

## Transitional Doctor of Acupuncture (DAc) Transitional Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine (DACM)

### *You deserve a doctorate*

From the earliest discussions of the entry-level or first professional doctorate (FPD), Pacific College stated that no master's graduate should be left behind. Each of you deserve an opportunity to bridge the gap between your master's training and the new doctorate. Upon completion, you deserve degree parity with entry-level doctoral graduates. And, just like your colleagues in physical therapy, occupational therapy and other professions that have offered such pathways, that is what you will have.

Pacific College is proud to be at the forefront of entry-level doctoral education for new students. And now with this program, it provides the same opportunity for the pioneers and experienced practitioners in our field. Welcome to the next step in acupuncture education. In this program you will find an emphasis on advancing your knowledge and skills to work effectively in a variety of integrative healthcare systems. In so doing, you will expand the opportunities for yourself, and future generations of acupuncturists by being an active part of the integrative healthcare movement. Most importantly, you will be expanding the primary care and wellness options of your patients.

This curriculum was developed by doctoral educators, subject matter experts, and experienced distance education designers and is based on the 28 entry-level doctoral competencies. Each aspect of the program has been scrutinized and approved by educators at our regional accreditor, WSCUC. The online delivery method has been developed and refined over the last six years in our undergraduate degrees and post-graduate DAOM. It has been tremendously well received and embraced by students at all levels of computer literacy. The curriculum has been vetted by PCOM alumni since fall 2015. Nonetheless, education, particularly professional, graduate education is a dynamic endeavor. To maintain its value, it must maintain its relevance. Therefore, the continued development of this program will be a collaborative effort of each administrator, teacher, and student. We look forward to forging the future of our medicine together.

### MODEL CURRICULUM

Term 1	Units	Hours
Foundations of Evidence-Informed Practice	3	45
Inter-Professional Communication	1	15
Healthcare Systems	3	45
Preventive Medicine and Public Health	2	30
Advanced Integrative Diagnostics	3	45

Term 2	Units	Hours
Clinical Research Design and Statistics	2	30
Integrative Case Management	3	45
Practice-Based Learning	3	45
Applications of Inter-Professional Communication	2	60
<b>Program Total:</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>360</b>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER:**

1-844-357-7013 | [Admissions-DACM@pacificcollege.edu](mailto:Admissions-DACM@pacificcollege.edu)

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### Foundations of Evidence-Informed Practice (FEIP)

Evidence-informed practice is an approach to decision-making that integrates clinical experience, relevant findings, patient preferences, and research. The student will learn the strengths and limitations of each element of the model. It is an opportunity to acquire the accumulated knowledge of countless practitioners and researchers and apply it to improve patient outcomes.

### Inter-Professional Communication

This course will increase effective communication with patients, patient families, and healthcare team members. Student will explore recognized methods of communicating healthcare issues to patients and their families. They will be challenged to describe Chinese medicine theory, techniques, and case information to biomedical professionals, as well as patients. Conversely, they will improve their ability to apply biomedical terminology.

### Healthcare Systems

The course provides entry into one of the most fascinating aspects of American culture where philosophy, economics, and technology intersect with medicine at both its most global and personal levels. In order to play a significant role in the system, students must understand the incredible variety of institutions and personnel that deliver healthcare across the wide spectrum of our diverse population. Along the way, students will grapple with some of the most challenging medical questions of our day and seek to identify Chinese medicine's role in answering them.

### Preventive Medicine and Public Health

Preventive Medicine and Public Health presents epidemiology, risk factors, determinants of health, effects of different cultural practices, genetic predispositions, the effect of climate on the incidence of disease, and more. In addition to conventional therapies, students will analyze and evaluate the role of Chinese medicine in preventive medicine and public health, along with the effects of diet, exercise, meditation, and more.

### Advanced Integrative Diagnostics

Students will further their understanding of biomedical labs, diagnostic imaging, health screening, functional medicine labs, and more. Student will increase their ability to exchange

diagnostic information with other healthcare providers. Most importantly, students will critically analyze the diagnostic options and be able to inform patients of their relative merits.

### Clinical Research and Design

Building on the Foundations of Evidence-Informed Practice, students will delve into the proper inductive methods for acquiring and validating clinical knowledge. The course presents the principles of experimental research design and statistics. It is designed to give acupuncturists an understanding of valid research and an appreciation of its importance to our profession. From placebo to experiments to proof, this course will challenge how you determine what is true. Most PCOM alumni will receive transfer credit for this course.

### Integrative Case Management

Using the case-based method, conditions from a variety of specialties will be used to develop a template for the integrative case management of biomedicine and Chinese medicine. The appropriate use of the wide variety of diagnostics, treatments and community resources pertinent to the given conditions will be analyzed and evaluated. Most PCOM alumni will receive transfer credit for this course.

