	
<b>BSC633 – PATHOLOGY II: PATHOPHYSIOLOGY</b> This course examines the abnormal physiological health transitions that may be experienced over the life-span and that have a well-documented physiological base. It focuses on disorders in cells, organs and systems that are involved in the vegetative functioning and in the biological defense of the human organism. Emphasis is on the transitions that occur in the human organism when ill, risk factors and contributing causes for these changes and the methods used to correct or prevent these changes. Where relevant, environmental, socio-cultural, legal, political and ethical issues will be raised and research methodologies will be considered.	E	
<b>BSC634 – FOUNDATIONS OF GERONTOLOGY</b> This course introduces the general field of gerontology, the special focus of social gerontology, and the historical, demographic and cultural factors that inform this relatively new field of study. It discusses social theories of aging and addresses demographics of aging, economic issues, primary relationships and policies, programs and social services designed to respond to health care needs.	E	
<b>BSC635 – WOMEN'S HEALTH</b> This elective explores the non-reproductive aspects of women's health care, including public health issues and basic medical information. The course focuses on the span between puberty and menopause. Topics include the formation of body image and the emergence of eating disorders, the science and politics of premenstrual syndrome and menopause and diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer. The course ends with a look at women as health care consumers, particularly contemporary concerns about the health care delivery system, the limits of self-help and facilitating effective interactions with health care providers. Supervised final examination.	E	
<b>BSC636 – BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH METHODS</b> This upper level course examines the fundamental principles of behavioral science research. There will be an overview of the conceptual need for research and an analysis of the methods or designs commonly employed and the procedures utilized to collect and analyze data. Students will review and design research in their area of interest.	E	

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COURSE NUMBER/TITLE	CREDITS	HOURS
<p><b>BSC637 – UNDERSTANDING STATISTICAL EVIDENCE</b></p> <p>Many people need to be able to understand how statistics are used in order to present information and frame arguments. This course is designed for those who want to become critical consumers of statistical evidence. It takes a conceptual rather than a computational approach to learning statistics. Using examples taken from popular media, it explains major statistical constructs as well as the strategies needed to evaluate statistical evidence. As an option some course components are available online.</p>	E	
<p><b>BSC638 – BIOLOGY OF CANCER</b></p> <p>This course examines the molecular, cellular and genetic basis for the 270 different diseases called cancer. Topics include the biology of uncontrolled cellular growth, the etiology of cancer, clinical presentation, diagnosis, staging, treatment and the psychological effects of cancer. Advances in cancer detection, diagnosis and treatment are also covered. The roles of the family practitioner, surgeon, pathologist, medical oncologist and radiation oncologist are considered. The viewpoint of the course is clinical and practical rather than basic science and research. Designed for anyone with a personal or professional interest in learning about cancer.</p>	E	
<p><b>BSC639 – IMMUNOLOGY</b></p> <p>This course presents an overview of the development, organization, components and function of the human immune system. Students explore the nature of infections and cancer and examine what happens when the system breaks down and becomes the cause of disease. Includes an investigation of nature as a means of providing new therapies that either utilize or circumvent the human immune system. Supervised final examination. Prerequisite: Introductory Biology or equivalent. Basic knowledge of biochemistry or cell biology is recommended.</p>	E	
<p><b>BSC640 – PRINCIPLES OF EPIDEMIOLOGY</b></p> <p>This elective is designed as a first course in epidemiology. Includes the following: introduction to epidemiology, overview of design strategies in epidemiologic research, statistical association and cause-effect relationships, introduction to frequency measures and measures of association, case-control and cohort studies and intervention studies. Applies analytical tools to study acute and chronic disease to facilitate investigation of and control of epidemics.</p>	E	
<p><b>BSC641/ADJ641 – NUTRITION IN HEALTH AND DISEASE</b></p> <p>There is now a large body of evidence demonstrating that our diets have a major impact on our health. This advanced course starts by looking at nutrition research. Without some understanding of how nutrition advances are made, you cannot properly appreciate the significance of conflicting claims. From there the course surveys the dietary causes of the Western diseases. These are the diseases that are very common in the Western world and that are related to the lifestyle of the rich Westernized countries. Prerequisite: basic 3-credit course in General Nutrition or equivalent.</p>	E	

