



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 transitional doctorate, we provide the same opportunity for you, the pioneers and experienced practitioners in our field. Welcome to the next step in acupuncture education. While you gain in-depth knowledge of the modern healthcare system, integrative diagnosis and treatment, state-of-the art research, and refinements to your Chinese medicine skills, we will help you expand your career opportunities as an active part of the integrative healthcare movement. Along the way, we will introduce you to the most innovative and successful acupuncturists in the world today to gain insight from their experience.

This curriculum was developed by doctoral educators, Chinese medicine experts, and experienced distance education designers and is based on 28 entry-level doctoral competencies. Each aspect of the program has been scrutinized and approved by WSCUC, one of the country’s most prestigious accreditation agencies. The online delivery method has been time-tested for more than six years in our undergraduate degrees and post-graduate DAOM. It has been embraced by students at all levels of computer literacy. The curriculum has been refined by attention to student feedback since 2015. The continued development of this program will be a collaborative effort with you, as we forge the future of our medicine together.

MODEL CURRICULUM

Term 1	Units	Hours
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
Program Total:	22	360

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER:

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

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Evidence-Informed Practice

Evidence-informed practice is an approach to decision-making that integrates clinical experience, relevant findings, patient preferences, and research. 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 aids effective communication with patients, patient families, and healthcare team members. Students explore recognized methods of communicating healthcare issues to patients and their families. They are challenged to describe Chinese medicine theory, techniques, and case information to biomedical professionals, as well as patients. Conversely, they also improve their ability to apply biomedical terminology.

Healthcare Systems

This 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 grapple with the most challenging medical questions of our day and seek to identify Chinese medicine's role in answering them.

Preventive Medicine and Public Health

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

diagnostic information with other healthcare providers. Most importantly, they learn to critically analyze diagnostic options and inform patients of their relative merits and risks.

Clinical Research and Design

Building on the Foundations of Evidence-Informed Practice, students 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 challenges how students determine what is true. Most PCOM master's alumni will receive transfer credit for this course.

Integrative Case Management

Using the case-based method, conditions from a variety of specialties are presented to develop a template for the integrative case management of biomedicine and Chinese medicine. The appropriate use of diagnosis, treatment, and community resources pertinent to the given conditions are analyzed and evaluated. Most PCOM master's alumni will receive transfer credit for this course.

Practice-Based Learning

This course helps students examine the two fundamental aspects of a healthcare career: patient care and practice building. Students identify areas in which both can be improved and create a personalized plan for further development. Along the way, the course reviews current considerations in developing a successful practice such as research access, marketing, and management systems.

Application of Inter-Professional Communication

This course provides an opportunity for mentored clinical dialog in an approved biomedical setting. Students observe and discuss cases at practicum sites of their choosing in their own locale with, for example medical doctors, osteopaths, physician's assistants, nurse practitioners, chiropractors, or naturopaths.

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

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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.

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, which includes an observation experience in your home town. 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 travel to a campus.

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 in your home town, and online mentorship from a Pacific College faculty member.

How much homework will there be for these courses?

This program was designed for the working practitioner. The program may be taken on a part-time basis--as few as one course per term. A variety of class schedules allow the busy practitioner to take the program while still working, while full-time enrollment (12 units) requires approximately 30 hours per week of class and outside work.

Will transfer credit be available for any of these courses?

Yes. Up to five units may be transferred. 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 five units of transfer credit, making their program 17 units. Other students may qualify, as well.



Is there a capstone project or dissertation?

No, although there is a culminating assignment in Practice-Based Learning that synthesizes many of the program learning objectives.

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?

Yes, 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?

Yes. Eligible students may apply for financial aid, and a payment plan is available for students who choose not to use financial aid. 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

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.



What is the process for admissions?

Candidates are accepted for entry to terms beginning in January, 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

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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: _____