### Practice-Based Learning

The course will help the student examine the two fundamental aspects of their healthcare career: patient care and practice building. Students will identify areas in which both can be improved and create a program for further development. Along the way, the course will review current considerations in developing a successful practice, e.g. research access, marketing, management systems, etc. On the patient care side, students will present to faculty members and fellow doctoral candidates case work that integrates current research, Chinese medical theory, treatment plans, alternative approaches, biomedical considerations, community resources, and prognosis.

### Application of Inter-Professional Communication

This course provides advanced clinical communication training and experiences in an approved biomedical setting. Doctoral candidates will observe and discuss cases at practicum sites of their choosing in their own locale with, e.g., medical doctors, osteopathic doctors, physician's assistants, nurse practitioners, chiropractors, or naturopaths, etc.

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Following application, non-PCOM graduates will start the admissions process with a comparison of their master's curriculum to PCOM's.

## PRE- AND CO-REQUISITES:

- 90 semester units of undergraduate coursework; PCOM undergraduate massage program courses may be used.
- Proof of experience in the form of state licensure, NCCAOM certification, or a documented acupuncture practice.
- Contact a student advisor for the wide variety of ways to meet the pre- or co-requisites.

## OTHER INFORMATION

- All classes will be offered online. No travel to campus is required.
- Pacific College's WSCUC approval to offer the transitional doctorate allows those who enter the program with a master's degree in acupuncture or equivalent to earn the Doctor of Acupuncture (DAc) and students who enter with a master's degree in acupuncture and Oriental medicine or equivalent to earn the Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine (DACM). The doctoral curriculum is the same for either student.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

# Transitional Doctor of Acupuncture (DAc) Transitional Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine (DACM)

### **Are alumni from all acupuncture colleges and universities eligible for the transitional DACM and DAc programs?**

Yes. From the earliest discussions of the entry-level or first professional doctorate (FPD), Pacific College stated that no master's level graduate should be left behind. All acupuncturists deserve an opportunity to bridge the gap between their master's training and the new doctorate. Upon completion, they deserve degree parity with entry-level doctoral graduates.

### **What is the degree that will be awarded upon successful completion of the program?**

Pacific College's WSCUC approval to offer the transitional doctorate allows those who enter the program with a master's degree in acupuncture or equivalent to earn the Doctor of Acupuncture (DAc) and students who enter with a master's degree in acupuncture and Oriental medicine or equivalent to earn the Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine (DACM). The doctoral curriculum is the same for either student. ACAOM currently has no standards related to the transitional degree curriculum or degree title.

### **Are there specific prerequisite courses?**

A student's entrance into the program begins with an assessment of their master's degree curriculum in comparison to Pacific's. Any substantial deficiencies are assigned as either prerequisites to admission or co-requisites to the program of study.

Candidates must also have 90 semester/135 quarter units of undergraduate coursework from an institution accredited by an agency recognized by the Department of Education or an international equivalent.

### **Are the online classes synchronous or asynchronous? In other words, are they in "real time?"**

All the classes are online and synchronous with the exception of Application of Inter-Professional Communication. They occur in "real time" and are interactive. Students and teachers can see and hear each other. The program is 100% online and will not involve any on ground instruction.

### **What does "online" mean in relation to the Application of Inter-Professional Communication course and how is it different compared to the other courses that have designated class times?**

Application of Inter-Professional Communication includes 30 hours of observing a health care professional, other than an acupuncturist, a written assessment of the experience (3 case studies), and online dialog with and feedback from the faculty member. The observation portion of the class is done with an acceptable professional in your home town.

### **How much homework will there be for these courses?**

There is substantial work outside of class. Full-time enrollment (12 units) is nearly a full-time job (approximately 40 hours per week). However, the program may be taken on a part-time basis to fit your work schedule.

### **Will transfer credit be available for any of these courses?**

Yes. Up to 5 units may be transferred. However, to be eligible a course must be a graduate level course that achieves all the course learning objectives of the designated course. Work experience and CEU courses do not qualify for transfer credit. Most Pacific College master's alumni will earn 5 units of transfer credit making their program 17 units.

### **Is there a capstone project or dissertation?**

No.



**What is the attendance policy?**

A student must attend at least 75% of the course hours. Application of Inter-Professional Communication requires 100% attendance.

**Will the lectures be made available for missed classes?**

Archived lectures are typically available of each course. However, they may not be used as a substitute for attendance.

**When are the classes held?**

Classes may be held on any day. Schedules vary from term to term.

**Is the tuition cost subject to change?**

Yes. Tuition is subject to change.

**When and how do I pay my tuition?**

By the second week of classes, the tuition bill is accessible through student online portal. Payments can be made in the student portal or by sending a check. The San Diego Campus Information Center can assist you with the process and can also accept checks. Full payments are due by the Wednesday of the third week to avoid any late charges.

Students may pay their bills, and see schedules, attendance, and grades through the portal.

The use of credit cards to pay tuition may be subject to a small convenience charge in the future.