*Table B*  
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COURSE NUMBER/TITLE	CREDITS	HOURS
<b>BSC642/ADJ642 – PSYCHOPATHOLOGY AND ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY</b> E Designed for anyone interested in the way we perceive and respond to our experiences and especially for people considering careers in psychology or counseling professions. This course covers the dynamics and prevention of abnormal behavior, including neuroses, psychoses, character disorders, psychosomatic reactions, schizophrenia and other abnormal personality patterns. Supervised final examination.		
<b>BSC643/ADJ643 – HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY</b> E This elective course introduces the contributions of psychology to the understanding of causes, prevention and treatment of physical illness, doctor-patient relationships and health care policy. The effects of physical disease on behavior are also described. The course is designed to help students become aware of the wide range of psychological considerations that arise in health and the benefits of complementing traditional medical approaches with psychological perspectives. Although the course is primarily directed to students of psychology, it has relevance for students and professionals in health care, social work, counseling and education. Previous course work in psychology (Introduction to Psychology or Elementary Psychology) or relevant work experience is recommended.		
<b>BSC644 – BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE ELECTIVE</b> E Students may choose a Biomedical Science Corequisite Elective at another accredited institution. Options include, but are not limited to, Ethnobiology, General Physics and Healthcare Delivery Systems/History of Medicine. Prior approval from the Academic Dean is required before a student may register for this course. Please allow two weeks for approval		
<b>BSC650 PHARMACOGNOSY OF HERBAL MEDICINE</b> 2 30 This course presents a look at phytochemical constituents of natural medicines and their basic functions in herbal medicine. Students will learn about the advantages and disadvantages of various extraction methods, archetypal herb components and their relationship to traditional functional categories in Chinese herbal medicine, and resources to stay informed on the growing field of natural medicine research. Lecture and Discussion Board.		
<b>BSC651 HERBAL MEDICINE SAFETY AND DRUG INTERACTION</b> 2 30 This course presents an evidence-based approach to safely prescribing Chinese herbal medicine in a modern integrative practice. Students will learn about herb toxicities, Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP), herb-drug interactions, allergies, herbs in pregnancy, clinical decision-making, best practices and further resources to stay informed.		
<b>CHC551 – HERBAL CLINICAL OBSERVATION I</b> 0.75 20 Clinic patients are evaluated by experienced herbal practitioners in the classroom setting while students observe and learn. Through subsequent detailed discussion of each patient by the instructor, students gain a more thorough understanding of the processes involved in herbal diagnosis and treatment. Lecture.		

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COURSE NUMBER/TITLE	CREDITS	HOURS
<b>CHC751 – HERBAL GRAND ROUNDS</b>	0.5	15
<p>In grand rounds, students participate in a roundtable clinical case study, differentiating the signs and symptoms of a given patient presentation and arriving at a Chinese medical diagnosis and treatment plan. Students are guided in the process by experienced faculty, and learn to demonstrate clinical reasoning and increase their diagnostic skills. Lecture and Practical.</p>		
<b>CHC771 – HERBAL CLINICAL INTERNSHIP I</b>	2.25	70
<p>Partnered in small groups, interns treat their own clients under the direct supervision of experienced herbalists. Client safety is strongly emphasized throughout clinical work. All clinical sessions include discussion time for each student to explore with a supervisor the many considerations that inform clinical decisions in the practice of herbal medicine. The herbal clinic focuses on teaching students how to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Translate a traditional diagnosis into an herbal formula that is a comprehensive response to the issues and energetics presented in the treatment room.</li> <li>• Provide an accurate natural extension of the healing process already begun in the therapeutic interaction, taking into account the individuality of each client.</li> <li>• Monitor the client's status for unexpected or unwanted reactions to the herbal formula, and reconfigure the herbal response as needed.</li> <li>• Complement a successful herbal strategy with information about dietary, lifestyle and other personal changes that reflect the same diagnostic strategy as the herbal formula.</li> <li>• Work with a variety of herbal remedies, primarily consisting of customized formulas of loose herbs to be decocted, customized granulated formulas, and the gamut of already-prepared herbal patent remedies.</li> <li>• Prepare herbal formulas of loose and granulated herbs from the herb dispensary or order prepared formulas as necessary for their clients.</li> <li>• Assist in all aspects of dispensary management and care.</li> </ul>		
<b>CHC772 – HERBAL CLINICAL INTERNSHIP II</b>	2.25	70
<p>The purpose of CHC772 Herbal Clinical Internship II (Level 2) is to expose students further to supervised herbal clinical work. Students continue treating their own clients in partnership with other students and under the supervision of experienced herbalists. Client safety continues to be of paramount importance. All clinical sessions include discussion time for each student to explore with a supervisor the many considerations that inform clinical decisions in the practice of herbal medicine. The herbal clinic continues to focus on teaching the students to translate a diagnosis into an herbal formula that is a comprehensive response to the issues and energetics presented in the treatment room. Students are expected to demonstrate increasing levels of competency and independence in various areas. Follow-up work with patients continues, and students are expected to demonstrate increasing diagnostic and treatment skills. The integration of herbal medicine and Western biomedicine is also discussed. Practical.</p>		

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<b>CHC773 – HERBAL CLINICAL INTERNSHIP III</b>	2.25	70
<p>In CHC773 Herbal Clinical Internship III (Level Three), interns advance towards a more independent approach to professional practice, increasing levels of responsibility by working alone, under the mentorship of the supervisors. This ensures that they can independently diagnose patients, create treatment principles, effectively prescribe formulations, assess clinical outcomes, and modify formulations as necessary; the primary skills necessary for successful practice. The focus is the embodiment of the reflective practitioner and the maturation of the independent practitioner. Practical.</p>		

<b>CHC774 DISPENSARY PATIENT CARE</b>	1.25	40
<p>Students on dispensary shifts will be responsible for filling customized bulk herb and granule formulas for specific patients.</p>		

Once the prescription is submitted to the dispensary, the dispensary students will check the ingredients of the prescription against the medications and supplements listed in the patient's chart to watch for any potential interactions. Any potential interactions will be flagged and any recommended substitutions will be approved by the supervisor.

Once the formula has been checked, approved, and filled, the dispensary student will complete a form for the patient, with the patient's name, Chinese medical diagnosis, ingredients and dosages, cooking or other special instructions, along with a brief summary of the actions of the formula, and anything the patient should know about the herbs or the course of therapy. (e.g., this should help you relax, you may experience increased urination, etc.). A copy of this formula will be kept with the patient's chart.

*Table B*  
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COURSE NUMBER/TITLE	CREDITS	HOURS
<p><b>CHT401 – SURVEY OF CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINE I</b></p> <p>This first course in the Academy's Chinese Herbal Studies program begins by giving students a historical perspective on a variety of approaches to Chinese herbalism currently practiced today, including common systems of classification of herbs and formulas. It incorporates an introduction to Chinese herbal medicine that provides foundational knowledge to undertake a study of the material medica, formulas, and Chinese medical strategies.</p> <p>Students have a chance to integrate this foundational knowledge through exposure to their first two categories, Tonify Qi and Tonify Blood. Through Qi and Blood tonification, approximately 11 formulas are introduced with their constituents, functions, indications and standard modifications. In addition, 10 single herbs directly from these categories are included with their taste, temperature, functions, indications, dosage and contraindications. The relevant patterns of disharmony and associated physiology is presented, providing a comprehensive framework for the students. Lecture.</p> <p>The on-line directed study component of this course introduces the theories and concepts of diagnosing via Eight Principle Patterns of Disharmony. Through the use of lecture notes, online study material, exercises and quizzes, students learn and begin to develop the skills necessary to diagnose Eight Principle Patterns of Disharmony.</p> <p>This online directed study course continues the study of Tonify Qi and Blood formulas and single herbs. Approximately 6 formulas are covered with their constituents, functions, indications and standard modifications. In addition, 8 single herbs directly from these categories are included with their taste, temperature, functions, indications, dosage and contraindications. Students are well prepared for this directed study course as a result of attending and completing Session I. Many of the formulas in this course are modifications of cardinal formulas already learned in Session I. Lecture.</p>	5.5	85
<p><b>CHT501 – SURVEY OF CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINE II</b></p> <p>Formulas and single herbs are studied within categories, and the corresponding patterns of disharmony and associated physiology are discussed.</p> <p>The categories covered include Tonify Yin, Treat Dryness, Tonify Yang, Warm Interior Cold, Harmonize, Regulate Qi, Regulate Blood, Stop Bleeding, Release Exterior, Clear Heat, Expel Dampness, Treat Phlegm, Drain Downward, Calm Spirit, and Expel/Extinguish Wind. Approximately 63 formulas are introduced with their constituents, functions, indications and standard modifications. In addition, over 100 single herbs directly from these categories are included with their taste, temperature, functions, indications, dosage and contraindications. The relevant patterns of disharmony and associated physiology is presented, providing a comprehensive framework for the students.</p> <p>Students learn and practice the details of conducting an herbal intake as well as the basics of the process of analysis, diagnosis, treatment planning, and the culminating customized formula writing. The 4 Examinations and the 10 Questions are emphasized, as are pattern differentiation. Lecture.</p>	10	150