**Is there a financing/payment plan option?**

Yes. Tuition and fees may be paid by check, money order, or credit card in full or by using a monthly payment plan. The payment plan fee is \$25 per term. The initial payment is due on the Wednesday of the third week of the semester, and subsequent payments are due on the 10th day of each month thereafter (or the first business day thereafter, if the 10th falls on the weekend.) There are four payment dates per term.

**Is there Title IV financial aid available?**

In an effort to keep the cost of the program as low as possible, financial aid is not being offered for the T-DACM/T-DAC program at this time. A part time student participating in the college's payment plan can graduate with no additional student loan debt by budgeting approximately \$600/month for tuition. Students may defer current Title IV loans while in the program.

**Will there be CEUs/PDA available?**

The California Acupuncture Board and The National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) regularly update their continuing education policies. While some of the transitional doctorate courses are currently approved for continuing education credit by the California Acupuncture Board and accepted as PDAs by NCCAOM, Pacific College cannot make any guarantee regarding our ability to offer CEUs/PDAs for doctoral courses.

The following courses may be eligible for continuing education credit up to the maximum number of units indicated for each course. To be eligible to receive continuing education credit for these courses, you must have successfully passed the course. In addition, students will only receive credit for class meetings they have attended. Missed classes will not be counted toward the total.

Health Care Systems - 45 CEUs/PDAs

Foundations of Evidence-Informed Practice - 30 CEUs/PDAs

Advanced Integrative Diagnostics - 45 CEUs/PDAs

*There will be a \$50/per course administrative fee for students to receive CEU certification for these courses.*

To request a CEU certificate, please contact Sheila Davis, San Diego Director of Career Services at [sdavis3@pacificcollege.edu](mailto:sdavis3@pacificcollege.edu).



**What is the process for admissions?**

Candidates are accepted for entry to terms beginning in January, April-May, or September of each year. Applications are accepted throughout the year. Prospective applicants are encouraged to apply well in advance of their desired start date. In addition, a technical requirement preparatory process must be completed approximately one month before the start of the term.

To apply for admission to Pacific College an applicant should send the following to the Office of Admissions:

1. A completed Pacific College application form
2. Application fee (\$100)
3. Official master's degree transcripts
4. Proof of the 90 semester units of undergraduate coursework

**Do official transcripts from previous acupuncture colleges need to be provided as proof of MSAc/MSTOM degree or equivalent completion and coursework?**

Yes. Students will be required to furnish official transcripts for evaluation as part of the admissions decision process.

**Can a student postpone their application to another term? Will the tuition remain the same for subsequent terms?**

An application and application fee may be carried forward for up to two terms. After that, the student must reapply. Application fees are non-refundable. Fees and tuition are subject to change, as are prerequisites and curriculum.

**Is state licensure a prerequisite to the programs?**

No. But the richness of the classes is directly related to students' professional experience so we require proof of experience in the form of state licensure, NCCAOM certification, or a documented acupuncture practice.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER:**

1-844-357-7013 | Admissions-DACM@pacificcollege.edu  
www.PacificCollege.edu

**Office Use Only**

Date Received:

Application Fee: \$100

Date Paid:

Receipt #:

PACIFIC COLLEGE OF ORIENTAL MEDICINE  
7445 MISSION VALLEY ROAD, SUITE 105, SAN DIEGO, CA 92108 | (619) 574-6909 | (800) 729-0941

**APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION**

*Transitional Doctor of Acupuncture (DAc)*

*Transitional Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine (DACM)*

Please complete (print clearly) and submit this form along with the \$100 non-refundable application fee.

All application information is confidential. All application materials, once submitted, are property of Pacific College of Oriental Medicine and cannot be returned to the applicant.

**I am currently a(n):**     PCOM Faculty Member                       PCOM Alumnus/Alumna                       Non-PCOM Alumnus/Alumna

**I intend to enroll as a:**     Part-Time Student                       Full-Time Student (12 units or more)

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Title:     Mr.     Mrs.     Miss     Ms.                      Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Last, First, Middle): \_\_\_\_\_

Other Names Used: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relative/Alternate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax, if available: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title/Position Held: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex\*:     Male     Female

Race\*:     American Indian/Alaskan Native                       Asian/Pacific Islander                       Hispanic

Black Non-Hispanic                       White Non-Hispanic                       Other

Licensed:     Yes     No                      If yes, state(s) licensed in: \_\_\_\_\_ Years in practice: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*This information is requested for various state and federal reports.*

**PRIOR EDUCATION (Attach extra sheet if needed)**

NAME OF INSTITUTION	GRAD YEAR	DEGREE/DIPLOMA MAJOR	GPA

**PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE STATEMENT**

Please write a statement describing your professional practice including the number and type of patients treated weekly, any specialty if applicable, the number of hours worked per week, and any other information that would help the admission committee assess your readiness to contribute to Pacific's doctoral culture.

*I hereby request to be considered for admission to the Pacific College of Oriental medicine doctoral program. I hereby state that all of the information given in this request is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that failure to give true and complete information may lead to denial of Admission, or future dismissal from the program.*

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_