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<b>CHT601 – SURVEY OF CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINE III</b> Formulas and single herbs are studied within categories, and the corresponding patterns of disharmony and associated physiology are discussed. The categories covered include Stabilize and Bind, Chinese Dietary Therapy, Open Orifice, and Food Stagnation. 10 formulas are introduced with their constituents, functions, indications and standard modifications. In addition, approximately 30 single herbs directly from these categories are included with their taste, temperature, functions, indications, dosage and contraindications. The relevant patterns of disharmony and associated physiology is presented, providing a comprehensive framework for the students. Students learn and practice the details of conducting an herbal intake as well as the basics of the process of analysis, diagnosis, treatment planning, and the culminating customized formula writing. The 4 Examinations and the 10 Questions are emphasized, as are pattern differentiation. Formula writing is introduced. Lecture.	3.25	50
<b>CHT602 – EXAM PREPARATION</b> This course consists of a series of classes designed to help students prepare for both the preclinical and final exams. Lecture.	2	30
<b>CHT603 – INTERNAL MEDICINE</b> This course consists of weekly classes that build and expand on the foundation materials with a focus on Internal Medicine and clinical practice. From the basics of formulas and materia medica, a bridge is built to connect Western diagnoses and the complicated conditions and patterns that students will see in practice. Internal Medicine topics include mental health, cardiovascular diseases, insomnia, headaches, gynecology, pain, respiratory conditions and diabetes. Lecture.	4.5	67
<b>CHT604 – NCCAOM HERBAL BOARD PREPARATION</b> Students prepare for the NCCAOM Herbology Board Exam required for licensure in many states, including Florida. Lecture.	2	30
<b>CHT701 – FIVE ELEMENT HERBALISM</b> This course is an introduction to the spirits of the herbs as they relate to the Five Elements. This uses the Five Element model for treatment in addition to the Eight Principle diagnosis studied for most of the Herbal Studies program. Through the use of audio lectures, exercises and class time, students develop and practice the skills necessary to begin to understand the spirits of the herbs and how to use this in clinical practice. Lecture.	1	15

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**(ALPHABETICAL, BY COURSE NUMBER)**

COURSE NUMBER/TITLE	CREDITS	HOURS
<b>FSC401 – PRINCIPLES OF BIOLOGY/GENERAL BIOLOGY</b> Introductory college-level biology course. Topics include the following: chemical foundations for cells, carbon compounds and macromolecules, cell structure and function, membrane structure and function, metabolism and energetics, photosynthesis and cellular metabolism, cell division, Mendel and inheritance, the biological function of DNA, the molecular basis of cell control, emergence of evolutionary thought, microevolution, classification and diversity, the place of microscopic life, organ systems and the endocrine process, the immune system, human nutrition, population and ecology, community interaction and ecosystems and the biosphere.	3	45
<b>FSC404/ADJ404 – GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY</b> Introductory college-level course in modern psychology. Surveys the following topics: the nature of psychology, the biological basis of psychology, psychological development, sensory processes, perception, consciousness and its altered states, learning and conditioning, memory, thought and language, basic motives, emotion, assessment of mental abilities, personality through the life course, personality theory and assessment, stress and coping, abnormal psychology, methods of therapy, social beliefs and attitudes, social interaction and influence, and statistical methods and measurement.	3	45
<b>FSC405 – HUMAN ANATOMY OR ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY</b> Beginning college-level course in human anatomy. Survey the following content: embryology, histology and integumentary system, skeletal system, muscular system, upper muscles lab, nervous system and nervous tissue, sensory organs, circulatory system, fetal circulation, endocrine system, respiratory system, digestive system, urinary system and male and female reproductive systems. Students may choose instead a beginning college-level course in the study of structure and function of the human body. Topics include cells, tissues, integumentary system, skeletal system, muscular system and nervous system. Typical prerequisite: Introductory Biology course.	4	60

## *Table C*

### REQUIRED COREQUISITE COURSE SEQUENCE (BY PROGRAM)

YEAR AND COREQUISITE COURSES	M.A.C.	CCHM
YEAR 2 (to be completed before the start of YEAR 3)	Physiology or Anatomy & Physiology II	
YEAR 3 AND YEAR 4 (to be completed before Graduation)	General Nutrition/ Nutrition for Health  Biomedical Electives* #1, #2 and #3	Survey of Botany/ General Botany
<p>Sequence extensions are at the discretion of the Academic Dean. See program structure and course descriptions for lists of electives.</p> <p>*Biomedical Science Electives: three 45-hour courses = 135 hours required</p>		

# Academy for Five Element Acupuncture, Inc.

## Ownership and Governance

Academy for Five Element Acupuncture, Inc., is an independent, not-for-profit 501(c) (3) educational institution. The organization is controlled by the governing board of Academy for Five Element Acupuncture, Inc.

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## Accreditation Status

Academy for Five Element Acupuncture and its following programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (ACAHM):

1. Master of Acupuncture
2. Certificate in Chinese herbal medicine

Temporary federal flexibilities with respect to institutional eligibility for distance education related to the COVID-19 national emergency expired on 7 October 2023. The programs listed above are not accredited by ACAHM to offer courses via distance education beyond 7 October 2023.

ACAHM does not accredit any programs at the undergraduate/bachelor level.

Accreditation status and notes may be viewed on the ACAHM Directory.

ACAHM is recognized by the United States Department of Education as the specialized accreditation agency for institutions/programs preparing acupuncture practitioners. ACAHM is located at 500 Lake Street, Suite 204, Excelsior, Minnesota 55331; phone 952/212-2434; <https://acaahm.org>

*Public Disclosure Statement Effective as of 14 August 2024*

## Catalog Disclosure

The catalog of Academy for Five Element Acupuncture, Inc. is published for the purpose of providing applicants, students and the public with information about the educational programs and policies of the Academy. The Academy of necessity reserves the right to change without notice any programs, policies, requirements or regulations published in the catalog. The catalog is not to be regarded as a contract.

## Faculty Listing

**Andrew Ali Hamm**, B.A., M.Ac, A.P. (FL), graduated from University of Florida with a degree in East Asian Languages. He received his M.Ac. from Academy for Five Element Acupuncture (2004). Andrew maintains a private practice in Gainesville, FL. *Acupuncture/Herbs.*

**Jim Brooks**, B.A., M.S.W., LCSW (FL), A.P. (FL), holds a B.A. in Psychology and Master of Social Work from State University of New York at Albany. He received his M.Ac. from Academy for Five Element Acupuncture (2010). Jim is in private practice in Gainesville, FL. *Acupuncture/Herbs.*

**Erika Chase**, B.A., M.Ac, A.P. (FL), Earned her Bachelor degree in Biology from Augusta State University. She graduated with M.Ac. from Academy for Five Element Acupuncture in 2015. She maintains a private practice in Gainesville, FL. *Acupuncture/Herbs.*

**Mindy de Wilde**, R.Y.T., B.S., M.Ac., A.P. (FL), graduated from the University of Florida, Magna cum laude, with a B.S. degree in Health Science. She received her M.Ac. from Academy for Five Element Acupuncture (2012). She maintains a private practice in Gainesville and is a registered yoga teacher. *Acupuncture/Herbs.*

**Gary Dolowich**, B.A., M.D., M.Ac., holds a B.A. in Psychology from Brooklyn College. He received his Doctorate of Medicine from University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine and his M.Ac. from College of Traditional Chinese Acupuncture (1981) in Leamington Spa, UK. He is the author of *Archetypal Acupuncture: Healing With the Five Elements* and is in private practice in Santa Cruz, California. *Acupuncture.*

**Jennifer Downey**, B.A., M.A.O.M, A.P. (FL), graduated with a degree in music from University of Florida. She received her Masters of Oriental Medicine from Dragon Rises College of Oriental Medicine (2002). Jennifer maintains a private practice in Gainesville, FL. *Acupuncture/Herbs.*

**Thea Elijah**, B.A., M.Ac., L.Ac. (VT), graduated with a B.A. in Women's Studies from Empire State College in New York. She received her M.Ac. from Traditional Acupuncture Institute (1995). She is a featured lecturer nationwide and maintains a private practice in Brattleboro, VT. *Herbs.*

**Patty Getford**, A.A., M.Ac., A.P. (FL), graduated from University of Florida with an Associates degree in Computers/Electronics Repair. She earned her M.Ac. from Academy for Five Element Acupuncture (2001). Patty currently practices in Gainesville, FL. *Acupuncture.*

**Margaret Ginestra**, B.A., M.F.A., M.Ac. (FL), graduated from Florida State University with an Bachelors degree in English, and a Master of Fine Arts from Washington University in St. Louis. She earned her M.Ac. from Academy for Five Element Acupuncture (2020). Margaret currently practices in Gainesville, FL. *Acupuncture*

**Chuck Graham**, B.A., M.Ac., L.Ac. (MD), holds a B.A. in English/Fine Arts from Loyola College. He received his M.Ac. from Academy for Five Element Acupuncture (2001). Chuck maintains a private practice in Baltimore, MD. *Acupuncture.*

**Alexander Love**, M.Ac., L.Ac. (CO), received a M.Ac. from Academy for Five Element Acupuncture (2004). He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Classical Chinese Medicine. He is a certified Quantum Cranial Practitioner and Instructor. Alexander is in private practice in Colorado. *Acupuncture.*

**Dava Michelson**, B.F.A., M.Ac., D.M.Q., A.P. (FL), graduated from Antioch College with a B.F.A. She received her M.Ac. from Academy for Five Element Acupuncture (2001), along with a Doctorate of Medical Qigong from International College of Medical Qigong and is certified in Zero Balancing. Dava maintains a private practice in Miami Beach, FL. *Acupuncture.*

**Misti Oxford-Pickeral**, B.S., M.Ac., A.P. (FL), graduated from Texas Tech University with a B.S. in Cellular and Molecular Biology. She received her M.Ac. from Academy for Five Element Acupuncture (2003). She is the executive director of the Academy, and the former director of the Chinese Herbal Medicine program. She also maintains a private practice in Gainesville, FL. *Acupuncture/Herbs.*

**Janet Rucker**, A.P. (FL), received her Diploma in Acupuncture from the Classical Acupuncture Institute (1990) in Jacksonville, FL. Janet maintains a private practice in Gainesville, FL. *Acupuncture.*

**Dan Sachs**, B.S., B.Ac., M.Ac., L.Ac. (MA & VT), holds a B.S. in English from the State University of New York. He earned both his L.Ac. (1984) and B.Ac. (1989) from College of Traditional Chinese Acupuncture in Leamington Spa, UK. He received a M.Ac. (1989) from Traditional Acupuncture Institute. Dan is in private practice in both Massachusetts and Vermont. *Acupuncture.*

**Amy Sear**, B.S., M.Ac., A.P. (FL), graduated from Cornell University and received her M.Ac. from Acupressure-Acupuncture Institute. Amy has a private practice in South Florida and is the acupuncture physician at the Breast Cancer Center of Memorial Hospital in Hollywood, FL. *Acupuncture/Herbs.*

**Shayna Stringer**, B.A./B.S., M.Ac. (FL), received a B.A./B.S. in Psychology and Sociology from the University of Florida. She received her M.Ac. from Academy for Five Element Acupuncture (2020). She maintains a private practice in Gainesville. *Acupuncture.*

**Joon Thomas**, B.A., B.F.A., graduated from University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Asian History and Chinese Language, and earned his B.F.A. at Philadelphia College of Arts. Stewart is a master calligrapher, local creative director, and owns a private art studio in Gainesville, FL. *Acupuncture.*

**Peggy Watson**, B.A., M.Ac., L.Ac. (TN), graduated from Wesleyan University with a degree in East Asian Studies and earned her M.Ac. from Academy for Five Element Acupuncture (2001). Peggy is in private practice in Tennessee. *Acupuncture.*



## *Inquiries*

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions.

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Academy for  
Five Element Acupuncture

315 SE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Gainesville FL 32601

Phone: 352.335.2332

Fax: 352.337.2535

Clinic: 352.548.2332

Email: [info@acupuncturist.edu](mailto:info@acupuncturist.edu)

Facebook: Academy for Five Element Acupuncture

[www.acupuncturist.edu](http://www.acupuncturist.edu)